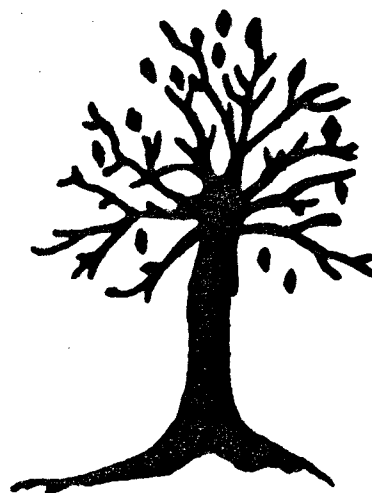


# BRANCHES & TWIGS



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NEWSLETTER OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF VERMONT  
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Carol Church, editor, Westminster West, RFD #3, Putney, VT. 05346

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## FALLING LEAVES:

The Spring meeting of the Genealogical Society of Vermont was held May 18th in Bradford Vt. Members were present from New Mexico, Arizona, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York.

Secretary and treasurers' reports were read and accepted. It was reported that our membership list has reached the figure 830. We have also added Utah, Delaware, and New Mexico to our list of fifty states. North Dakota and South Carolina are no longer represented because of transfer of members.

The four constitutional amendments which were discussed at the Fall 1973 meeting and which were printed in the Fall issue Vol 2, No 4 of "Branches & Twigs" were approved as read.

Our secretary, Mrs Joanne Nichols, passed out name tags after one out-of-state member suggested we wear them. This made it easier to identify the many people we've been corresponding with and was a nice way of connecting names and faces. Many of us would like to see name tags used at all future meetings.

Our first speaker was Mrs Patricia Haslam, a Certified Record Searcher. Her talk is reprinted here for the pleasure of all of our members.

## RECORD SEARCHING IN VERMONT

First of all I would like to limit the scope of the title of my talk to record searching within Vermont records. I have been doing this work professionally for only 3 years and have been certified since March 1973. With the renewed upsurge of interest in genealogy, more competent people are needed who are able and interested in searching records for others. In order to know if you are doing a proper job you may apply to the Board of Certification of Genealogists in Wash. D.C. There are 3 categories: Genealogist, Amer. Lineage specialist, and record searcher, In the past 2 yrs I have asked 5 genealogists in the Conn & NY area for help on one of my own lines and they are all too busy to take my case. They all advertise regularly in national periodicals. So many more people are needed to search records. I got into this by accident when I put an ad in the Genealogical Helper to be listed as an amateur working on one surname from a branch of my family tree. They listed me as a professional.

Most of my own work has been requests for records before 1850 where census records in other states say their ancestors were "born in VT" These people have already checked as many places as they can, through correspondence. here is a sort of step-by-step procedure that I use from the receipt of the initial letter:

1. Evaluation. This is done at home to determine exactly what type of proof is needed. This includes checking the indexes to books I have at home and making brief notes from the Hemenway Gasetteer Index, 1790 census, Vol 5 of VT state papers which is "petitions for land", and Vol 7 of State papers which is "NY Land Patents covering lands within the state of VT." There are many Vermont names mentioned in The Yankee Exodus by Stewart Holbrook, 1950. In my answer then, I give my statement of fee or retainer paid in advance, and the possibility of amount of time it will take, the estimates of time are difficult and cannot be guaranteed.

2. After I receive their reply and check to proceed, I first check in Montpelier in Vital Records. This is mainly because of the time factor since this office is only open to the public for 3 hrs in the a.m. and 2 hrs after lunch beginning at 1:30. I check all spellings of the surname and cross-check any maiden names of brides or parents and children named further. I also try to estimate the total amount of cards for the surname as this could make a difference in the time estimate in case a card-by-card check is needed later. The client may feel he would rather not have you do this unless asked for.

3. Next place to check is at the Historical Society (downstairs) for any published or manuscript genealogies. Some people may feel this should be done before Vital Records because the answers may already have been found by someone else. But I don't feel I am duplicating work or wasting the clients money by checking in V.R. first it is always wise to at least spot check any genealogy for authenticity of dates and whether it is well documented with sources given. The same check is given to dates given by the client to his data or his group sheet.

4. From here I try the card catalog for all other references, in periodicals, books, etc. to this surname. If there is no known geographical location (again "Born VT.") the county histories may have clues, or the gazetteers may have had notations in the indexes from my notes made at home. If early enough, the 1790 or 1800 census indexes may show where certain families settled. Sometimes a name may show up in the military rolls published.

5. If the place of residence is known at least by county, it may pay to try the index to county probate records on microfilm at the Public Records Office. Not all probate districts are indexed, but I found what I needed in one case last week. We could not find one man anywhere in the records except he was "of Shaftsbury". The probate records file said he had died in 1790 which means he missed the VT census which was not actually taken until 1791. The estate file listed place of residence, some heirs, and a son-in-law for a guardian for the minor children. The inventory listed as the first item, 80 acres of land with a log house and barn. So this man did own land and so the next place to check would be

6. Land Records in that particular town to see if the first grantee deed might tell the place of former residence. Another estate listed next to the man I was looking for and the same surname is a possible brother and his previous place of residence was given. These records can be a goldmine of information. A last grantor deed of a person may give his new place of residence. "John Doe, late of Shaftsbury VT, now of Potsdam NY..." In researching a branch of my own family in Conn & NY I sent for copies of the complete index to id records for the surname. In Conn I received these pages from the State Library. In NY I received them from the County Clerk and you can obtain them from town clerks. This gives you the book and page, names of grantors and grantees, type of deed, and the date. From here you may order copies of any desired deed from the earliest recorded until about 1800 and after, an extremely valuable resource to have at home. Be sure you write first to ask the cost and send check in advance.

There are many, many other places to check which you learn from clues turned up as you go along, but the above 6 steps usually produce at least some documentation and is a begining which leads to further records. About once a year I try to review old customers' files in the light of some new method or new knowledge I've learned. Occasionally a clipping in a recent newspaper would interest them.

Why should one hire a record searcher or genealogist? I would hire this person only after I had tried to get all I could personally or by correspondence. Some of the reasons are: 1. The data can be obtained more quickly and less expensively than personal travel. 2. Try to hire someone in the same general area as the work involved. 3. A local searcher has more intimate knowledge of what records are available and can do an on-the-spot search. 4. He or she is more adept at extracting the genealogical information, abstracting or getting copies of originals. 5. He can better interpret the significance of the findings, evaluation, and discovering more clues. 6. This person can cover more types of records more quickly than many contacts by letter. 7. He may have access to local records unknown to the average person. Or private papers, collections, local descendants, etc.

Naturally the record searcher cannot guarantee that the needed information will be turned up. He must charge on the basis of time spent and expenses involved. So when you write the person for his fee send enough detailed information for an evaluation as to the possibility of finding the needed data. Another thing: I don't think any work is really wasted because it is helpful to have checked and found out where the person "isn't" as well and so narrow the search.

And then the question arises: should the genealogist or record searcher do work not asked for by the client? Many times the client has no idea what is available or what information will lead to the answer to the problem. The client will simply have to trust the judgement of the researcher to avoid duplication and time wasting wherever he can.

Here is a list of things to watch for in estate records. 1. Get copies of the original if possible and note the book, page, and location or office of the record, and type of record. 2. Again, extract all names dates and locations. 3. Watch for relationships between people. 4. Is marital status mentioned? Widow or widower? 5. In a will, note whether the writer is "sound in mind but weak in body" as this gives some idea of his age and/or health. 6. Note whether the wife's dower is mentioned. The widow usually gets 1/3 of the estate plus privilege of the house and her maintenance for the rest of her life if she does not remarry. 7. Note the type of document such as a guardianship of a minor child, letters of admission, a bond, etc. 8. Be careful of name spellings that vary and become familiar with the old handwriting. 9. Note the county and state given as boundaries could have changed. 10. Copy down all witnesses. In early records they may be related to the deceased. 11. Get the date of making of the document as well as the recording date. They may be the same or the recording date may be years later. 12. An inventory can tell many interesting things about their possessions and what types of lives they led. It may also tell if the land is owned or leased. 13. The distribution of the estate is one of the most important parts of estate records as it may name heirs or at least part of them. If there is no distribution it may be that the estate had nothing left after all the bills were paid and for the same reason there is sometimes no date of the final decree.

Land records give an estimated time of arrival and departure in a given area. Some things to watch for in searching land records: 1. Get copies of the complete document so you can refer back to it. 2. Read the whole land record completely at least twice. Phrases may be in it that describe relationships, occupation, or even religion- such as in areas where Quakers lived, their dates on documents refer to the number of the month of the year and not Jan. Feb. Mar. etc. 3. Witnesses may often be relatives. Check these names in genealogies in case there may be a marriage to a member of your family previously unknown to you. 4. Be sure you know the terminology. Watch for mention of a homestead or dwelling house or message which is a dwelling with adjacent land and buildings. With the help of these deeds and boundaries given plus an old map, if you are lucky, you could locate an old family dwelling. I have located 2 old family dwellings in what is now Westport, Conn. dating between 1732 & 1746. I have contacted the owners and have seen the interiors of the houses. 5. Be sure to get all dates and what they are for: On one recent deed I found the date of making, a later date it was witnessed, a date nearly a year later when it was received by the town clerk, and 3 months after that the date it was finally recorded. 6. Check the boundary names. It may be a family who has married into your family. Land may have come down to your family as dower to the wife and not be recorded which sometimes accounts for why there may be no first grantee deed to an ancestor. 7. Don't forget the atlases and maps, especially when owners names were given.

Helpful hints on searching generally: 1. If you have a family known to be in a certain area, even as large as a county for instance, check to see if there is a genealogical or historical society which publishes a quarterly. If your budget permits, write and ask them what the cost is of the indexes only to these periodicals. That way you may order from them copies of articles that interest you by volume and page and gain a lot of interesting information and perhaps even some records themselves which are usually printed in continued form. Be sure you write first to see how much it will cost. In questions such as this when an answer can be brief I enclose a government post card, self addressed, instead of a self addressed stamped envelope. Write the question at the top for which you need an answer. I find I get answers back more quickly than when they need to write a complete letter. 2. Watch for inaccuracies, generalities, and the lack of specific details and dates. 3. In the library don't forget to check the manuscript file and ask for possibility of uncatalogued material on your subject. 4. Again, if your budget permits, join a historical society that has a book loan by mail service to their members. The NEHGS in Boston has this as well as the Conn. Hist. Soc. The books may have helpful bibliographies. In order for you to know what to send for get one or two catalogs from booksellers such as Tuttle or Goodspeed. You send for a list longer than you may have so that if they don't have what you need they go onto the next title. At Boston you may borrow 2 titles at one time. 5. Spot check all indexes for reliability. Pick several names, preferably obscure ones in the text, and see if they appear in the index with page. Do the same for map texts. 6. In searching records make all notations as to the source and title of the material including where you found it, call number, office, building, town, state, and the date you did the work. 7. A trick in doing vital records is to do each on a separate file card. Then you may rearrange them by family groups, dates or geographical locations. 8. If you can't find the person you are searching for in the records of the town where you thought he would be, try the surrounding towns or find out if the town's boundaries or town name was changed about that time. The same for a change of county. 9. Don't overlook records of court minutes especially if you can visit the courthouses personally. Many times some special event, recorded nowhere else, may give that needed clue, such as a suit over land ownership or finances. 10. Bob Hagerman of Morrisville just recently completed the indexing of one of our local newspapers, The News and Citizen since its beginning in 1881. Check these local papers, an obituary may give the maiden name of a wife, or a death date, or even a feature article or biography. Without indexes, such records are rarely used. 11. When writing to public offices or archives, be brief, send that self addressed stamped envelope or postcard, and do ask where the records can be found in case they don't have them.

I haven't begun to cover all the different types of records. And everyone develops their own ways of searching the records. So I hope some of the ideas from some of the major records that I have given you

Recording genealogy seems to me to be easier done than explained. However, I will try to explain my system that is a product of many years of work in trying to make records clear and as easy to find as possible.

My first interest in genealogy started about 1930. We were asked about our ancestor Paul Knap. We had his son's Bible. It has since developed that, as far as is known, that Bible has the only record of Paul's birth and marriage. The record has been photographed and deposited with 3 state historical societies.

In the Bible was also a paper written by my grandfather, who was the great grandson of Paul Knap. It says "This was told me by Aunt Judy." This Aunt Judy was his great aunt and a daughter of our ancestor, Paul Knap, who was the first person to die in Moretown, VT in 1794.

From that list I have located all but one of the brothers and sisters and I am checking on one now that maybe is the missing one.

Now to keep this straight. I started out with a card file with names, dates, parents and children. After I had found several of the same name I found that numbers were necessary. I began with myself as one and going back gave a number to each one related by birth, marriage or adoption. I now have over 17,000 cards. These cards are recorded with the names and numbers in a book as a sort of master index so if one is misfiled there is another record of the name.

Of course these cards cannot give all of the interesting information so I have notebooks on many families. They are arranged alphabetically. I use both large and small notenooks depending on how much I plan to research on a family.

My notebooks contain many things: - birth certificates, marriage certificates, war records, pictures, letters, locks of hair, samples of special dresses, newspaper clippings and anything relating to the people.

Here are the Bible records mentioned, the paper naming the children of Paul Knap as told by his daughter and recorded by my grandfather, grandfather's wedding certificate dated June 19 1865, a merit card he received in school, a lock of his hair, a lock of his mother's hair and a letter written by him when he was in the Civil War. He refers to Sam Howe. They went to the War together and agreed that if either was wounded the other one would stay by him. Aug 21 1864 he was wounded. Some thought he was dead but Sam Howe insisted that he be taken back of the lines. He recovered and lived until 1915. I also have a copy of a poem that he composed about his trip to the hospital. His companion died on the trip and he laid him out as well as he could.

Descendants of the older families often seemed to emigrate together. Many of my relatives came from Taunton, Mass.

After a collection of books and cards have been made of the records of several families you will find you often have material to answer a query and help someone else without too much trouble.

An ancestor chart is a help in locating ancestors and keeping the lineage straight. I started my chart with myself as no. 1. Then I started another numerical index going backward by generation. The numbers of the first ten generations of this are identical with the numbers on a ten generation chart. As I have some of the same lines both maternal and paternal I use a different color ink for the two lines. The ancestor charts I use the most are the five generation charts and I use the numbers in different color ink, to distinguish the maternal from the paternal lines. I also use a different color ink for maternal and paternal lines on my generation list.

I have here a sixty dollar Continental bill. The story that we were told was that an ancestor was paid for a farm in the currency and in a few days it was not any good. I am inclined to doubt this as the bill is issued under the date of Sept 26 1778. When Mrs Florence Lawson was in NY she did some research on this and she found an Act of Congress dated Sept 26 1778 issuing bills. It would look as if this was a loan to the government. Paul Knap's name is on the bill.

One of Paul Knap's sons was a minister in Royalton NY. I have copies of pictures of he and his wife and of the cover of "The Christian Messenger" for Jan 1816 printed by him. Here is a picture of the house he built and his grave.

I also have another interesting thing. It is a copy of a composition written by Paul's grandson while he was at Peacham Academy. He tells of something he saw in the Heavens. In the library at Concord NH Rev David Sunderland wrote of a "most remarkable phenomena of the heavens." This was dated Aug 28 1827 so they evidently saw the same thing.

Records are important in other ways than the pleasure of knowing who your people were. I doubt if I would have gone so far into genealogy if it had not been for the Olive Blanchard case coming up in the early 1930's.

The first we knew of it was from one who hunts claims. There was a sizable bank account unclaimed. I did a great deal of research but I could never have made the progress I did if I had not belonged to a family who talked about their relatives. The things I heard and remembered being said when I was much younger had stayed in my mind. It was a most interesting case but no death record of Olive Blanchard was ever found so only half of the estate was distributed. She must have been dead by that time for her mother had been dead almost one hundred years.

Another illustration of records kept in the mind: In the May issue of Reader's Digest, page 73 "My search for Roots", by Alex Haley, a black man gives a most interesting story of his following a verbal family history back to Africa.

His ancestor was brought to this country age about 16 as a slave in 1767. Due to the training he had received he carried in his head the memory of many relatives. The same training was carried down through the seven generations in the United States and in 1967 Mr Haley went to Africa and located many distant relatives. What a Bi-Centennial that must have been and to him what a thrill.

There is much chance of error in verbal records but these black people who were brought to this country could have kept their records in no other way.

I would say--talk about your relatives and some seed planted in some young person's mind might help to collect an estate or find a relative. At the same time make as detailed a written record as complete as you can. I find in making up family sheets it is very helpful to list all the children in a family. Often one of the children may seem to be hard to locate but through a brother or sister some clue may be found to help find the ancestry you are seeking.

Another fine thing that is being done to preserve records is the work of the Vermont Old Cemetery Association. Ward Knapp told his neighbor about an old cemetery where some indians were buried, one of which was his ancestor. This neighbor and her sister went over and worked on the project of clearing up this cemetery and it was all done by Memorial Day.

I also keep a notebook of names, addresses and telephone numbers of people who write to me. On each of these sheets I put the year correspondence started and the family they are interested in.

Another record is the names of families I am interested in for my family record. This really helps as the list now has 113 families.

The above talk was presented by Mrs Vesta Magoon at the May meeting. Mrs Magoon had with her all of the items mentioned here which we were able to look at. She also has a tremendous card file collection of the Knap family containing over 17,000 cards.

After luncheon our third speaker was Mr Harold W Haskins who spoke about:

#### "MOMENTS BIG AS YEARS"

I am fortunate today to have the honor of welcoming the Vermont Genealogical Society to this Grace United Methodist Church and to the Town of Bradford for its Spring Meeting. I hope that your discussions, your deliberations and the words you listen to this day will be helpful and productive to your purposes and that at day's end you can, all told, file it away in your memories in a section labeled "Good Days".

The town you have come to today for your meeting is located at the confluence of the Connecticut River, 360 miles long, and the Waits River, 20 miles short. Here the beauty and the fertility of the valley's meadows between the parallel ranges of the White Mts to the east and the Green Mts to the west united to work their spell on many an early settler.

Here in Bradford and elsewhere in Vermont a nation was nurtured; here events of moment and romance occurred here great men walked and talked. Here still is the inspiration of places and personalities. Here in Vermont towns one walks frequently on hallowed ground! Here in Bradford, MOMENTS BIG AS YEARS have shot across our skies to brighten our valley and often favorably affect our nation and our world.

The particular concern and interest of yours which has brought you together today is the human family, a pedigree of ancestors and relatives. Let us see all too briefly how some of those ancestors and relatives in this valley and on these hills acquitted themselves.

"Here among the upper waters of the Connecticut, was a region wholly rural; remote from the strongholds of manufacture, trade and finance, and from the centers of literature and learning; ever the abode of limited resources and frugal expenditures; never thickly populated." Yet in a strip of this valley scarcely two miles wide and only 30 miles in length were founded Dartmouth College in 1769; Haverhill Academy in 1794; Norwich University at Norwich VT in 1819 (now long since at Northfield); Thetford Academy in that same 1819; Bradford Academy in 1820; Newbury Seminary and Female College in 1833; and Orford Academy in 1850. Newbury Seminary was the nucleus of the Boston University School of Theology, and the Female College was the forerunner of Montpelier Seminary, and later of Vermont College, now affiliated with Norwich Univ.

The first library to be incorporated by the legislature of the State of Vermont was the Bradford Public Library in 1796 and it has grown and flourished all these years. The petition to the Honorable, the Legislature of Vermont, which 34 citizens of this town drew up and signed in 1796 is unusual, indeed, on two counts: (1) It contained 172 words all in one sentence; (2) competent and outstanding authority has declared that "better English could not be written, and the purpose of a library society could not be stated in a more accurate or felicitous manner."

Of Bradford's citizens over all these years, perhaps the widest known is James Wilson, who in 1810 in a little workshop at his home, made the first terrestrial and celestial globes ever made in the United States and most likely on this continent of ours and in this hemisphere.

Uneducated except for a few terms in rural schools, he overcame tremendous difficulties during several years to prepare himself to become a globe-maker of the highest order. It is said that he worked 300 days on his first large copper-engraved plate, and then had to throw it away. We know he walked to and from New Haven, Conn to consult a noted authority in fine engraving on copper - a distance of half a thousand miles. He made his own tools, his lathes, and his presses. He did his own printing and made his own ink, glue, & varnish. His celestial globes set forth nearly 5,000 stars.

The merchandising of his globes was successful from the start, and in time the business was transferred to Albany NY. Today his globes which escaped the wear and tear of time are eagerly sought after, and many are preserved in libraries, museums and historical societies across the country. James Wilson reminds us what a lone man or woman can do, bare-handed as it were, and thereby he glorifies the strong heart & soul.

On sea as well as on land, our town has made itself known. William Trotter, an early settler who did many good things for this young Bradford, sailed the seas widely. He is said to have flown from his ship the first United States flag ever seen in Buenos Aires, South America, in the heyday of his career.

Our Admiral Charles E Clark, a sailor's sailor and a gentleman, had the eyes of this country on him in 1898 during the Spanish-American War when he took the battleship OREGON on its famous trip of 15,000 miles from San Francisco around dangerous Cape Horn and on to Cuba, still in condition to play a leading role in the defeat of the Spanish fleet, when it tried to escape from Santiago harbor. Years earlier in the Civil War he had been with Farragut at Mobile Bay, and in 1902 he was the Naval Representative of the United States government at the coronation of King Edward VII. Besides his birthplace, our Memorial Park and our former Bradford Academy have important reminders of him.

Daniel K Pearsons was born here in 1820. A good student at Bradford Academy, he went to college, practiced medicine, and went west, where he made money in real estate and lumber. At the time of the great Chicago Fire in 1871, he helped greatly to rebuild the stricken city. By 1889, having accumulated a fortune of some \$8,000,000 - a large sum then - he retired, to direct the giving away of that money to hospitals, churches, colleges and other institutions all over the country, including Pearsons Hall at Middlebury College in the early 1900's. Mr Pearsons gave away the last of his money, \$100,000, in 1908 with the stipulation that he was to receive interest on it at 5% so long as he lived. He lived 4 years. Thereby he became the first millionaire known to have given away all of his money while he lived. So many people and so many places had reason to bless him!

Most of us are likely familiar with the martial music of John Phillips SOUSA. It was Bradford's David Blakely who in 1891 induced Sousa to leave the outstandingly good United States Marine Band in Washington, and enticed him to put together the finest group of musicians he could find anywhere. In 1892 the band was ready, and David Blakely was its manager, who took it on to fame and fortune here and throughout Europe, until his sudden, accidental death.

Mr Sousa was in Europe on vacation when he heard the news, and sailed immediately for home. On the ocean he heard an imaginary band playing, playing, playing and the same theme was re-echoed and re-echoed in his ears, again and again. When he got ashore Mr Sousa reported: "I did not put a note on paper while on the steamer, but when I landed I recalled the notes that this imaginary band had been playing for me, and not a note has ever been changed." The composition is known the world over as THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER.

Back in 1901, Mrs Calista R Jones, whose home was not much more than 100 yards from where you are now sitting, brought honor and distinction to Bradford. In Sept. of that year at the National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps, held in Cleveland Ohio, she was elected its president, and its National Headquarters were established here in Bradford. In less than a week after her election, William McKinley, 25th President of the United States was assassinated, and her General Order No. 1, dated Sept 23, tendered loving sympathy to Mrs McKinley. The Woman's Relief Corp was the auxiliary of the then important Grand Army of the Republic which represented USA Civil War veterans. It was an important organization, this Woman's Relief Corp, and able Calista Jones of this little town was in command of all its units from Maine to Calif.

My time is running out, and I have mentioned so few people and occasions. There is much to be learned from these forebears of ours. I wish I could ask them some questions. I'd like, for example to ask them what was the inspiration of their busy productive lives. I think they might answer: "All our years, this

Connecticut River Valley of ours was green for us in summer, gold for us in autumn, white for us in winter and in the spring, lovely and promising." I'd like to ask them another question: how they chanced to have the varied skills which were necessary. I think each one might answer in the words of the poet: "Immense have been the preparations made for me, faithful and friendly the arms which have held me." I think I would like to ask them for a word of counsel for us and our times. Perhaps I would hear them say these words:

'Tis the human touch in this world that counts,      For shelter is gone when the night is o'er,  
The touch of your hand and mine,                      And bread lasts only a day,  
That means far more to the fainting heart              But the touch of the hand and the sound of the voice  
Than shelter, or bread, or wine;                      Sing on in the soul alway."

#### FAMILY GROUPS AND REUNIONS

Family groups and reunions was the title of the talk given by our final speaker, Lawrence Manning. I do not have a copy of his speech. Mr Manning spoke mostly about the Manning Reunion which was started about 15 years ago and about the Rushford reunion. Many of us in the audience couldn't help but smile, chuckle, or laugh outright at some of Mr Mannings statements as we saw our own families mirrored in his stories.

After his talk many members spoke up about some of their own family reunions. Your editor requested that members write giving full details about these various reunions. Mr Paul Dingwell, P.O. Box 127, Needham, Mass. 02192 was the only one who did so. he sent the following information:

##### FAMILY GATHERINGS OF INTEREST

1. The FOLSOM family Association of America Inc. The 59th Annual Reunion and 65th Birthday of the Assoc. will be held 9-10 August 1974 at Tilton School, Tilton NH 03276. Information on this Association and the reunion may be obtained from: Mrs Harriet Folsom Clark, Secretary (F.F.A.), 75 Montague St, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada.
2. Clan MUNRO Association, USA. The 7th annual gathering will be 27-29 September 1974 at Sheraton Inn On-the-Mall, Monroeville, Pa. Information on the Clan Munro Assoc. and the Gathering may be obtained from: Mrs Hugh S Munro, Secretary, Clan Munro Assoc. USA, 582 East End Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa 15221.

My notes of family reunions taken at the meeting are quite incomplete, but are printed here in the hopes that they may prove helpful to someone. Minnie Witham reported the WITHAMS are having their 74th reunion this year and a diamond jubilee next year. Their meeting is held on the Sunday nearest the 15th of August. (Aug 18th this year) One year they had 265 people at the reunion.

There is a RISING family reunion each year on the 1st weekend in August. This year it will be held in Kansas City. The Rising reunion meetings first started in 1894.

The SANDERS family reunion is meeting this year for the 5th time at Fairlee Lake on the 28th of July.

The RICHES family recently had their 100th reunion. They usually meet on Cape Cod. Julia Holden of Everett, Mass has written a genealogy on each one of the family.

The Dennison family reunion is held in an old 1700 barn in Mystic Conn.

The Ketcham family meets on the 2nd Sunday in August.

Mrs Elfleda Pike, 166 South Main St, Brattleboro VT 05301 may be able to supply information about the Pember family reunion. This would include members of the BAKER, CORSE & PIKE families.

Other items discussed at the meeting include a proposed addition to the society by-laws: ie. Article III Section 2 c. A family membership shall be once and a half that of a single membership. By way of explanation... a Family membership would be, husband & wife, father and son, sister & brother, etc. However, only one bulletin will be sent to a family membership. If each person wants a bulletin it would have to be as an individual Single Membership.

Mrs Jacobs asked for suggestions for the state bi-centennial (1976). Volunteers were asked for. Justin Holden suggested that members send in about 2 short paragraphs on an early ancestor and this be gone over by the executive Committee. Mrs Jacobs also asked for suggestions on speakers and topics for future meetings. Both Vermonters and Out-of staters are asked to submit material for the Bi-centennial.

Mrs Haslam, after her speech, passed out a few copies of a 3-page list of "Resources for general research in the State Library". This applies to VT sources only and the call numbers given apply to their system only. The list is free for the writing to: Vermont Dept. of Libraries, Law and Document Section, 111 State St., Montpelier VT 05602.

Mr Haskins passed out a list of early settlers of nearby towns, including Bradford, Corinth, Fairlee, Newbury and Thetford in Vermont, and Piermont, Orford, and Haverhill in New Hampshire. This list will be printed in Branches & Twigs whenever space permits.

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