

# SIMSBURY GENEALOGICAL & HISTORICAL RESEARCH LIBRARY

## NEWSLETTER



## May 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. 2

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### GENEALOGIST TO SPEAK

Noted genealogist, Jonathan Shea, will be speaking on Saturday, June 10, 1995 at our library. The lecture, which begins at 2:00 p.m., will be on the use of naturalization and immigration records in genealogical research.

Mr. Shea has been a genealogist for over 20 years. He is the president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut. Also, he is on the Board of Directors of the Polish Genealogical Society of America. Mr. Shea has also been active in Irish genealogical groups. He has travelled extensively, researching in many areas of Europe.

A resident of New Britain, Mr. Shea is an instructor in the Modern Language Department of Central Connecticut University. His degrees include one in Spanish Language and one in Library Science.

Come join us on June 10th for an enlightening program. Please call 658-5382 for more information.

Admission is FREE.



NEW MICROFILM

Connecticut

Sharon, Connecticut Births, Marriages, and Deaths, from 1721-1870, by Lawrence VanAlstyne.

Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, 1703-1850 (Mansfield, CT), by Susan W. Dimock.

1860: City of New Haven  
Middlesex Co.

1870: Litchfield Co.  
Windham Co.

1920: Hartford Co. (part)

Massachusetts

1860: Hampden Co.

Michigan

1850: Genessee Co.  
Lapeer Co.

1884: Lapeer Co.

1900: Livingston, Luce, and Mackinac Cos.  
Macomb and Manistee Cos.  
Manistee and Marquette Cos.

Wisconsin

1855: Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Lafayette, and LaPointe Cos.

Manitowa, Marathon, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Racine, Richland, and Rock Cos.

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I.G.I.

We now have the 1992 version of the International Genealogical Index for the following countries:

Canada  
England  
Ireland  
Scotland  
United States  
Wales

We have retained the 1988 version for the above countries. There are a great number of changes in the 1992 I.G.I.

SELECTED NEW BOOKS

Colonial Families of the United States of America,  
by George MacKenzie.

International Vital Records Handbook, by Thomas Jay  
Kemp.

The Descendants of the Presidents, by R. Whitney Tucker.  
(donated by Dawn Bobryk)

Descendants of Robert Bartlett, by Inez (Goerd) Bartlett.  
(donated by Joyce Cahill)

The Barnes Family Year Book, by Trescott C. Barnes.  
(donated by Jean Fisher).

The Atlantic Bridge to Germany, Volume I, Baden-  
Wuerttemberg, by Charles M. Hall. (donated by Jean Fisher)

Colorado Families: A Territorial Heritage, by The  
Colorado Genealogical Society.

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EASTERN CONNECTICUT GENEALOGICAL  
SOURCE



**PERKINS/AVERY  
GENEALOGICAL  
COLLECTIONS**

A small but useful genealogical library is housed at the John Baldwin House. It consists mainly of two Norwich genealogists' lifetime accumulation of notebooks tracing many Eastern CT families' lines. There are also a few reference books.

Mary E. Perkins, 1848-1935, was the daughter of Edmund Perkins and Elizabeth Wilkinson. She probably began her research sometime after the Civil War and published her masterwork, The Old Houses of the Antient Town of Norwich, in 1895. This was to have been followed by a series of softbound monographs on families in other parts of the city, but no more than the first issue of Old Families of Norwich was ever published. Miss Perkins' 400 notebooks of voluminous pedigree charts remain to represent her life's work and serve as guideposts for later researchers.

The second collection at the John Baldwin House was amassed by Eliza Warren Avery, (1871-1968). The daughter of William Avery and Lockie Payne Gorton, she was a teacher in Norwich and she is represented by articles in genealogical periodicals. The emphasis of her collection is on the founding families of the Eastern CT towns. She records descendants of these families for two, three and sometime four generations.

This means that Avery's material concentrate in the 1600s and early 1700s whereas Perkins' often traces families into the last of the 19th Century if not into the 1900s. Neither woman was very rigorous about citing sources so that a researcher is left still to search out primary sources, but these collections can be a valuable start for the family historian.

Researchers are welcome. It is well to call ahead however to be sure that a block of time is available. There is a fee of one dollar per person for use of the library.

210 W. Town St.  
Norwich, CT

(203) 889-5990

Genealogical Societies:  
Connecticut

Connecticut Ancestry Society, Inc., P.O. Box 249,  
Stamford, CT 06904-0249.

Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, P.O. Box 4273,  
Hartford, CT 06147-4273.

Connecticut Society of Genealogists, P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury,  
CT 06033-0435.

Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, P.O. Box 39,  
Windsor, CT 06095-0039.

French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut, P.O. Box 45,  
Tolland, CT 06084-0045.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Howard Siegal, 17  
Salem Walk, Milford, CT 06430.

Middlesex Genealogical Society, 45 Old Kings Highway, Darien,  
CT 06820.

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc., Jonathan D.  
Shea, Pres., 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053.

Southington Genealogical Society, Sylvia Miles Guerin, Pres.,  
Southington Historical Society, 239 Main Street, Southington,  
CT 06489.

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Genealogical Events

July 13 - 15, 1995 - Boston, MA, New England Historic Genealogical Society  
SESQUICENTENNIAL CONFERENCE. Contact NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA  
02116. There are over 120 different lectures to choose from, wide areas  
of interest: probate, court records, town records, cemetery studies, many  
concentrating on New England ties, 30 different ones on computer topics  
alone! Cost: \$200; one day regis is \$85.00. If you live nearby, you  
should go!

August 24 - 26, 1995 - Los Angeles, CA, "Annual British Seminar", British Isles  
Family History Society, 2531 Sawtelle Blvd., #134, Los Angeles, CA 90064-  
3163 for info. (This runs too close to the Gymanfa Ganu to go to both;  
but they have a great group of lecturers and usually have several  
specializing in Welsh subjects.)

Aug. 31 -Sept. 3, 1995 - Harrisburg, PA, 64th NATIONAL GYMANFA GANU, Info: write:  
The Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 1995, P.O. Box  
470, Delta, PA 17314 USA.

Simsbury, CT  
Heads of Household  
1800 Census

Continued from Vol. 2, No. 1

<u>Name</u>	<u>Micro. Page #</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Micro. Page #</u>
? Bodwell	224	? Humphrey	225
? Tuller	224	? Humphrey Jun	225
? Barnham ?	224	? Case	225
? Robe	224	Asa Hoskins	225
? Case	224	George Case	225
Elijah Noble	224	Elias Vining	225
Butler Andrus	224	? ?	225
Noah Phelps	224	Benajah Holcomb	226
Eli Mather	224	Charles Case	226
Noah A. Phelps	224	Ashbel Hoskins	226
Titus Barber	224	Jonn Enos	226
Isaac Ensign	224	Elijah St. John	226
Isaac Ensign Jun.	224	Shubael Hoskins	226
Isaiah Ensign	224	Wm Stephens	226
Benjn Hatch	224	Eliakim Catter	226
Joel Saxton	224	Philo Hughs ?	226
Asa Woodruff	224	Kendrick Philmore	226
Thos Case	224	Mingo Hawkins Black	226
Wm Williston	225	Roswell Case	226
Calvin Barber	225	Amasa Case Jun	226
Stephen Harrington	225	Roger Wilcox	226
Noah Weston	225	Warren Higley	226
Azariah Stebbins	225	John Michelson	226
Stephen Graham	225	Robert Mason	226
Olivia Brownson	225	Abraham Holcomb	226
Simeon Brownson	225	Grove Holcomb	226
Elias Vining	225		
? Vining	225	cont. in	
? Vining	225	Vol. 2, No. 3	
? Barber	225		
? ?	225		

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*Ireland*

*We have recently obtained on microfilm the Index to Surnames of Householders in Griffeth's Primary Valuation & Tithe Allotment Books, 1824-1860. Dawn Bobryk of Simsbury made a donation towards the purchase of these reels. The collection consists of 7 reels:*

1. Antrim thru Cavan Co.
2. Clare thru Derry Co.
3. Donegal thru Dublin Co.
4. Fermanagh thru Kilkenney Co.
5. Laois thru Meath Co.
6. Monaghan thru Tipperary Co.
7. Tyrone thru Wicklow Co.

## PAINTING HAS SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING

John Frederick Kensett's "Niagra" came home to Simsbury and was exhibited at our library from May 7th to May 14th. Over three hundred people viewed the painting during the week. "Niagra", painted in 1855, hung at the Eno Memorial Hall for over fifty years. For the last few years, the painting has been at the Wadsworth Atheneum. If you missed it during its recent return to Simsbury, you can still view it at the Atheneum. "Niagra" is a real treasure.



## FAMILIES WITH HOMESTEADS/DEEDS

In May, 1862, the U.S. Congress passed the Homestead Act giving citizens (or immigrants who wished to be citizens) 160 free acres of land with certain requirements. These usually stipulated that a home be built on the land, that it be cultivated and that the recipient live there five years.

In 1872 it was amended to help Union veterans (or widows). Between 400,000 and 600,000 families were given farms due to this legislation. The homestead process required filing a claim, application, form of intention, proof, testimony of witnesses, naturalization papers and/or discharge papers from the Union army. Subject matter included lifestyle of the homesteaders, names, locations, ages etc. It is not difficult to obtain the homesteaded application but you MUST have the legal description of the property.

Determine this through census records of the township, then check plat maps to find the section etc. and check for deed records of legal description. You can write to the National Archives to obtain copies of the file by giving the complete legal description, county and names of claimants. NA will give you a price quote and mail to you following receipt of payment. Homestead records appear in record group 49 of the NA.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has computerized more than one million homestead and cash deeds dated from the late 1790s to 1908 for the following states: AR, LA, FL, MS, OH, MI, MN and WI. The remainder of the eastern public domain states (MO, IA, IN, IL and AL) and all patent deeds after 1908 will be automated by year 2000.

Copies are available at 7450 Boston Blvd., Springfield, VA 22153. PH: (703) 440-1600. Anyone with PC and Modem can dial into BLM system to view the data and request a fax or printed copy. Note: Women's citizenship status depended on that of their husbands or fathers, so until 1922 they were not required to file for naturalization.

Source: WAGS Newsletter, Spring 1995.

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## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print your name as you want letters addressed to you.

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly dues per household are \$15.00. Please make checks payable to the Simsbury Free Library.

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**Simsbury, Connecticut 06070**