

NEWSLETTER



August 1995

749 Hopmeadow Street
P. O. Box 484
Simsbury, Connecticut 06070
Phone: (203) 658-5382
Hours
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Vol. 2, No. 3

Ten Tips for a Family Reunion

- Schedule it in the summer, so folks of all ages can be outside and because it's easier to travel.
- Nevertheless, make sure you have an indoor place large enough to accommodate as many people as you invite, in case it rains. Often this makes a town hall or meeting house a better option than a private home, since few homes can comfortably hold 100 people.
- People come to reunions to visit, not eat: Keep the food simple by having everyone who attends bring a casserole or dessert.
- If you can, advertise the reunion the first year or two in select newspapers, to help discover those distant relatives you might otherwise miss.
- Record who attends each year, being careful to get new addresses and phone numbers. Soon you'll have an up-to-date list.
- Anticipate two mailings to family members each year. In the fall, send a letter recounting what occurred at the recent reunion, so that those who were unable to attend can share the news with their families at Thanksgiving and Christmas; be sure to include the date of the next reunion, so they can plan ahead. Then, in early summer, mail a second letter with the details of the upcoming event.
- Ask for small donations to a reunion fund by "passing the hat" at the gathering. This will ensure there's postage for the mailings, and funds for the small expenses that crop up with every reunion.



- Convince two or three family members to serve as "greeters," welcoming people as they arrive.
- Round up old photos and letters so people can savor their history and discover the surprising family resemblances that jump generations.
- Have fun. Although there may be business to conduct at a family reunion, people come to catch up with their kin and rediscover their roots.

SELECTED NEW BOOKS

The New England Historical and Genealogical Register,
Volumes IV thru XV.

Scioto Company Descendants: Genealogies of the Original Proprietors
of Worthington, Ohio, by Virginia Evans McCormick.

Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in East and East Central
Ohio, 1800-1840, by Ellen Thomas Berry & David A. Berry.

Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio,
1800-1840, by Ellen T. Berry & David A. Berry.

Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in Southeastern Ohio,
1800-1840, by Ellen T. Berry & David A. Berry.

The Griswold Family: England-America (3 volumes) (donated by
Celia Roberts)

Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland, 1536-1810, edited by
Sir Arthur Vicars. (donated by Kitty Vangunten)

The Early Settlers of Maryland, by Gust Skordas.
(donated by Kitty Vangunten)

History of Hartford Streets, by F. Perry Close.
(donated by Stephen E. Simon)

New Hampshire Family Records, by William Copeley.

Albion's Seed: Four British Folkways in America, by
David Hackett Fischer.

A Discourse on the Fiftieth Anniversary of His Ordination as
Pastor of the Church in Simsbury, Conn., Rev. Allen M'Lean.
(donated by Grace E. Ellsworth)

Simsbury, Connecticut Births, Marriages, and Deaths, by Albert
C. Bates. (donated by Grace E. Ellsworth)

Genealogical History, with Short Sketches and Family Records
of the Early Settlers of West Simsbury, Now Canton, Conn.,
by Abiel Brown. (donated by Grace E. Ellsworth)

ON LOAN

Holmes & Smith Family History: The Ancestry of Robert Thurston
Holmes and Laura Carolyn Smith. (on loan from Scott William
Holmes)

1800 Census of
Simsbury, Connecticut

Continued from the May 1995 issue

<u>Name</u>	<u>Micro. Page #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Micro. Page #</u>
Silas Read	227	Wm Buel	228
Seth Case	227	Soloman Buel	228
Danl Hoskins	227	Jonan Noble	228
Asa Hays	227	Charles Andrus	228
Timy Holcomb	227	Wm Andrus	228
Judah Case	227	Jefse Gates	229
Jedediah Edgerton	227	Jefse Loomis	229
Zechiah Hays	227	Lyman Noble	229
Saml Tuller	227	Salathiel Chapman	229
Moses Tuller	227	Asanah Moore	229
Amasa Tuller	227	Abel Case	229
Ezra Hoskins	227	Asa Case	229
Thos Hoskins	227	Moses Grimes	229
David Hoskins	227	Joseph Grimes	229
Carme (?) Hoskins	227	John Hetcher (?)	229
John Hoskins	227	Elijah Tuller	229
Mashell Baron Jun	227	Elijah Tuller jun	229
Mashell Baron	227	Joel Tuller	229
Elijah Baron	227	David Granger	229
Zebina Moses	228	Elijah Clark	229
Danl Baron	228	Asaph Tuller	229
John Phelps	228	Bela Tuller	229
Joseph Tuller	228	Francis Abriles (?)	229
Therard Slater	228	Moses Case	229
Benjm Hays	228	Abigail Case	229
Ozias Phelps	228		
David Phelps	228		
Benoni Buttolph	228		
Danl Buttolph	228		
Asa Matson	228		
Joseph Buttolph	228		

Continued in the October 1995 issue.

WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT RESEARCH

Windsor Historical Society

96 Palisado Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095

1640 Lt. Walter Fyler House
1765 Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House
Genealogical and Historical Research Library

November 1 to March 31
Monday - Friday, 10 - 4 p.m.

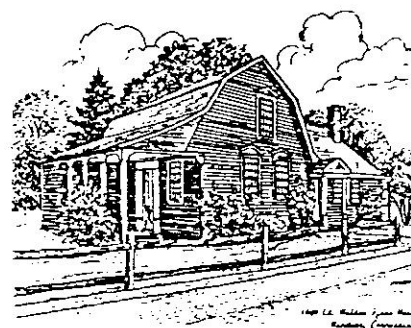
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April 1 to October 31
Tuesday - Saturday, 10 - 4 p.m.

* * *

Closed major holidays
203/688-3813

President: Marillyn Loomis
Director: Robert T. Silliman



1640 Lt. Walter Fyler House

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

Bloomfield, 1000 Mountain Rd., Bloomfield, CT. Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Madison, 275 Warpas Road, Madison, CT. Hours: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Manchester, Woodside Street, Manchester, CT. Hours: Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Woodbridge, Racebrook Rd., Woodbridge, CT. Hours: Monday, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.; Tuesday, 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

I Will Give Them An Everlasting Name

Isaiah 56,5.

by Janice Cox

Have you ever wondered what was the significance of those Christian names which became popular in the 17th century? Up to the end of the 16th century, the number of Christian names in use for both men and woman was relatively limited. During the 17th century many 'new' names were given to boys and girls at their christening. These names were, very largely, taken from the Bible, and give one some idea of just how many people read the Bible for themselves once it had been translated into English, compared with previous centuries when the Bible was only available in Latin (or Greek or Hebrew) and therefore read by relatively few people. It also shows how important the Bible had become in the lives of a large section of the population, especially those of a religious nature. Puritans in particular were very keen to give their children Biblical names, some taken from the Old Testament and some from the New, but all having a quality or significance which the Puritans found admirable or worthy. Some Puritans gave their children 'pious' rather than Biblical names, such as "Praise-God", "Mercy", "God-given", "Christian", "Repentance", "Patience", "Fear-not", etc., but by the later 17th century names such as these fell out of favour, leaving the old favourites such as Elizabeth, Mary, John, Richard, William, Edward (all of which had retained their popularity throughout the centuries) together with the newer Biblical names. I have written a few notes about those names which came into common use in the 17th century, which members might find useful:

Abigail

The name of the wife of David, first king of the Jews.

Esther/Hester

She was relative of Mordecai, who used her influence with Xerxes, King of Persia, to save her fellow countrymen.

Hannah

She was the mother of the prophet Samuel.

Judith

Judith was a woman of great piety, who led her people in resistance to the Assyrians.

Lydia

Lydia was a woman of the city of Thyatira who was baptised by St.Paul.

Martha

She was the sister of Mary and Lazarus, who received Jesus into her house during his ministry.

Miriam

She was the sister of Moses and Aaron.

Priscilla

Priscilla was an early convert to Christianity, and became a prominent member of the Church.

Ruth

The name of one of the books of the Old Testament. Ruth was not a Jewess but a Moabitess who married a Jew and after his death married one of his relatives.

Sarah

The first wife of Abraham, and mother of Isaac.

Susanna

She was falsely accused of adultery and was condemned, but was saved by the wisdom of Daniel and thus became a symbol of the saved soul.

Tabitha

She was a charitable woman raised up by St.Peter.

Abraham

Old Testament Patriarch of the Jewish people, who is supposed to have lived to a great age.

Ebenezer

A Hebrew word meaning "stone of help", which was raised by Samuel to commemorate the defeat by the Philistines.

Ezekiel

An Old Testament prophet who followed Isaiah and Jeremiah, whose prophecies foretold of a new Jerusalem to succeed the old destroyed one.

Habbakuk

A minor Old Testament prophet, whose central message was "the just shall live by his faith".

Isaac

The son of Abraham and Sarah.

Jeremiah

A great prophet of the 7th century BC., who warned of the fall of Jerusalem and the exile into Babylon.

Job

The personification of patience, who rejected the idea that suffering was the result of sin.

Joshua

The name of one of the Books of the Old Testament, which traced the history of the Israelites under his leadership.

Josiah

King of Judah in the 6th century BC. who re-established the worship of Jehovah.

From: Shropshire
Family History
Journal (6/95)

Lazarus

The brother of Mary and Martha and friend of Jesus. Lazarus was also the name of the beggar in Jesus' parable of Dives and Lazarus.

Nathaniel

He was one of Jesus' first disciples, but not one of his twelve apostles, noted for his sincerity.

Nehemiah

5th century Old Testament prophet who supervised the building of the walls of Jerusalem, and introduced religious and moral reforms including Sabbath observance.

Timothy

An early Christian convert and companion of St. Paul, who wrote two of his Epistles to him.

Samuel

The first great Hebrew prophet who anointed Saul as the first king of Israel.

Titus

A Greek disciple of St. Paul, who wrote one of his Epistles to him.

Seth

One of the sons of Adam.

Zachariah

The father of John the Baptist. Zachariah, in a vision, was told that he and his aged wife would have a son, who became John the Baptist.

Silas (or Silvanus)

A companion of St. Paul, and travelled with him around the Middle East.

GENEALOGY MERIT BADGE

On June 24th, nine boy scouts from Troop 76 visited our library. Marvin Rothe, counselor for Genealogy Merit Badge, brought the boys in as part of their requirements. Bob Lindauer, Margaret Lindauer, Don Shaw, and Bette Shaw volunteered their time. At the end of the session, the boys moved over 100 books from storage into the library room. We appreciate their effort. In all, the day proved to be a great experience for everyone.

RESEARCH REGISTER

We'd like to know what families you are researching. Please fill out the form below and mail it to the library. The information will be published in a future newsletter. Submit 1, 2, or 3 names. You can list specific names or family names (ex. George Phelps or Phelps).

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Your Name & Address: _____

RHODE ISLAND

List of Historical Records Repositories

Rhode Island Historical Society Library
121 Hope Street
Providence, RI 02906
(401) 331-8575

National Archives
Washington, DC
(202) 501-5402

French Canadian Genealogical Society
First Universalist Church
78 Earle Street
Woonsocket, RI

Rhode Island Dept. of Health
Division of Vital Records
75 Davis Street
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 277-2812
Birth and marriage records for the state, 1893-Present.
Death records for the state, 1943-Present.

Supreme Court Judicial Records Center
One Hill Street
Pawtucket, RI 02860
(401) 277-3249
Early naturalization and court records

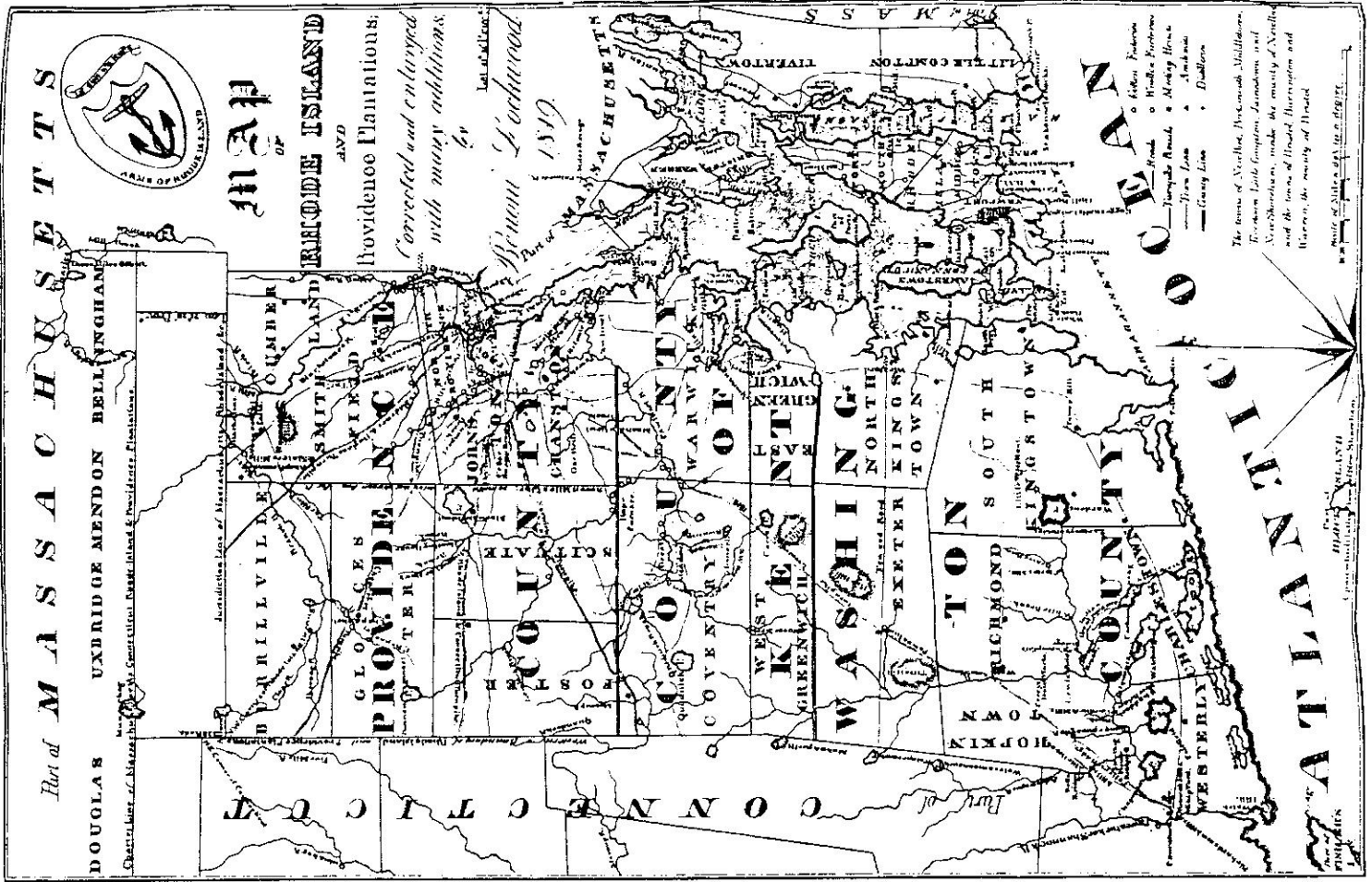
Providence City Archives
City Hall
25 Dorrance Street
Providence, RI 02903
Early Providence vital records

Providence Public Library
Rhode Island Collection
225 Washington Street
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 455-8005

National Archives, New England Region
380 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02154
(617) 647-8100

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 277-2678

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
1000 Narragansett Parkway
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 463-9308



Simsbury Genealogical and Historical
 Research Library
 749 Hopmeadow Street
 P. O. Box 484
 Simsbury, Connecticut 06070