Everton’s Workshop to be Feature at Annual Meeting

Plans have been finalized for MGC’s annual meeting, to take place on Saturday, 10 April 1999 at the Wayland Town Building, Cochituate Road, Wayland (on Rte. 27, just south of traffic light at Rte. 20 in the center of Wayland). The featured attraction at this all-day meeting will be an “Everton’s Discovering Your Heritage” Genealogical Workshop, conducted by the staff of Everton Publishers, Inc. of Logan, Utah. This meeting is being co-sponsored by the Middlesex Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Genealogists.

Everton’s, publishers of Everton’s Genealogical Helper magazine, has conducted successful one-day workshops all over the country for years, and this is definitely an opportunity not to be missed!

All members were sent a flyer and registration form in January. If you plan on attending and have not yet registered, PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY!! We need an accurate head count so that we can order the proper number of lunches. The pre-registration fee of $35.00 (per person) INCLUDES LUNCH and a FREE ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION to “Everton’s Genealogical Helper” (a $24.00 value). Note that couples living in the same household who both register will receive a TWO YEAR SUBSCRIPTION.

Participants will have access to Everton’s databases on computer, including the COMPUTERIZED FAMILY FILE (all volumes), COMPUTERIZED “ROOTS” CELLAR (all vols.), PEDIGREE LIBRARY (all vols.) and Everton’s GEDSRCH. In addition, Everton’s will have items and supplies for sale. Any items ordered at the workshop will be shipped free of charge.

The workshop is designed to be of interest to the widest possible audience, from beginner to long-time genealogist. Everton’s staff will present sessions on: NOTEKEEPING: Methods of collecting and organizing your data and materials. U.S. VITAL RECORDS: Examine vital and church records from states, counties, cities and towns, as well as vital records found in newspapers. IMPORTANT U.S. GENEALOGICAL SOURCES: A look at federal census records, military, probate, tax and court records and many other types of valuable research sources. IMMIGRATION, EMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SOURCES: One of the most useful but least-understood groups of records. BRITISH RESEARCH: An in-depth discussion of records available for genealogical research in England.

The workshop will be preceded by the annual meeting and election of officers. A complete agenda will be found on the insert to this newsletter. Among the items of business are several proposed changes in the By-laws. These include making the fiscal year run from 1 January through 31 December, rather than the present 1 August – 31 July, and to make annual dues payable to the Treasurer by 1 January of each year. It is also proposed that officers newly elected at the annual meeting begin their term on 1 June rather than the present 1 August, to reduce the “lame duck” period and provide for better continuity. In addition, it is proposed that the Council’s financial records be made available for audit on 1 March, the audit to be conducted by the following April or before the annual meeting. Finally, it is proposed to amend the by-laws to require that there be at least one Council meeting per year, to be held in the spring, time and place to be fixed by the Executive Board. (This has generally been the practice, though on several occasions this meeting has been held in conjunction with a spring meeting of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference, without a separate program of our own.)

Your Executive Board recommends that these changes and additions to the by-laws be enacted. Please read over the text on the insert, and bring the insert with you to the meeting.
Suffolk County Records Moved

The completion of the new Suffolk County courthouse building at 24 New Chardon Street in Boston means that genealogists no longer will trudge up Beacon Hill and into the musty rabbit-warren that typified the old courthouse. Both the Registry of Probate and the Registry of Deeds have relocated to the new quarters.

For those wishing to consult the probates, the situation is much as before; the office has records and files 1895-present with indexes (earlier records are at the State Archives at Columbia Point; remember that NEHGS has book copies of the probate index only, 1636-1979). However, because of the recent well-publicised theft of files belonging to several deceased members of the Baseball Hall of Fame, security has been noticeably tightened. Researchers should be prepared to show identification when requesting files.

Unfortunately, the news regarding the Registry of Deeds, as of this writing, is not as positive. When the Registry moved in late January, it sent vols. 1-4235 (1630s-1930s) to the State Archives for storage. We have been advised that these volumes may NOT be consulted at this time. Visitors to the Registry have two options:

1. Visit the Archives at Columbia Point during their regularly scheduled hours (M-F 10:00-12:30 and 1:30-4:00). The second half of this decade is available daily.
2. Contact the Archives (617) 727-2376 and the Archives will make arrangements to bring in the microfilm so it may be viewed.

Middlesex Probate News

Researchers planning a visit to the Middlesex County Registry of Probate, 208 Cambridge St., Cambridge (one block from Lechmere T Station on Green Line) should be aware of the following: records 1636-1871 are at the State Archives (excellent microfilm copies are at Boston Public Library). Files with case #s 1-151446 [New Series] (1871-1925) are in storage; call (617) 494-4542 early in the day to see them that afternoon. NEHGS has copies of the index, 1636-1949.
MHRAB Plans Meeting in Worcester

On Tuesday, 11 May 1999, the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB), a group of historical organizations including the Mass. Genealogical Council, will hold a forum entitled “Building Alliances: The 2nd Annual Community Forum on Massachusetts Historical Records.” The forum will be held from 9:30 am to 4 pm at the Worcester CentrumCentre in Worcester and the public is invited to attend.

As many of you know, the first annual community forum, “Advocating Massachusetts History” was a huge success, with over 350 people attending.

The forum will examine the usefulness and relevance of historical records, the nature of the historical records community, its mission and the records it holds, the challenges faced by the community, and opportunities for advocacy, outreach, and constituency-building. In addition, registrants will participate in one of several group discussions aimed at exploring how to resolve current historical records issues through cooperation. The forum speakers include Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin and William Martin, author of Back Bay, Cape Cod and Citizen Washington. Come join us and show your support for Massachusetts history.

To register, make payment of a minimum $10.00 (more accepted) to help defray costs, by check or money order payable to: MHS: Forum, and sent to: MHRAB Forum, Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125. Further information about the forum, as well as a downloadable registration form, may be found at the web address given below.


To learn more about the forum or other collaborative activities going on in New England and Massachusetts, visit the MHRAB web-site at http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aacintro.htm or call the project archivist, Angela Reddin at (617) 727-2816. See you there!

NERGC Announces 2000 Conference

The New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) has announced that its Year 2000 conference, “New England: A Bridge to America,” will be jointly sponsored by the National Genealogical Society (NGS). This four-day conference will be held at the Providence Convention Center in Providence, RI from 31 May to 3 June 2000. The conference’s focus will be on the nature and extent of immigration into New England and the diverse culture that has resulted. Plans for this conference are well underway, and more particular details, as well as registration materials, will be mailed to all MGC members when it becomes available.

If the previous NERGC conferences are any indicator, this one should be the most successful yet. For nearly twenty years NGS has sponsored annual conferences in the states. This will be the first such conference to be held in New England.

Looking for Worcester County Probates?

Original dockets of Worcester County probate records, 1731-1881 (1st Series) are housed at the Newburyport District Court, 188 State St. (at the Rte. 1 rotary), Newburyport, MA 01950. The office is open on Wednesdays only, 8 am – 3 pm by appointment; call (978) 463-9517.

The NEHGS library in Boston has the probate index only for the years 1731 through 1920. Later indexes and records are at the Worcester County courthouse in Worcester.
New Resources at NEHGS

The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) library in Boston has begun an ambitious project to acquire microfilms and fiche of all genealogical records relating to New England and eastern Canada. Most of the materials acquired so far consists of copies of films produced originally by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and purchased from them. The ultimate goal of the project is to make the NEHGS a "mini Salt Lake" for this part of the country, centralizing nearly all available records under one roof and providing "one-stop shopping."

A list of all the items recently acquired would be too long to present here, but the following are some of the larger items acquired within the last year:

Massachusetts: Hampshire Co. Probate, 1660-1916; index 1660-1971 (note: vols. 1-4, covering 1660-1780 is being used in a publications project and is temporarily unavailable; vols. 5-20 [1729-1809] will follow.

Connecticut: Probate Index 1641-1948 (state-wide); Hale Collection (gravestone inscriptions and newspaper obituaries).

Rhode Island: town, probate and land records for the following communities (thus far): Barrington, Bristol, Burrillville, Central Falls, Cumberland, Foster, Glocester, Hopkinton, Little Compton, Pawtucket and Warwick.


Massachusetts Genealogical Council
P.O. Box 5393
Cochituate, MA 01778-5393

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
Massachusetts Genealogical Council  
Annual Meeting, Seminar and Luncheon  
Saturday, 10 April 1999  
Wayland Town Building, Wayland, MA  

AGENDA  

1. Minutes of annual meeting, 21 March 1998  
2. Treasurer’s Report  
3. President’s Report  
4. Election of Officers. The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for 1999-2001:  
   
   President  
   Vice President  
   Secretary  
   Treasurer  
   Archivist  
   Civil Records  
   Newsletter Editor  
   Program  
   Publicity  
   Ways and Means  
   
   James Holmes  
   Connie Dearborn  
   Mary Ellen Grogan  
   Suzanne Richardson  
   David C. Dearborn  
   Shirley Barnes  
   Wheaton Wilbar  
   Tillie Sweet  
   Marilyn Manzella  
   Sheila FitzPatrick  

5. Proposed By-law changes. The following amendments to the By-laws of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council are presented for consideration:  
   
   Article III Section B 2  
   Dues to be paid annually to the Treasurer on or before January 1 of the fiscal year.  
   The fiscal year being January 1 through December 31.  

   Article IV Section C 5  
   Officers to take office June 1 following their election at the annual meeting.  

   Article V Section A 4 i (Duties of the Treasurer)  
   The Treasurer shall make financial records available for audit by March 1 of each year.  

   Article V Section B  
   Delete from last line the words Section 3 i and of 1995.  

   Article VIII (Audit)  
   1. The audit is to be conducted by April or before the annual meeting.  

   Article IX B 1  
   There shall be at least one Council meeting per year, to be held in the spring, time and place to be fixed by the Executive Board.