
SIMSBURY

❖ Genealogical and Historical Research Library ❖

Volume 3 Issue 4

October 1996

FALL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday November 23rd - 10 AM - 3 PM

Jump start your lagging genealogical Project or get it organized for the long winter research period at our Fall Open House. Our Librarian and volunteers will be available to help you. Come see that the Library has been up to since your last visit. Spin through the NEHGS Register 1847-1994 on CD-ROM. Check out the ever expanding microfilm collection.

Enjoy refreshments in the relaxed and convivial atmosphere while you catch up with fellow members. Bring along a friend or neighbor and introduce them to the outstanding facilities at SGHRL. Admission this day is free to all.

Browse through our sale of used books (non-genealogical) gathered from the Library's collections. Many beautiful bindings and intriguing subject matter will capture your interest. A \$5.00 or \$10.00 donation per book will help us buy more books of a genealogical nature. Consider a purchase as your way to help us expand into other geographic areas.

OCTOBER IS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH!

HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR OWN FAMILY HISTORY YET?

As genealogists some of our most valuable finds are the written records left behind by our ancestors. We cherish a letter or postcard for the insight it gives us into the lives of those who we know only from vital records or secondary sources. Yet, how many of us have left any real legacy of our family history for those who follow. The statistics may be there but will all the family stories and traditions live on? Is there an older relative in your family whose reminiscences should be set down now?

Your own family history can be written or taped and then a transcript made. Putting it in the form of a video is a real treat for the rest of the family. It need not be a complete genealogy but can be the history of the person writing it. Who better to tell

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FROM THE LIBRARIAN'S DESK . . .

What a great summer we had! A never-ending stream of visitors came to our library from all over the United States as well as Canada, England, Scotland and Hong Kong. Membership is up significantly. So far to date we have had a net increase of nearly 30%.

The Library's collections are growing, too. With the acquisitions this year we have been able to complete the US Census for Connecticut through 1920. An exciting addition was the purchase of the New England Historical and Genealogical Register from 1847-1994 on CD-ROM. It allows us to search all those volumes by surname and view a facsimile of the page. If you have not visited for awhile stop in and catch up on what's new.

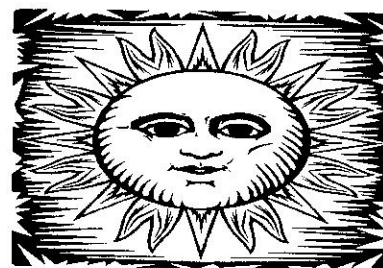
So far this year, we have held two Beginning Genealogy classes through the Board of Education's Continuing Ed Dept. They were well attended and brought us 21 new members. Two members-only seminars were held. The first dealt with the INTERNET and our latest was *Making Sense of the Census*. Many members availed themselves of these informal educational opportunities. Future sessions are being planned. If you would like to see a specific topic covered, suggestions are always welcomed.

We are always looking for volunteers. If you have a few hours each week and a genuine love of genealogy consider making us your home away from home. We will be starting our next training sessions in early November and will be happy to meet with you at your convenience.

With the additions to our collections and our expanding educational opportunities we are able to help more people explore the fascinating world of genealogy. A special thanks to all who have helped the SGHRL become such a success.

If you have books on genealogy or local history that you no longer want - give them a good home with us. We accept permanent and on-loan gifts.

Stephen E. Simon



Writing your Family History *continued from page 1*

the story of your life than the person who lived it? We all have recollections of the monumental events in the world's history that occurred during our lifetimes. Everyone who lived through it remembers where they were when Pearl Harbor was attacked or President Kennedy shot. Here is your chance to not only share your experiences but to leave behind the wisdom you have gained through living.

How often we have wished that an ancestor had left an explanation for all their moves or occupations. We want to understand why people made the choices they did. How did two people come to meet, marry and raise a family together? Did they ever know anyone famous? Were there any particular talents or traits that appeared generation after generation? Here are a few suggestions you can use:

- Start simple with your own vital statistics and those of your parents or grandparents. Include copies any documents you have in your possession.
- Tell about your childhood, your siblings, your school days, extracurricular activities, holiday traditions, and the people who influenced you most.
- Talk about dating, courtship and your marriage(s). The first home, making ends meet, your children, grandchildren and the joys and sorrows of life.
- Discuss your civic and political activities, charities and political parties supported, positions held, clubs and sororities.

Remember you do not have to write or tell about everything. Embarrassing moments and relatives run in every family. Tell the funny ones and leave the others for someone who is more comfortable describing them.

1800 Census of Simsbury, Connecticut*Continued from August 1996***Name**

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Eli Tuller | Page 244 | Elijah Mitchelfson | Page 244 | Abraham Pinney | Page 245 |
| Joseph Dyer | | Martin Mitchelfson | | Erastus Pinney | |
| Salmon Smith | | Irena Porter | | Sylvester Stephens | |
| Elisha Griswold jun | | Aron Pinney | | Saml Barnard | |
| Ezra Griswold | | Heman Pinney | | Saml Barnard Jun | |
| Roger Griswold | | Thos Griffin Jun | | Eben Barnard | |
| Elisha Griswold | | Abel Loomis | Page 245 | Francis Barnerd | |
| Jermh Sheffield | | Butler Pinney | | Robert Hoskins | |
| Edward Fitzgerald (?) | | Lot Pinney | | Anson Case | |
| Peter Barber | | Jonan Pinney | | | |
| Elisha Holcomb | | Aron Pinney Jun | | | |
| Jonah Moore | | Joel Eno | | | |
| Wm Moore | | Joel Eno Jun | | | |

This completes the 1800 Census

Pick up an expanded handout on writing your own family history the next time you are in the Library

JAMES CORNISH the Elder (?-29 Oct 1698)

The Cornish Family of Simsbury suffers from an abundance of James's. This tends to make **James Cornish** (Old Mr. Cornish as he was referred to) a footnote in the settlement of Simsbury. He was a schoolteacher who traveled up and down the Connecticut River teaching in towns from Northampton, Massachusetts to Norwalk, CT. He came to settle for a period in Westfield, Massachusetts where he was the first town clerk. He was a teacher in Northampton as well as Clerk of the Courts. At one time he owned the area we know as Tolland and Granville, Massachusetts which he bought from an Indian named "Captaine Toto" on 10 June 1686. It is believed he had a first wife but we find no record of her name or any issue.

On one of his teaching assignments he met a twice-widowed woman **Phebe Brown Lee Larabee** and married her some time just before 1661 when he assumes the administration of the late **Greenfield Larabee's** estate and guardianship of his four children. Phebe and James have two sons, **Gabriel** and **James**, before she dies in 1664. James goes onto raise his and her previous children. Entries in the *Diary of Joshua Hempstead* (a grandson of Phebe's) tells of trips to Simsbury to see "Uncle James" and "Cousin James".

Having received land in Simsbury, he moves here from Windsor with his son, James's family in about 1698. On the 29th of October 1698 he dies and his sons, James and Gabriel inherit his estate. In 1702, his son Gabriel dies intestate in Westfield, Massachusetts while James continues to flourish in Simsbury becoming one of the first deacons appointed by the First Church and a trusted leader of the community.

James Cornish (the elder) married **Phebe Brown Lee Larrabee** bef 1661. They had:

1. **James** (the deacon) b. abt 1663 d. 2 Apr 1740 m. 1st **Elizabeth Thrall** of Windsor 10 Nov 1693. They had: **James** m. **Amy Butler**; **Elizabeth** 25 Sept 1695; **Joseph** (Ensign); **Benjamin** 20 Mar 1700/01; and **Sarah** 19 Apr 1709 then m 2nd **Hannah Hillyer** 15 Apr 1715 they had: **Gabriel** 25 May 1716; **Jemima** 20 Nov 1718; **Jabez** Abt 1723; **Mary**; and **Phebe**.
2. **Gabriel** d. 24 May 1702 m. **Elizabeth Wolcott**. They had: **James** 23 Oct 1687 and **Damaris** 19 Feb 1691 m. **William Tuller** of Simsbury.

This series on the early settlers of Simsbury will continue in our next issue with -

John Higley

ARE YOU A DESCENDANT OF ANY OF THE ORIGINAL PATENTEES OR SETTLERS OF SIMSBURY? WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

THOMAS BARBER (1644-1713)

Thomas, an original patentee of Simsbury, was the son of **Thomas Barber** of Windsor who came from England with the Saltonstall party under Francis Stiles in 1635. He probably learned his carpentry trade from his father. We know that he built the first meeting house, church and gristmill in Simsbury. The gristmill moved and reassembled by the Ensign-Bickford Company most recently served as the Hop Brook Restaurant.

He received a commission of Lieutenant in the local militia. A famous story told about him is the incident of the drum warning. Apparently he noticed Indians surrounding the town and went onto his roof with a drum and beat out a warning that was heard by the militia company in Windsor who then marched to Simsbury's defense.

He married **Mary Phelps** b. 2 Mar 1644 in Windsor, daughter of **William Phelps, Sr.** and **Mary Dover**, in 17 Dec 1663 and had 8 children. At the time of his death 10 May 1713 his wife and five children were living and shared in his estate. He is buried in the Hopmeadow Cemetery near the site of the now non-existent meeting house.

The children of Thomas and Mary Phelps Barber were as follows:

1. **John** b. 1 Nov 1664 d. 1 Mar 1711/12 m. **Mary Holcomb**
2. **Marcy (Mary)** b. 11 Jan 1666
3. **Sarah** b. 12 Jul 1669 m. **Lt. Andrew Robe**
4. **Joanna** b. 1670 m 1st **Josiah Adkins**; 2nd **Benjamin Colt**
5. **Annie** b. 1671 d. 15 Nov 1722 m. **Jonathan Higley**
6. **Thomas, Jr.** b. 7 Oct 1672 d. 17 Jul 1714 m. **Abigail Buel**
7. **Samuel** b. 17 May 1673 d. 18 Dec 1725 m. **Sarah Holcomb**
8. **Infant** b. 1677

Genie Hint:

Our family files contain not only information we have gathered but often submissions by others who are working on the same lines. Be sure to review them often as we add to them frequently and they can save you from repeating the same research work someone else has done.

SIMSBURY, CT MARRIAGES

* Listed in the same order as in the original book in Simsbury Town Records

| Date | Names | Occupation | Birthplace |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Sept 28 1851 | George Burt Elizabeth Watts | | |
| Oct 12 1851 | Samuel F. Darby Roxanna Doolittle | | |
| Nov 8 1851 | Thomas Patterson Jenett Kenlock | | |
| Nov 9 1851 | Luman Harris Emily C. Strickland | | |
| Nov 17 1851 | David Toomy Mary Dwyne | Laborer | Ireland |
| Nov 20 1851 | Jacob W. Biglow Sarah Kenlock | | |
| Nov 22 1851 | James Kelly Ann Clarke | | |
| Nov 27 1851 | Rollin L Hawley Emma M. Phelps | | Canton Ct Simsbury |
| Nov 22 1851 | Thomas Burke Mary Ferguson | Laborer | |
| Nov 23 1851 | John McSwiggin Ann Logue | | Ireland |
| Dec 14 1851 | Thomas Cockran Mary McCurde | | |
| Dec 22 1851 | James McKnight Jenett Neilson | | |
| Jan 17 1852 | George Hildreth Sarah Ann McCune | | |
| Jan 27 1852 | Frederick Carter Maria Tuller | | Simsbury |

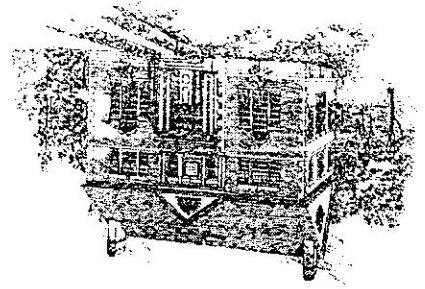
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SIMSBURY MARRIAGES cont...

| Date | Names | Age | Occupation | Birthplace |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Feb 3 1852 | Richard Case Almira Jane Moses | | | |
| March 7 1852 | William H. Conklin Harriet E. Case | | | Simsbury |
| April 1 1852 | John Callister Mary Ann Divers | | | |
| April 27 1852 | Daniel Pomeroy Fanny Belden | | | |
| May 13 1852 | Edwin Gregston Chloe P Case | | | |
| June 16 1852 | Josiah Hough Sarah Humphrey | | | Simsbury |
| Aug 1 1852 | John D Lane Nancy Ann Wilson | | | |
| Oct 17 1852 | James H. Welton Augusta L. Boyd | | | Simsbury |
| Nov 1 1852 | Eli J Case Julia A. Moses | | | |
| Nov 25 1852 | Henry Andrus Mary A. Andrus | | Miller | Simsbury |
| October 25 1852 | John Fox Caroline M. Smith | 21 21 | Mechanic | |
| Nov 28 1852 | Harvey S C Phelps Martha M. Lord | 15 | Employed in woolen mill | EastWindsor |
| May 9 1852 | Edward Gorman Margaret Hennessy | 25 27 (?) | Laborer | Ireland Ireland |

To be continued in the December issue

SIMSBURY FREE LIBRARY
 749 Hopmeadow St. (next to cemetery)
 P.O. Box 484
 Simsbury, CT 06070
 860 658-5382
 E-mail: genehist@micro-net.com
 Open Thurs-Sat 10 AM - 3 PM
 Stephen E. Simon, Librarian
 Dawn Hutchins Bobryk, Newsletter Editor



Southern New England Circa 1640-44

