



Genealogical Society of Rockland County Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 1
September 1990

Genealogical Society of Rockland County, c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co., 20 Zukor Rd., New City, N.Y. 10956

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Tuesday, September 25th at 7:45 p.m. we're having a party. It's our anniversary and we hope you can come, bring a friend, and enjoy the evening. Let's mingle and share some of the information we've gathered over the years.

Please bring a copy of a Bible record, family sheet, or something for our files and place it in the tray on our table. The older it is the better!!

The Board would like to thank Mr. Peter Ramundo of the T. J. McGowan Sons Funeral Home for allowing us to copy the Martine & Son Funeral Home records. They cover the period Aug. 18, 1872 through June 3, 1920 with 7,015 cases. A copy will soon be available in the New City Library.

—Les Baisley

NOTICES

✓ **An Everton Workshop, "Family Tree Climbing Can Be Fun,"** has been scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 1990 by the Genealogy Club of the Passaic County Historical Society. The workshop, which will be conducted by George B. Everton, Jr., is co-sponsored by The Great Falls Development Corporation and The Paterson Museum. The workshop will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Paterson Museum, The Thomas Roger's Building, 2 Market Street, Paterson, N.J. The registration fee is \$18 for Passaic Genealogy Club members and \$20 for non-members. Advance registration is required. Checks (made payable to the Genealogy Club of the Passaic County Historical Society), along with name, address and telephone number of participant, should be mailed to PCHS, Lambert Castle, Valley Road, Paterson, NJ 07503. All workshop participants will receive a one year subscription to Everton Publishers' *The Genealogical Helper*.

✓ **A Family History Fair** will be held Sunday, October 7, 1990 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at New York University's Loeb Student Center, Washington Square South at LaGuardia Place, in Manhattan. The Fair will be a highlight of the second annual New York Archives Week (Oct. 1-7 featuring performances, exhibitions, walking tours and more) For a full schedule of the Weeks' events, call 212-415-5547. New York Archives Week is sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York.

At the free Family History Fair, the public will be invited to learn how to trace their family histories, preserve and interpret family documents and make use of archives and libraries in and around New York. Dozens of genealogical societies, historical agencies, archival repositories, ethnic organizations and booksellers will offer exhibits and information for the family history buff. Workshops will be held on beginning a family history, working with archival sources, oral history techniques, preserving documents and using computers in genealogy. Videos will be shown on ethnic genealogy, archival research and preservation techniques. Those attending are invited to bring along letters, photographs, certificates, scrapbooks, immigration documents, diaries and the like for advice in interpretation and preservation.

✓ **A new periodical publication** has been initiated by The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society: *The NYG&B Newsletter*. The

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

Regular meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of every month (except July and August) at the Community Room of the History Center Museum, Historical Society of Rockland County, 20 Zukor Road, New City, N.Y.

Meeting time is 7:45 p.m.

Sept. 25.....Celebration of our Society's sixth anniversary.

Oct. 23.....Dan Burrows will speak on the reorganization of the Research Room of the Orange County Genealogical Society.

Nov. 27.....(tentative) A private detective will speak on 20th-century research.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

President.....	Leslie Baisley
Vice President.....	Henry Rennie
Recording Secretary.....	Joan Brooks
Corresponding Secretary.....	Sally Dewey
Treasurer.....	Peter Krell
Membership.....	Peg Dermody
Archivist.....	Pat Kerner
Genealogical Research.....	Marie Koestler
Librarian.....	Marie Koestler
Program Chairman.....	Marie Koestler
Newsletter Editors.....	Pat Wardell, Peter Krell
Society Telephone Contact.....	Pat Kerner, 914-357-1355

The Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County is published four times a year, in mid-month of September, December, February and May.

The deadline for submitting material for inclusion in the Newsletter is the 1st of the month of the issue date.

ACCESSIONS

Recent accessions to the GSRC library include:

- Newspaper Genealogical Column Directory, Heritage Books, Inc., Third Edition, 1987.
- Kirkham, E. Kay, A Handy Guide to Record-Searching in the Larger Cities of the United States including a Guide to their Vital Records and Some Maps with Street Indexes with Other Information of Genealogical Value, Everton Publishers, Inc. 1974 (Xerox donated by Barbara Flurchick of the Bergen County Genealogical Society).
- "The Westchester County Historic Trail," pamphlet, Office of Tourism of Westchester County, NY. (donated by Dorothy Avery, speaker at our May 22nd meeting).
- "Bicentennial Calendar from the Town of Cortlandt 1788-1988" (donated by Dorothy Avery, speaker at our May 22nd meeting).
- "Floris Willems CRUM of Haverstraw, with one line of his descent to the present day" including the SMIDT, LENT, and LAMB lines, compiled (and donated by) Mrs. Merna Roche, Gaithersburg, MD.
- "Genealogy of Frans Abramse VAN SALEE and His Descendants: A Colonial Black Family in New York and New Jersey" (in Tappan 1708-ca. 1800), excerpted from *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, Vol. 121, April 1990 Number 2.
- Ancestor Chart of John Esler BRAUN, 1990 of Danbury, CT. Includes: WASHBURN/WASHBOURNE, SHUART, JONES, SMITH.
- BULSON -ZIEGLER Genealogy. Lived in areas of Town of Haverstraw, including Stony Point; north and west of Ambrey's Pond/Bulsonstown.
- VAN TASSEL-VAN TEXEL, notes and information

from Howard Durie, passed on to GSRC by John Scott.

- Copy of *Men and Women from Rockland County who died in the World War and Whose Names appear on the County Memorial at New City*, dated June 9, 1923 from the Chairman, Subcommittee on Roster of County Memorial—Beveridge C. Dunlop.

- List of World War I servicemen from Nyack.

- Coldham, Peter Wilson, F.A.S.C., American Loyalist Claims, National Genealogical Society, Washington, D.C., 1980. Donation from Henry Rennie.

- Leiby, Adrian, The Revolutionary War in the Hackensack Valley, Rutgers.

- Mackenzie's data on the LENTS, CONKLINS, and an Index and Bibliography from his 1966 work-in-progress. Donated by Dorothy F. Avery, Peekskill, NY. ❖

AT THE NEW CITY LIBRARY

- Ryan, James, Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History.
- Sack, Sally Ann, A Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research.
- Young, Tommie M., Jewish Genealogy: A Source Book of Family Histories and Genealogies.
- Young, Tommie M., Genealogical Research for Czech and Slovak Americans.
- Young, Tommie M., Afro-American Genealogy Sourcebook.
- Owen, Dolores, Guide to Genealogical Resources in the British Isles, Scarecrow Press, 1989.
- Ledger, Richard M., Place Names of Westchester County, Harbor Hill Books, 1978.
- Dobson, David, The Original Scots Colonists, 1612-1783, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989.
- National Society of Daughters of Founders & Patriots of America, Founders and Patriots Index, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1975.
- Scott, Kenneth, Coroner's Reports, New York City, 1823-1842.
- Smith, Frank, Genealogical Gazeteer of England, Genealogical Publishing Co.
- Ghirelli, Michael, List of Emigrants from England to America 1682-1692 [Call No. 929.373].
- Claehorn, Charles E., Naval Officers of the American Revolution: A Concise Biographical Dictionary, Scarecrow Press, 1988 [Call No. 973.35].
—Yvonne Yare

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome to:

- Mr. George G. Hughes, 1330 The Pointe Drive, West Palm Beach, FL 33409

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New Members, continued from page 2

- Mr. W. Jerome Hatch, 657 West Melrose Avenue, Chicago, IL 60657
- Mrs. Evelyn Ackeret, 704 Juanita Way, Roseville, CA 95678 (surnames researching: Roberts, Sands, McKenney)
- Mr. Michael J. Miller, 65 Tupelo Trail, Narragansett, RI 02882 (surnames researching: Miller, Dawley)
- Mrs. Dorothy F. Avery, 319 Washington Street, Peekskill, NY 10566 (surnames researching: Sloat, Lent, Conklin, Ferguson, Irwin, Brausse, Ferris, Teller, Hains, McCord, Purdy)
- Mr. George B. Burgess, 198 South Brock Street, Sarnia, Ontario, Canada N7T 2W4 (surnames researching: Babcock, David)
- Mr. and Mrs. John E. Braun (Marion F.), 4 Moran Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810 (surnames researching: Jones, Hemion)
- Mrs. Grace Yale, 13472 Marty Lane, Garden Grove, CA 92643 (surnames researching: Odell, Robinson, Lutz, Smith)
- Mrs. Eleanor F. Winnett, 760 Doane Avenue, Bellport, NY 11713

LETTERS

From A. C. (Chris) Nuessle, Jr., Ardsley, PA, 29 Apr 1990:

Mom and I thank you for the opportunity to share our experiences...it is great fun to participate in such a forum. I hope the members who attended on the 24th enjoyed it as much as we did.

On this particular occasion, however, our trip to Rockland County was even more of a success than we anticipated, thanks to Peter Krell. We have been searching for 11 years for Matt Rose, one of the brothers of my great-great-grandfather, the Rev. George A. Rose. We thought "uncle Matt" had lived near Sloatsburg in the 1930s, but we could find no sign of him in that area. When Mom told Peter about this "missing person," Peter took us to a well-hidden Sloatsburg cemetery (we'd never have located it on our own) and Hallelujah! we found Matthias Rose.

Following that discovery, Peter spent the next three hours with us, taking us to other cemeteries and walking miles with us through them. Finally, he went with us to the valley below Pyngyp where my great-grandfather had his gold mine and baptismal pool.

We thanked Peter profusely at the time, and I have followed it up with a thank-you letter since arriving home, but I thought it only appropriate to let you know as well. Peter should get as many pats on the back as his back can stand. He shared his knowledge with us and we're eternally grateful.

From Dorothy F. Avery, Peekskill, NY, 5 June 1990:
...[When I spoke on "Researching in Westchester County" at your May 22 meeting] I gave one answer

to the late settlement of the northern-east area of Westchester County that was probably a bit too vague. Several of the factors in the later 1900's were the lack of good highways (addressed with the building of 684 and 84), employment (addressed with the corporate moves out of New York City for better tax breaks, etc.) and changes in family incomes (addressed by the change to two income families). Also after World War II many of the young returning veterans (taking advantage of the GI Education Bill) made moves up the income ladder. The boom that hit construction as a result of this was a bit later in this area coming more on the changes brought about in the sixties and seventies and persisting into the eighties. There are many more factors, but these perhaps better answer one of the questions a bit more completely...

QUERIES

Queries will be published in the newsletter as space permits. It would be helpful if querists would submit their queries beginning with surnames concerned in the query listed alphabetically. Please keep queries clear, but concise. Send queries to Pat Wardell, GSRC Newsletter Editor, 78 Edgewood Road, Allendale, NJ 07401.

When answering a query, please send a copy of the answer to the Genealogical Society of Rockland County for our files and for possible inclusion in future newsletters. Many thanks.

TEN EYCK, CONKELON—Seeking any info on Henrick TEN EYCK, b. c. 1740, m. Maria CONKELON. Dau. Merce bp. Clarkstown 12 June 1757.

TEN EYCK, OSBORN—Seeking any info on Catharine TEN EYCK, b. 1762, m. James OSBORN. Catharine was a dau. of Hendrick TEN EYCK & -?- of Haverstraw, NY.

TEN EYCK, DIKENS—Seeking any info on Amassy TEN EYCK, b.c. 1766, m. Richard DIKENS Sr. Amassy was a dau. of Hendrick TEN EYCK & -?- of Haverstraw, NY.

TEN EYCK/TENIKE—Seeking any info on Henry TENIKE, b. c. 1770, m. Sally TEN EYCK. Anthony TENIKE was a brother to Sally. All living in Haverstraw in 1840. Margaret TENIKE of Fishkill, NY was the mother of Sally and Anthony.

TEN EYCK, KESSLER—Seeking any info on Almira TEN EYCK, b. 1830, m. Walter KESSLER. Almira was a dau. of William and Mary Allison TENNYKE of Stony Point, NY.

TEN EYCK, BABCOCK, SPRINGSTEEN—Seeking parents of David TEN EYCK, b. 1764, d. 21 Nov 1849 in Stony Point, NY; m. (1) Elizabeth BABCOCK; m. (2) Elizabeth SPRINGSTEEN.

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Queries, continued from page 3

TEN EYCK, MEYER, VAN HOUTEN—Seeking any info on Hendrick TINCKE, b. c. 1730 Hempstead, NY; m. Lena MEYER. Children Johannes, b. 1750, m. Marretje VAN HOUTEN; Coenraet, b. 1755, m. Maria VAN HOUTEN; Sara, b. 1760; Lena, b. 1762; Maria, b. 1769.

TEN EYCK, BULSON—Seeking any info on Henry TENEYCK, m. Peggy BULSON 30 May 1794 at Ref. Church of West New Hempstead.

TEN EYCK, GAINS, DOLSON—Seeking any info on Harriet TENEYCK, b.c. 1820 Stony Point, m. (1) -?- GAINS; m. (2) Sam DOLSON. Children Bulah, m. Charles CAMBELL; Ina and Samuel. Harriet was a dau. of David and Elizabeth TENEYCK.

TEN EYCK, BOWMAN—Seeking any info on Jane TENEYCK, b.1857, m. Eugene BOWMAN. Children Eugene, Ed, Joe, John, Charles. Jane was a dau. of Allison and Mary Smith TENEYCK of Tompkins Cove, NY.

VAN NOSTRAND—Seeking any info on Albert VAN NOSTRAND, b. c. 1906 in Nyack, NY. He was a son of Everitt Ira VAN NOSTRAND, b. 25 Dec 1879, and -?-. Ben TenEyck, 640 Vasseler Ave., Bound Brook, NJ 08805

DUDGEON, HAYWARD—James DUDGEON (b. 1847); Anna HAYWARD (b. 1844) married about 1864 in NYC or northern NJ. She was the daughter-in-law of DeLacey HAYWARD, a Tory who fled to St. John, N.B. in 1783 from NY, NJ or Newburyport, MA. His father, John HAYWARD, a ship's captain, died in the British service in 1782. Any information desired.

BANTA, HOPPER, SKAATS, STILLWELL—Looking for information about parents and grandparents of Mary Anne HOPPER (b. ca. 1800) who married first, Bartholomew SKAATS, then Albert Zabriskie BANTA. Were her parents John HOPPER, Jr. and Mary STILLWELL? Who were her mother's parents?

LEWIS, SCHNEIDER—Looking for information about William LEWIS, and his sons, William H(enry) LEWIS and Henry John LEWIS (b. ca. 1826), who were engaged in the design and manufacture of photographic equipment, first at Daguerreville, NY in 1851, and later in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Henry John married Katherine SCHNEIDER.

CONK, WOYCHINSKI—Looking for information about the immigration, death and burial of W. E. WOYCHINSKI (b. in Poland, ca. 1827) or his wife Eliza, or their sons, Peter, Frank. Also interested in information about daughter Frances' husband, named CONK.

CHAMPENOIS, GESLAIN—Looking for informa-

tion about immigration of Alexander J. GESLAIN from France (ca. 1795), and early family birth and death records. His son, Alexander C. GESLAIN married Jane CHAMPENOIS in 1808, probably in NYC. His wife was reputed to be related to Victor Hugo (possibly named TREBUCHET).

CHAMPENOIS, MAGHEM, SEE—Interested in all information about Margaret MANGHEM, widow of Isaac SEE, and her father Daniel MANGHEM, a Scotch immigrant. She married second, Thomas CHAMPENOIS (b. 1725) about 1785. They lived in New Rochelle and Mt. Pleasant (Philipsburg Manor), and finally in NYC (ca. 1790).

CHAMPENOIS—Interested in information about the early years in America of Daniel CHAMPENOIS, who immigrated with the Palatines from London, in 1710. He lived in West Camp, with his first wife, Johanna, and children. He later moved to NYC, and was in New Rochelle with his wife Marguerite (family name ?) in 1716. He was the father of Thomas (b. 1725), baptized in the French Church, NYC.

Robert L. Protzmann, 4 Ethel Drive, New City, NY 10956

OSBORN/OSBORNE/ORSBORN—Researching all branches of this family. Wish to correspond with any others interested in this or collateral families. Will share info.

Jerry Hughes, 1330 The Pointe Dr., W. Palm Beach, FL 33409

JONES, SMITH—Seeking info on Spencer JONES, d. ca. 1867-1872, wife (Mary) Jane SMITH. John E. Braun, 4 Moran Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810

MARKS, KEESLER—Wish to exchange information with anyone researching the MARKS and KEESLER families, dating back into the late 1700s and earlier, in the Haverstraw and upper NJ areas. Jean Marks Broderick, RR2 Box 801, Wolfboro, NH 02894

SANDS, ROBERTS—Seek parents of Rachel Julia SANDS, m. 11 May 1840 Peekskill, John T. ROBERTS. Census 1850 and 1860 in Haverstraw. Family roots: Cow Neck, Nassau Co., L.I.

Evelyn Ackeret, 704 Juanita Way, Roseville, CA 95678

ODELL, ROBINSON—Seeking ancestors and descendants of Isaac ODELL, born Rockland County, 1810. Married Sarah ROBINSON. Children were Edward, Richard, Emma, John, Mary, Leander, Margaret, Harriet, Rufus.

Grace Yale, 13472 Marty Lane, Garden Grove, CA 92643

ANSWERS TO QUERIES

BABCOCK (Response to query in Feb. 1990 GSRC Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 3, p. 5)

My great-great-grandmother and grandfather were Peter BABCOCK and Nancy DEGRAW. They had Mary Elizabeth BABCOCK who married John M. MILLEN of Ireland. I believe that the BABCOCKS may be of the Rhode Island James BABCOCK. There were BABCOCKS that moved to the New York and New Jersey area from Rhode Island throughout the 1600s and 1700s. See *Babcock Genealogy* compiled by Stephen Babcock, M.A., New York: Eaton & Mains, 1903.

Mary E. BABCOCK was born on June 22, 1857 in Englewood, New Jersey. Peter [BABCOCK] and Nancy DEGRAW were of New York according to Mary's New York Death Record (1919/71367). She died December 24, 1919 in West Haverstraw, New York. John M. Millen died January 19, 1929.

—Michael J. Millen, Narragansett, R.I.

NOTICES

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first issue (Vol. 1, No. 1) was published for Spring, 1990. The *Newsletter's* editors are Henry B. Hoff and Harry Macy, Jr.

The *Newsletter* joins the Society's scholarly quarterly periodical, *The New York G & B Record*, which was founded in 1870. Subscriptions to both publications, as well as use of the Society's library in New York City, are included with membership in the Society. For information on membership contact The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 122 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022-1939 (212-755-8532).

✓ **Kings County, NY records** formerly housed at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, have been acquired by the New York City Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007, which is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9-4:30.

According to an article in *The NYG&B Newsletter* (Spring 1990) the records include town records of Bushwick, New Utrecht, Flatbush, Flatlands, Gravesend, New Lots and Williamsburgh from their original settlement. Also included are records of the Town and City of Brooklyn (from 1785; earlier records are lost) until its consolidation with New York in 1897. Various Kings County land, court and administrative records from 1633 to the 20th century are also included in the collection.

The Archives has received a grant to organize and conserve the collection. Some of the records (originals and microfilm) are already available at the Archives.

✓ **New York State tax records** for 1799-1804 have been recently made available for research by the New York State Archives in Albany. Tax Assessment Rolls of Real Estate and Personal Estates are arranged by county, year and town. Information usually included in an entry includes the name of the person taxed (non-residents are so indicated), description of real property (type, i.e. farm, mill, tannery, etc.; this category is often left blank); value of real estate, value of personal estate; total assessed value. The lists have not been alphabetically arranged, so it is often possible to determine a person's close neighbors.

No lists at all exist for Essex and Rensselaer Counties. For all other counties, some lists for certain years may be lacking and for some years there may be lists of delinquent taxpayers only. Some tax records from the 1770s and 1780s are also at the Archives.

The New York State Archives and Records Administration, on the 11th floor, Cultural Education Center in the Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230 (518-474-1195) is open 9-5 Monday through Friday.

✓ **Upcoming Meetings of the Orange County Genealogical Society** (all on the first Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Historic 1841 Courthouse, 101 Main St., Goshen, NY) include:

Oct. 6, 1990—"Mamakating, Minsi, Machachemeck, Minisink; Early Dutch Settlers in the History of Orange County" by Eugene Kuykendall of Sloatsburgh, N.Y., publisher of two Dutch heritage genealogies.

Nov. 3, 1990—"Italian Heritage" presented by Mr. Battaglia of the Lake Region Italian-American Association.

Dec. 1, 1990—"Presidential Graves" by Dean George Shepherd of Middletown, N.Y.

There will be no program in January. For additional information contact Benjamin C. Coleman, RD #1, Box 794, Monroe, NY 10950 (914-783-9010).

✓ **Westchester County Genealogical Society programs** for the fall are:

Oct. 13—Westchester Co. History Through Old Photographs, by Susan Swanson.

Nov. 17—Doing the Family History, by Roger Panetta.

The society meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Central Ave., Hartsdale, NY. (Note that the November meeting is a departure from the regular scheduling, meeting on the 3rd Sat. instead of the 2nd because of conflicting activities at the church.) The Society's mailing address is P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10603.

✓ **Howard I. Durie died 5 August 1990** at the age of 77. A noted local historian and genealogist, he will be sorely missed, especially by the numerous

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researchers he encouraged and with whom he shared information. His employment as a title examiner reinforced his interest in his own ancestors and in the land records of the area. Mr. Durie moved from Bergen County to Rockland County about 10 years ago. At the time of his death he was living in Stony Point.

He was the author of The Kakiat Patent in Bergen County, N.J. and The Durie Family as well as a number of articles published in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. Up to his death, he wrote the major story for each edition of *Relics*, the quarterly newsletter of the Pascack Valley Historical Society. Mr. Durie founded the newsletter 35 years ago.

✓ **Tapes of NGS 10th Conference Programs** presented at the National Genealogical Society 10th Annual Conference held in Arlington, VA in June are available for \$7.00 each from TRIAD, P.O. Box 120, Toulon, IL 61483 (309-286-3531). (Add shipping charges of \$1.50 up to \$28 order; \$2.50 up to \$49 order; \$3.75 up to \$70 order; \$5.00 for \$70.01 and over order.) A complete listing of tapes available is in the July-August 1990 issue of the *NGS Newsletter*. Those of local interest include:

DCA 27 Western Long Island: Research in Kings and Queens Counties, 1636-1800, by Harry Macy, Jr.

DCA 63 Land Records, Maps, Tax Rateables and Related Materials in New Jersey, by Bette Marie Barker

DCA 81 New Amsterdam to New York City: Researching Manhattan Families (1625-1800), by Harry Macy, Jr.

DCA 90 To and From the Manor Born: New York's Patents and Manors, by Marjorie C. H. Renino

DCA 139 Twentieth Century New York City Research, by Laurie Thompson.

✓ **Dr. Kenn Stryker-Rodda died at Wilkes-Barre, PA on 29 June 1990.** He was an eminent genealogist and author. He was a past president of the National Genealogical Society; a past president of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey (and past associate editor of *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*); past editor of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* and author or compiler of numerous books and articles on genealogical subjects, including eight privately printed family histories.

✓ **Congratulations to The Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island** (37 Westcliff Dr., Dix Hills, NY 11746) for its quarterly newsletter, *JGSLI Lineage*. Their newsletter, it was announced at the NGS Conference in June, won the Class I category (societies with memberships of fewer than 300) of the 1989 National Genealogical Society Newsletter Competition. ■

Resumes of Past Programs presented at meetings of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County

Researching a Family

Program by Chris and Helen Nuessle at the April 24, 1990 meeting of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County. Notes by Joan Brooks, GSRC Recording Secretary.

Chris Nuessle and his mother, Helen, have been researching their family for over ten years. Chris passed out a packet of information on Pennsylvania research, since that's where they had done most of their research.

Another handout contained miscellaneous information including the following:

"We all come from the past, and children ought to know what it was that went into their making; to know that life is a braided cord of humanity stretching up from time long gone, and it cannot be defined by the span of a single journey from diaper to shroud." —from Growing Up, by Russell Baker, New American Library, copyright 1982.

The Bucks County Historical Society has a library with a large staff of volunteers who will perform a certain amount of research free; you can write or call and give them the names you need to be researched. Marie Koestler interjected here that the Genealogical Society of Rockland County also does this.

Chris recommends The Source by Eakle and Cerny as being one of the best guidebooks to genealogical research. For the computer, he uses the Personal Ancestral File (software for MS-DOS and Macintosh computers). PAF is both accurate and affordable (editor's note: my Macintosh version cost me \$35 in 1989; compare this with other genealogical software advertised at \$150 and up!). PAF can be obtained from The Church of Latter Day Saints, Family History Department, 50 East North Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.

He has prepared a Family History for his children. For our meeting he took an old window shade and made a family tree of all ancestors he had found so far. You think you have a lot done until the names are written down; then you notice all the blank spaces! It is astounding to see how many people lead down to you.

To do your family history, you need a lot of luck, patience, and enthusiasm, especially when you "strike out." Any little piece of information should be written down and kept; you never know when it might fall into place. You must keep your notes organized. If you are very lucky, you might get hold of a family Bible.

There are a couple of things which Chris feels are extremely important in researching your Family History:

1. Talk to the living—be persistent even when they don't want to talk about it or say they don't remember. They can still give you clues to follow up. Interview anyone you can.

2. Make an alphabetical list of names, dates, marriages, etc., so a name will be easy to find if you are doing research. Take the list with you wherever you go.

Chris's book has a narrative section first—it's not just a lot of names and dates. It is very readable. His mother, Helen, remembered many stories told to her during her childhood and they are incorporated into the narrative. He and his mother worked as a team—sometimes together, sometimes separately—but they always got together to compare notes.

Helen said that one of the best things to come out of doing the family history was that she got to know her son all over again. Chris said the same about his mother.

About 60 years ago, Helen spent a lot of time with her grandfather, who told her stories and also gave the Bradshaw family Bible to her, which provided clues to her family history.

Her grandfather had told her stories about his father, Jacob Rose ("Shoutin' Jake"), a minister in Stony Point. He used to take people to the Hudson River and baptize them. He eventually displeased everyone in the church, so he left and began to hold his own services in his home. During the summer months he held services in the valley under Pyngyp Hill. The people would sit on the big boulders, and he baptized them in the pool which was in the center.

It was said that Jake had a gold mine in the area. Chris and his mother came up to Rockland to look for it and to find out more about their ancestors. Chris actually did find the mine. They talked to several of the old-timers who remembered stories about "Shoutin' Jake." They spoke to Lucien Conklin, Paul Rose, James Rose, Dan DeNoyelles, Al Pymm, and Howard "Stubby" Lent. Their line of "Rose" actually contained two different families—one the Dutch "Roos" and the other English "Rose." This made things doubly difficult and confusing. Helen also discovered a lot of material in Paul Rose's attic. There is an old Rose cemetery right next to Paul Rose's house in Stony Point.

One of the most important things to remember is to always label photographs—Chris uses several artist cases to put photos and charts in. It helps us understand a time not our own. ■

Legal Terminology in Wills and Deeds

Wills

Upon death, the will is taken to the Surrogate's Office in the county of residence of the deceased, along with a copy of the death record of the deceased. There it must be sworn to that it is the last will and testament. The Surrogate checks to be

sure the will conforms to the law (it must be dated, and have the signatures of the testator and two disinterested witnesses). If one dies testate (leaving a will), there is an executor/executrix (which may be a person or a corporation, such as a bank). If no executor is named in the will, one will be appointed (usually a spouse, child, relative, attorney, creditor, or friend).

Usually, in a will, the wife is named, children are usually named in order of birth, and sometimes other relatives or friends may be named.

When someone dies without a will, he is said to have died intestate and the court will appoint an administrator (male) or administratrix (female).

administrator—a person appointed by the court to oversee the estate when one dies intestate

administratrix—a female appointed by the court to oversee the estate when one dies intestate

bequeath—involving personal property; see devise

caveat—a formal objection to the probate of a will; a denial that the will is the true LW&T of the deceased, and a demand that the court deny the application for probate

child's part—a portion of the estate determined by dividing it equally by the number of children plus the surviving spouse

citation—gives next of kin and often their relationship to deceased

codicil—amendment to will

cum testamento annexo—"with the will annexed;" an appointed administrator of the estate, who has applied to the court for the duty

deponent—one who provides evidence or gives testimony

divisavit vel non—"is there a valid will or not?"; the question for determination by the court and jury when a caveat is filed to a will offered for probate

devise—involving real property; see bequeath

dower—the right of a surviving wife to a portion of the real estate of her deceased husband (frequently one-third)

dowry—a sum of money or property given to a woman at marriage

executor—named in the will by testator to carry out terms of will

executrix—female named in the will by testator to carry out terms of will

holographic will—a will written, dated, and signed by the testator himself

intestate—died without having made a will

inventory—listing of estate assets, both real and personal, usually made on the day of the funeral or soon after

joint and mutual will—a will by two persons with reciprocal provisions

legatee—one who receives benefit from will

nuncupative will—an oral (battlefield, deathbed)

Legal Terminology continued on page 8

Legal Terminology, continued from page 7

will; must be witnessed by several and written down by a witness at the time it is made or soon after
petition—gives next of kin and often their relationship to deceased
probate—to prove, by the testimony of witnesses to the will (and/or other evidence) that it is in fact the true last will and testament of the deceased
testate—died having made a will
testator—a person who makes a will (male)
testatrix—a female who makes a will
testament—personal property division
will—real property division
witnesses—disinterested parties who sign will
year's support—an award from a deceased's estate adequate to support his wife and minor children for one year.

Deeds

Deeds (also called indentures) convey or pass title to property, both real or personal.

Real property is land and anything permanently attached to land. Personal property is everything else. Modern deeds usually convey only real property or interests in real property.

The recording of deeds gives notice of the transactions to the public in general and provides permanent records of transactions affecting property.

A deed, to be valid, should contain a description of the property conveyed which is sufficient to locate and identify the property. It must contain a legal description of the boundaries.

Descriptions of property give distances from point to point. The directions in which the lines run are called "courses," and are often confusing to the layman. A course, for example, of "north 9 degrees west" would mean 9 degrees (of the compass) west of north. A course of "south 9 degrees east" would be the reverse course. There are 260 degrees in the circle of a compass. Due north is 0 degrees. East is 90 degrees. South is 180 degrees. West is 270 degrees.

An abstract of a deed should contain:

- the names of the grantor & wife and his residence and occupation
- the name of the grantee and residence and occupation
- the location and extent of the property, acreage and description
- the consideration (price)
- how the property was acquired by the grantor (former owners)
- witnesses
- names of neighbors
- date of execution
- date of acknowledgement
- date of recording
- signature or X

acre—a land measurement of 43,560 square feet or 160 square rods

chain—a measurement of distance equal to 22 yards (or 66 feet; or 100 links)

course—a compass direction stated in a deed

deed—a written document conveying a present interest in real property

fee simple—an absolute, unqualified freehold estate in land

fee-tail—an entailed or limited estate in land

grantee—the buyer; one who is receiving title to property

grantor—the seller; one who is transferring property title to another

link—a measurement of distance of 7.92 inches (25 links in a rod; 100 links in a chain)

mile—a measurement of distance of 5,280 feet

mortgagee—lender; holder of a mortgage

mortgagor—borrower; one who borrows with his property as collateral

perch—a measurement of distance equal to 16-1/2 feet (5-1/2 yards) or one pole or one rod

pole—a measurement of distance equal to 16-1/2 feet (5-1/2 yards) or one perch or one rod

processioners—officers appointed to fix or determine land boundaries

rod—a measurement of distance equal to 16-1/2 feet (5-1/2 yards) or one pole or one perch

Bibliography:

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Finding a Wife's Name: A Procedural Outline

I. Complete background information is necessary to understand research procedures in any problem area.

A. Be well acquainted with the history of the location, including town(ship), county, and surrounding areas.

B. Learn as much as possible about the husband's life: birth, residences, death, etc.

C. Research each of his children's lives and the records created for them.

D. Know the sources which are available for the area and time.

II. It's often easier to find a wife's given name.

A. There are records which include husband and wife's names.

1. Land records often list husband and wife.
a. Dower-right release will give wife's given name.

b. Grantor deeds from husband may show wife's name.

c. Search indexes: watch for *Et Ux*. Read all of the husband's deeds thoroughly.

- d. Property received by husband at time of marriage.
2. Newspapers of the time and place may have articles.
3. Military Pensions/Bounty Land applications usually contain wife's names and a record or statement of marriage.
4. Court records need to be checked thoroughly.
 - a. Often cases arise to determine property rights.
 - b. Settlement of disputes may include wife's name.
 - c. Ownership of slaves, indentured servants from wife's family are recorded in northern and southern records.
5. Church records may provide valuable information.
 - a. Membership lists often record wife's given name.
 - b. Baptismal or committee lists may give wife's names.
 - c. Children's baptismal, marriage, membership, or burial records may provide mother's name.
6. Journal and diary entries may state wife's name.
- B. In cases where wife predeceases her husband, there are fewer records, but some may include wife's name or names.
 1. Wife's will or probate records are unusual, but valuable when available.
 2. Property settlements or devised personal property records may list wife's name.
 3. Children's records may provide mother's names.
- C. When a wife outlives her husband, there may be records, but these will usually provide only her given name.
 1. Will/probate records often list wife as executrix or administratrix; wife's given name is usually recorded.
 - a. Letters of Administration, Inventory, Sale of Property, accounts reported to court, and final settlement of estate are probate records which may provide the widow's name.
 - b. Guardianship records for the children may show wife's given name.
 - c. Be aware of misconceptions.
 - i. The wife may be from a second marriage and not the mother of all or any of the children.
 - ii. Widow may remarry, and thereby change her surname.
 2. Thoroughly review indexes and all deeds for clues within the text.
 - a. Property exchanged after husband's death may cite widow's name.
 - b. Thorough reading of all deeds may be necessary.
 3. Tax lists may list wife's given name.
 - a. Search each year; the entry may change over time.
 - b. Research over a long period of time.

III. Neighbor's records and collateral family records may provide the maiden name.

- A. Research all the records for each child of the wife:
 1. Vital records, wills, land, tax, and court records.
 2. Bibles, journals, and diaries.
 3. Church records.
 4. County, local, or family histories.
 5. Obituaries or newspaper articles.
- B. Review records for husband's neighbors.
 1. Compile a list of neighbors from the sources available.
 2. Include names from tax lists, later censuses, witnesses, land, church, and guardianship records.
- C. If all else fails, search the same sources for collateral lines, such as nephews, brothers, cousins, brothers and sisters that marry.
- IV. Maiden names of wives are more difficult but not impossible to uncover.
 - A. Will and probate records for all counties of residences should be checked.
 1. When devisee/devisors are indexed, the search is easier.
 2. Compile a list of all the neighbors and review will and probate records for each.
 3. If you know the given name, list each family who has a daughter of this name.
 4. Eliminate those who don't fit the profile, such as those who are too young or too old or those for whom other disparities appear.
 5. With those remaining, pursue identification in other records.
 - B. This same elimination procedure can be used with land records.
 1. From the list of neighbors, check through the indexes to deeds. Note those with *Et al.*
 2. Content of deeds may contain the needed data; read the documents thoroughly.
 - C. Court records may reveal wife's maiden name.
 - D. Various sources listed for given names may provide maiden names.
- V. Additional suggestions to find wife's names when all else fails.
 - A. Naming patterns may be indicative of a wife's family names.
 1. Second son may be named for wife's father.
 2. Sons may be named for wife's family members.
 3. A son may be named for his mother's maiden name.
 - B. Advertisement/queries often solicit the needed data.
 1. Use queries in local publications of family's residence.
 2. Advertise in national publications.
 3. Include associated collateral names to eliminate unrelated or overwhelming responses.
 - C. Write an article on the family for the local genealogical or historical society publication. Use known documentation and ask for additional information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND COUNTY

c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co.

20 Zukor Road

New City, N.Y. 10956

☐

I wish to become a member and support the activities of the Genealogical Society of Rockland County.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

☐

INDIVIDUAL (\$10.00)

(Membership year runs from
September 1 to August 31.)

☐

FAMILY (\$15.00)

MY SPECIAL INTEREST(S) OR CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECT(S) IN GENEALOGY ARE:

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ROCKLAND CO.

c/o The Historical Society of Rockland Co.

20 Zukor Road

New City, N.Y. 10956