CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS
FIRST NEW ENGLAND GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE HELD AT STURBRIDGE

STEERING COMMITTEE

Seated from left, Roselyn Listernick (Essex County Society of Genealogists), Albert Eastwood (Rhode Island Genealogical Society), James Hoban (Plymouth County Society of Genealogists), Kay Sheldon (Mass. Society of Genealogists), William H. Schoeffler (Federation of Genealogical Societies), Paul LeBlanc (Acadian Cultural Society), and Ernest Cardoza (American Portuguese Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc.)


The conference, held on September 25th and 26th, at the Host Hotel Conference Center exceeded all expectations. The planning committee had modestly forecasted an attendance of about 300 but made plans for 500, fortunately the facilities were expandable to handle the actual attendance which was 758! The program speakers and panelist were top notch specialist in their various fields who were buoyed by the large turn out and who all gave superior presentations. A plentiful number of vendor "stalls" completely encircled the large banquet hall and did a brisk business throughout the two days. All in all it was a very well planned, very well executed conference that ran "as smooth as silk".

A first time conference like this one just doesn't happen all by itself, there was an immense amount of time and effort expended by a lot of people to make it happen. First and foremost the credit for its success rests with the steering committee composed of the presidents or representatives of the 22 sponsoring organizations.

(continued on page 2)
This committee, most ably chaired by William Schoeffler of NEHGS, put in many hours both as a committee and individually for over a year to assure its success.

The steering committee is meeting to settle some follow up questions such as, "shall we schedule this type of regional conference annually or bi-annually?", "where and for how long", "what changes should be made in either the format or schedule", etc. etc.

The sponsoring organization representatives, who are the members of the steering committee, will make these hard decisions very soon and need input from attendees to guide them.

Tentative plans have been formulated to hold the next conference during the Spring of 1994 (April - May) in Manchester, NH.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY RESEARCH AFTER I AM GONE?

[Condensed from an article by Jo White Linn, C.G.,C.G.L. in the NGS Newsletter Vol. 17, No. 5 (1991) and reprinted from NHSOG newsletter]

A real concern of both amateur and professional genealogists is the final disposition of their records and files. Many are uneasy that their carefully composed charts, photocopies of original documents, and manuscripts may be added to the landfill problem. Remaining family members and executors are likely to clean out all the work-in-progress and reclaim areas of your home that were filled with your searches for that allusive ancestor.

The first decision one must make is selecting the library or archive where your papers would be catalogued and made accessible to patrons. The Directory of Archives and Manuscript Collections published by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission lists repositories by state and city and includes, in most cases, an indication of the types of materials solicited.

There are several points to consider early on:
* Arrangement for the gift of materials should be made in advance to ensure that they will be accepted by the receiving institution.
* Materials must be prepared for accessioning in accordance with the guidelines set up by the receiving institution.

* All transfers of personal property to an archives or library should be documented by letter, will, or did conveying to the institution such copyright as the donor holds in the materials. Decisions about restrictions upon the use of the materials and disposal authority must be settled in one of those instruments. One other document is common in archival circles: the deposit agreement, which is a statement of intent to transfer title at some future date, in the meantime depositing material with the archive or library for safekeeping.

After selecting a repository and consulting the wishes of that institution about the arrangement of the material, one must reduce ones "piles" to an orderly arrangement as one would do if preparing the material for publication. You will cull and remove duplicates, extraneous material, correspondence of peripheral interest and material relating to roads not followed. You should prepare a table of contents and in index to the refined collection. You should prepare an introduction that sets the parameters of the collection, defines the keys and numbering system, and explains the abbreviations. The genealogist who wishes to preserve his collection must be responsible for preparing the material, as he/she only has the expertise to make the decisions.

All repositories are grateful for a monetary donation to allay the expenses of accessioning the material.

A few suggestions are The Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT. The New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Boston, MA. National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington, DC.

This article somewhat shifts the burden of responsibility for the preservation from the heirs and places it squarely where it should be: on the shoulders of the genealogist who wishes the collection to be preserved.

Thrift is a admirable virtue, especially in an ancestor.
above: Kay Sheldon, Vice-Chairperson (Pres. of MASSOG)

right: The Dinner speaker: Glade I. Nelson, FGS

left: The Banquet Hall was filled to capacity.
NERUG

[New England ROOTS Users Group]

A regional ROOTS Users Group has been formed for New England and held its first meeting on Leap Year Day (Feb. 29th) at the Newton Free Library. The new group is a "support" type organization composed of users of the genealogical software, ROOTS (a product of COM- MSOFT, Inc. of Windsor, CA). ROOTS is often ranked by reviewers and professionals as the #1 genealogical software program. Next to PAF (a product of the Family History Dept. of the L.D.S. church) it is the most widely used of the commercial programs.

The NERUG meetings are held about every two months in the Boston area with experts giving presentations of various aspects of the ROOTS software. There is also a lot of person-to-person help and advice dispensed and maybe a little commiseration. Although it's primary emphasis is on the ROOTS software it also examines and advises on other computer software that may be useful in the pursuit of genealogical research.

NERUG publishes an excellent newsletter on a bi-monthly basis that contains articles of interest on genealogy, queries, notices, surname directory, and list of persons to contact to get help on using ROOTS.

A couple of local area "sub-groups" have been formed, Cape Cod RUG Runners and the Maine RUG. These informal groups meet in between NERUG meetings and provide support at the local level.

For membership application or further information contact Steve Kyner, Editor, 232 Underwood St., Holliston, MA 01746 (tel.# 508-429-7010) or Jan Riley, Treasurer, 161 Forest St., Sherborn, MA 01770 (tel.# 508-653-6847).

-------------------------------------------------$-----------------

Young bride: All this shaking and baking, thawing, micro-waving, ready mixing, boiling plastic bags, opening cans - I tell you, I'm sick and tired of cooking.

REPORT ON LEGISLATION
and other concerns

by
Shirley Barnes, MGC Director of Public Records

Senate Bill S-339 which provides for the transfer of the birth, death and marriage records of dates 1900 through 1920 from the Mass. Dept. of Health/Registry of Vital Records and Statistics to the State Archives. This is in Senate Ways and Means, and has been since spring. The Chairman of Ways and Means, Senator Patricia McGovern wanted a letter or approval from the Secretary of State, Michael Joseph Connolly. (2 weeks of trying to reach Connolly's legislative aide were futile; messages were left concerning this letter). Senator Cile Hicks, sponsor of the legislation, and a member of Senate Ways and Means, is to write a letter to Secretary Connolly, and will push harder for passage.

Letters and phone calls to State Senators from constituent asking for action on S-339 will be helpful. If this is passed by the Senate, it is possible to get quick passage through the House. This is an election year, but the Senate and the House go back into session after Labor Day.

FEES FOR VITAL RECORD SERVICES.
Effective 1 August 1992 at the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 150 Tremont St. Boston 02111

Searches for Birth, Death or Marriage:

$6.00 A search including one medical research copy or certified copy, or an official statement that a record 18 not on file-negative statement (includes a 10 year search) obtained in person at the State Registry.

$6.00 Additional copies ordered at the same time in person at the State Registry

$11.00 A search including one medical research copy or certified copy, or an official statement that a record is not on file-negative statement (includes a 10 year search) obtained through a mail request.
$11.00 Additional copies ordered through a mail request

$14.00 Credit request (birth records only) ordered through Vital-Check (additional to $5.00 Vital-Check fee)

$14.00 Request for expedited two-day service received by regular mail or special delivery service

$25.00 Decorative Heirloom Certificates (birth and marriage only) ordered in person at the Registry.

$30.00 Decorative Heirloom Certificates (birth and marriage only) ordered by mail.

BE PREPARED FOR HOURLY FEES for doing research at the State Registry.

Starting October 5th, the State Registry plans to charge hourly fees. $3.00 per hour 18 the rate proposed. Elaine Trudeau, the Registrar, promises that there will be 3 clerks assigned full time to help, and that the hours will be increased, probably a 9-11 and 2-4:30 schedule, at least 4 days per week. This fee schedule will go into effect only when more clerks have been hired and trained. The first 20 minutes will be free. The Registry 18 to retain the fee money rather than have it go to the State General Fund, through passage of legislation in an outside section of this year’s state budget. This 18 called "retained revenue".

(I do not know whether these hours and fees apply to everyone, that is the lawyers and heairsearchers who have never had restricted hours)

Other news of the Registry is that the State Capital Planning office is planning to move the Registry, and probably the whole Dept. of Public Health now at 150 Tremont St. to a new location next year. It will be on public transportation and probably have parking available. Also, there is talk of developing a subscription service which would be like a monthly pass that organizations could buy to eliminate the hourly fee for their members.

MORE NEWS. The Deputy Secretary of State, Supervisor of Public Records, James Igoe, has given consent to alter the agreement with The New England Historic Genealogical Society to allow NEHGS to sell copies of the indices to State Vital Records, deaths, which NEHGS has been making at its own expense. The money from the sale of these indices would allow the NEHGS to continue the copying project on birth and marriage indices, which would not be allowed to be sold. (Since anyone can walk in to the Registry and consult the indices, I do not understand this restriction, but the Registrar claims it is because there are restricted births and marriages recorded).

ELDERHOSTEL

The NH Society of Genealogists is planning to begin an Elderhostel program in New Hampshire with an emphasis on beginning genealogy. If there are any of you interested in being involved with this project, please contact Chairperson Posey Godfrey, 56 High Street, Ipswich, MA 01938 (phone: 508-356-7870)

WARNYNGE

[1567 Ballad]

Then marke it welle when you doe ryde Abrode
to mark ye Chrystmassetyde
With Wassail Bowle of barley brew that ille shall not befall to you.
Drink not too deepe of fryndlye Ale so innocent within hys paile.
Looke not too cheerlye on ye Wyne.
Lest hedde to heels ye doe incline.
But better yette, tie strong and well-ly your feete beneath ye Horse’s belly

Genealogy begins as an interest,
Becomes a hobby;
Continues as an avocation,
Takes over as an obsession,
And in its final stages
Is an incurable disease.
MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The MGC's annual conference was held May 2, 1992 at the Peabody Institute in Danvers. The fear of witches must have deterred some of the more timid from attending but for those that did they were treated to some top notch presentations. In the morning the participants toured the Rebecca Nurse house and the parish where the delusions of 1692 took place. In the afternoon the speakers addressed the group about various aspects of the witchcraft happenings. For those who were unable to attend, the notes taken by our Secretary, Garthia Mahony, are reproduced below.

Talk by Richard Trask: PIECING THE HISTORICAL PUZZLE TOGETHER [from notes taken by Gratia Mahony]

The witchcraft hysteria took place about 1 mile from here (ie: the Peabody Institute or Danvers library). Old Salem Village which later became Danvers (1752) was located along Center Street, just off Rte. 95. The settler families intermarried, and remained there to live.

In the 1970's Richard Trask wanted to find the Parris parsonage. The neighbors didn't like it that people were becoming interested. If fact witchcraft was a sore subject in Danvers for generations. Things have changed now and historically interesting lessons can be learned.

Salem town (what we now call Salem) has a different outlook and heritage. It was the place of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, but didn't have many accusers, ie: a more far away and different approach. Salem town had other interests, so witchcraft is only one aspect of Salem history.

The beginning of local historical societies brought interest in genealogy and local history. Salem started touting "cutesy" witchcraft with a non-threatening version of a witch. Salem has become a very important tourist community where you can now find scholarly material; or touristy places; or dreadful places, ie: various kinds of interpretation of witchcraft.

Danvers acknowledges the mistakes, but also acknowledges the history of the witchcraft. hysteria.

We at Danvers thought it important to tell our story.

Why do we care about what happened 30 years ago? "Introspective & exterspective"

The Salem witch hunt has been heard of worldwide, everyone has heard of the "witch hunt". We think it important to talk about communal intolerance. Intolerance can always be there, ie: germ of intolerance for a good old witch hunt. (Terms, intolerance or scapegoating)

We all have an interest in genealogy, and in people and how they've reacted in the past. When religious systems and governmental systems fail, pressures can only be imagined.

Look at the Salem Village people. They were a diverse kind of social being, but all were average people. When the first trials began they went after the people who wouldn't confess. (If you did confess you wouldn't be executed)

Those people were heroic individuals to be able to stand up to all around them. We should "celebrate" the individual who can be heroic by standing up to others. They were average people who could do the right thing, ie. not confess to something they didn't do.

What are some of the sources we can go to to find out what life was like in 1692? Printed and written sources such as Samuel Paris' Ministers Record Book. In it he recounts the beginning of the witchcraft. He talks of Martha Cory, a full covenant member of Salem Village Church.

We can go to Probate documents, look at artifacts in museums, and go to cemeteries. Puritans liked symbols (ie: the 3 sectional gravestone, a concept of the gate of heaven.) Remember, burying grounds were on poor land, not good for farming. We can look at first period houses, and study pictures (paintings) for styles of clothing.

Talk by Dr. Enders A. Robinson: ANDOVER WITCHCRAFT [from notes taken by Gratia Mahony]

There were 23 original proprietors of Andover, Simon Bradstreet was the most powerful. There
was division of land according to a hierarchy and those in the upper end were a small, closely knit group. Exclusion created some resentment. The difficulties between elderly minister Francis Dane, and young minister Thomas Barnard (who got most of Francis Dane’s salary) was a foreboding of trouble. On May 31, 1692 Martha Carrier was arrested, supposedly because she brought smallpox to Andover. But other than that, the arrest phase of the Andover witch hunt occurred July 15 to Sept. 7, 1692. Fifty residents of Andover were arrested, and an additional 18 at the Andover "Touch Test."

In contrast to Salem Village, where only 5 of the 75 arrested confessed, in Andover they DID confess, usually at the urging of husbands and children. What is the explanation? It can be traced largely to Robert Barnard. He urged men to convince their wives to confess. His eloquence and intensity could convince a woman that she had strayed. Confession was the only hope of redemption.

How did it stop? Dudley Bradstreet finally came to his senses. He refused to grant out any more arrest warrants. Soon he and his wife Ann were cried out upon, but in short order they fled to New Hampshire.

Stephen Herring: EPILOGUE TO HYSTERIA
[from notes taken by Gratia Mahony]

The witchcraft story did not end when the hangings stopped. Many people sought new beginnings in other towns. In 1700 the town of Framingham was called Danforths Farms in honor of Thomas Danforth, Dep. Gov. of Colonies. It later took the name of Framingham Plantation, named for Danforth’s home in England.

Mary Estey, Sara Cloyes, and Rebecca Nurse were sisters charged with witchcraft. Sarah’s case never came to trial - she was jailed in Ipswich. Rev. Paris used to inquire why Peter Cloyes (Sarah’s husband) was so often absent from church. He was visiting his wife in jail. In 1693 the Cloyes appeared in Framingham, soon followed by Rebecca Nurse’s two sons and also John Towne. This neighborhood was known as "Salem End" (the end of their ordeal). In 1700 these families joined with other parts of Framingham plantation to form a new town.

Stephen Herring showed slides of a house still standing on Salem End Road. Further west the Nurse house (built by children of Rebecca Nurse in 1694), and the John Towne house on Maple Street (which was then a part of Salem End Road). Many families are still there. In the Old Cemetery SE of Town Center on Main St are stones of Cloyes, Bridges and Nurse families.

Rev. Samuel Parris is buried in Wayland Cemetery, known as Sudbury at that time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MGC ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be held March 6, 1993 at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 424 Trapelo Road, Building #126, Waltham, MA. More details in our next newsletter.

The NHSOG will hold their FIFTEENTH ANNUAL Conference, October 14 - 16, 1993 at the Sheraton Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth, NH.

Genealogists Handbook for New England Research, by Marcia Wiswall Lindberg, the pre-eminent reference for anyone doing genealogical research in New England has been revised and enlarged, designated as the 3rd edition, it will be available by December from the NEHGS. This new edition of 174 pages, produced under the direction of Gary Boyd Roberts, will supersede earlier editions, with more than 200 corrections and additions. Contact NEHGS for details.

Heredity is an omnibus in which all our ancestors ride, and every now and then one of them puts his head out and embraces us.

------ Oliver Wendal Holmes.

It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors.

----- Plutarch
PUBLICATIONS

WINSWOLS OF CARESWELL in Marshfield (revised edition) by Cynthia Hagar Krusell assisted by Betty Magoun Bates.

This is the history of Edward Winslow and his direct descendants who lived at Careswell in Marshfield. Some mention is also made of his brothers, Kenelm and Josiah of Marshfield and John of Boston.

This revised and expanded work discusses Pilgrim Edward Winslow's life his background in England, his role in the settlement years of New England, his service under Oliver Cromwell-- and the history of Winslow's descendants who continued to live at Careswell in Marshfield. The important roles played by the Winslows in Plymouth Colony, the French and Indian Wars, and colonial affairs up to the American Revolution are also discussed.

The genealogy section has been expanded to include not only additional material on Edward Winslow's direct line of descendants but also on the first generation of the descendants of his brothers, John, Kenelm, and Josiah. Some of the many surname cited in the book are:


75 pages illustrated with Winslow family portraits, photographs, and maps; detailed index along with reference notes and extensive bibliography.

Cost is $14.10 including tax and postage. Send check or money order to: Historical Research Associates, P.O. Box 242, Marshfield, MA 02051 (Phone:617-834-7329)

DEATH OF TWO WELL KNOWN GENEALOGISTS

[reprinted from the NHSOG newsletter]

Special friends of many of our members, Ruth Ann (Wilder) Sherman and John Eldridge Frost died within two days of one another on Tuesday 21 July and Thursday 23 July 1992. Ruth Ann, age 63, owner and co-editor of The American Genealogist was the widow of Robert M. Sherman. A member of our society, she was also a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Rhode Island Genealogical Society. She was past secretary general of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. Those of our members who subscribe to The American Genealogist will be interested to know that another of our members, Robert C. Anderson, will be filling Ruth's shoes as co-editor. They also should note that the new address for correspondence to that outstanding Journal is: P.O. Box 398, Demorest, GA 30535.

John Eldridge Frost, age 75, was one of the most noted genealogists ever to come out of the state of Maine. Author and Lecturer, over the years he will no doubt be best remembered for his most recently published work, the two-volume Maine Probate Abstracts, which cover the period 1687-1800. In May of this year he received from the Maine Historical Society the Neal W. Allen, Jr. History Award which recognizes and honors outstanding contributions to Maine history and genealogy. They said: "He has made an extraordinary contribution to Maine scholarship through his lifelong endeavors to gather, transcribe, and publish a wide variety of town and vital records. His publications have aided thousands of researchers over the years." A sister said: "He always tried to share his work with others. It was his hobby, really, providing help to those who needed guidance." Your Newsletter editor is one who gladly echoes this statement.
ROSTER OF MGC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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P. O. BOX 2304
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Allen County Public Library
Acquisitions-Periodicals
P. O. Box 2270, 900 Webster St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

American-Potuguese
Genealogical & Hist. Soc.
P. O. Box 644
Taunton, MA 02780

Berkshire Family History Soc.
P. O. Box 1437
Pittsfield, MA 01202

Cape Cod Genealogical Soc.
c/o Louise Kelley
Mansion Avenue
W. Harwich, MA 02671

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Judith Plummer, V. Pres.
P. O. Box 435
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Essex Institute
132 Essex St.
Salem, MA 01970

Essex Soc. of Genealogists
P. O. Box 313
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Falmouth Genealogical Soc.
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Teaticket, MA 02536

Federation of Genealogical Soc.
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Western Springs, IL 60558-0271

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c/o Shirley Barnes
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Wayland, MA 01778

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Mrs. Carol Church, Editor
RFD #3, Box 986
Putney, VT 05346

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c/o Jay Mack Holbrook
57 Locust St.
Oxford, MA 01540

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Gary R. Rachins
P. O. Box 366
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Maine Genealogical Soc.
Amanda Bond, Director
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Mr. James Fahey
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Mass. Society of Genealogists
Kay Sheldon
477 Southbridge St.
Worcester, MA 01610

Mass. Soc. of Mayflower Desc's
Audrey Drummond, Exec. Sec.
101 Newbury St.
Boston, MA 02116

Massachusetts State Archives
Albert H. Whitaker Jr.
Columbia Point
Dorchester, MA 02125

National Archives, New England
C/o James Owens
370 Trapelo Rd.
Waltham, MA 02154

NEHGS
Acquisitions Dept.
101 Newbury St.
Boston, MA 02116

New England Roots Users Group
c/o Steve Kyner, Pres.
232 Underwood Street
Holliston, MA 01746-1627

NH Soc. of Genealogists
P. O. Box 2316
Concord, NH 03302-2316

NSDAR Library, Serials Librarian
1776 "D" St. NW Adm. Bldg.
Washington, DC 20006-5392

Old Colony Hist. Soc.
66 Church Green
Taunton, MA 02780

Plymouth Co. Genealogists
James E. Hoban Jr., Pres.
60 Sheridan St.
Brockton, MA 02402-2852

Sandwich Archives & Hist. Ctr.
145 Main St.
Sandwich, MA 02563

South Shore Genealogical Soc.
P. O. Box 396
Norwell, MA 02061

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