

Middlesex

Genealogical Society

Vol. XIV, No. 3

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

May 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Data Resource Project, headed by Kim Paterson with the help of Dick Sarr, is our newest undertaking. Kim and Dick are asking members to submit surnames in which they have a special interest in the expectation that other members may be researching the same families. Sharing ideas and research can be enormously advantageous, so please read Kim's explanation on page 7 and respond to the surname solicitation accompanying this Newsletter to insure that your surnames are included.

Other projects may be considered by our Data Resource Committee in the future, depending on the level of interest, the scope of the project and the availability of people and resources. Your suggestions are welcome and can be directed to Kim Paterson. Kim is best reached through e-mail at:

kim@edgar-online.com

If you cannot use e-mail, address your suggestions to: Kim Paterson, 75 Fairfield Avenue, #8 (unit number is very important), Norwalk, CT 06854; or telephone her at: (203) 852-5662.

Donna Moughty is now Vice President of Middlesex Genealogy Society and is our new Program Chairman. She would welcome feedback about our meetings and speakers, as well as suggestions of topics that you would like to have considered for future meetings.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 2 pm, 16 May, in the Darien Library, as described on page 2. We have been delighted by the good turnout for recent programs, and we encourage you to come and bring your friends.

David L. Mordy

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by C. Scribner

The excellent talk by Suzanne McVetty at the 18 April MGS Annual General Meeting highlighted genealogical research in New York City (see page 5). The handouts at this meeting list five books of suggested reading on the subject, four of which should be available at Darien Library. They are:

- "New York," in Ancestry's Red Book, by Roger
 D. Joslyn, CG, FASG. On shelf 3, Darien Library collection, adjacent to the MGS collection in the Business Reference Room. Call #929.1.
- Chapters on New York in Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources. Edited by Milton Rubincam. Shelf 3.1, MGS, #929.1.
- How to Find Your Family Roots by Timothy Field Beard and Denise Demong. Darien Library mezanine, #929.1.
- Genealogical Sources in the New York City Metropolitan Area, edited by Estele Guzik, call #929; should be on shelf 4.4 in the Genealogy Section at Darien Library. Unfortunately, at this time the book is "missing."¹

Also suggested is an article in *Tree Talks*, Vol. 22 (1982), entitled "Genealogical Research in New York: Downstate," by Henry Hoff. MGS shelf 1.6.

Extra copies of Suzanne McVetty's handout can be found on our filing cabinet in the Business Reference Room — free while they last.

The last Saturday morning Workshop session before the summer hiatus will be 26 June. Saturday morning Workshop sessions will continue until then and resume in September.

Editor's note: The book was either reshelved in the wrong place or someone took it home, depriving others of its use. Darien Library policy enables responsible researchers to take reference material home at closing time, work on it overnight, and return it to the library first thing the following morning. Such permission was not requested for this book when it disappeared.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1997-1998 OFFICERS

David L. Mordy Donna Moughty Ruth R. McGrath Mary Ellen Gleason President Vice President Treasurer Secretary

MEMBERS at LARGE

R. Geoffrey Blain Charles Cotter Emeline Fatherley Robert E. Kenyon III Philip Morehouse Kim Paterson Richard Sarr Marianne Sheldon

David V. Bowley Immediate Past President
Charles Scribner Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw Newsletter Editor
Florence Wyland Newsletter Coeditor

TRUSTEES

Mary Freedman Henry Hoff Thomas Kemp Grant Radmall

Middlesex Genealogical Society was established for the purpose of helping those interested in genealogy to pursue the investigation of their family heritage and to provide guidance in research to that end. The society holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy Section at Darien Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10 am to noon) at Darien Library, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per couple or family.

Original articles, notices of genealogical interest, and queries are welcomed for publication in the *Newsletter*.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1111
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

Homepage: http://www.darien.lib.ct.us/mgs E-mail: dbowlcy@concentric.net

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

16 MAY 1998: ANNE RODDA will talk to us about IM-MIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION, including PORT OF NEW YORK RECORDS.

ANNE RODDA is a Certified Genealogical Record Specialist with particular expertise in Irish research, New York immigration, New York City and New Jersey. She believes that genealogy is emerging as the most extensive and intensive adult education movement in the United States, and that it brings people into a lifelong learning pursuit using all methodologies, motivating individuals to explore unexpected fields of study as new depths of understanding are reached.

17 OCT. 1998: JOAN KOSTER MORALES'S talk is entitled "A TALE OF THREE COUNTIES: MIGRATION ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA TURNPIKE" and will cover GREEN, DELAWARE and SCHOHARIE COUNTIES in NEW YORK STATE.

A speaker at various genealogical societies, libraries, schools and Elderhostel sessions, JOAN KOSTER MORALES has also accompanied small groups to New York City, lecturing en route, and assisting with on-site research. Her lectures are enthusiastic and informative, often intertwined with personal experience and history.

14 NOV. 1998: Our speaker will be ROGER JOSLYN, who is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and of the Utah Genealogical Association and has received an Award of Merit from the Association of Professional Genealogists and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Federation of Genealogical Societies. He lectures on a number of subjects, and the specific topic of his talk to us will be announced at a later date.

ALL MEETINGS: SATURDAY, 2:00 PM, DARIEN LI-BRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND!

DAR LINEAGE BOOKS

One hundred volumes of DAR Lineage Books have been added to the Ancestry HomeTown database for subscribers. For more information, visit: http://www.ancestry.com

HELEN DECKER

Helen Decker, an active MGS member when she lived in this area, has written from her new home in Georgia to say hello and ask that MGS friends write to her at 4647 Hickory Drive, Evans, GA 30809.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER² Part 4

by Donna Moughty

Imogene Moag is 87 years old and lives in a small town in upstate New York. Secondary source material led me to Imogene. In 1947 she was the Town Historian for Covington, NY, and I spotted her name while flipping through old historical journals at the New York Biographical and Genealogical Library in Manhattan. I then used the SelectPhone CD ROM (index to all listed telephone subscribers in the United States) and found her in Pavilion, NY. To my surprise, I also discovered the largest group of Moags anywhere in the United States living in this small area.

My cousin had a copy of our great-grandfather's obituary. Although it had been carefully cut out of a newspaper, leaving no indication of the publication's name, it did provide quite a bit of information. David Moag died at his home in Covington Settlement of "dropsy." He had five brothers: Stewart and

James of Covington, Robert of Dunbar, PA, and two (unnamed) living in Belfast, Ireland. He also had two sisters: Mrs. Joshua Kitchen and Mrs. William McIntyre of Pittsburgh. After spending two years searching for my greatgrand- father's death certificate

in Pennsylvania where there were three Covington's (my mother and her sisters insisted he had died in Pennsylvania), I found a small clipping, again from an unidentified newspaper, stating that Ella Moag had "returned to Homestead [PA] from Moscoe, New York, where her husband died two months ago." When I pulled out my atlas to find Moscoe, NY, it wasn't there. Taking a chance, I looked for Covington, NY, and discovered it in Wyoming County, NY.

David Moag died in 1911, so I checked the 1910 census for Covington, NY, and found his brother James. I didn't find either Stewart or David, but I did find Robert in Dunbar, PA. Having identified a location in Wyoming County, NY, I was thumbing through a pamphlet called *Historical Wyoming*,

published by the local historical society, when the name Imogene Moag caught my eye. Imogene, as Town Historian, had documented the Mountain Ash Cemetery in Covington, and one of the plots included James Moag, his wife, Agnes, and Stewart and Mary Moag. In the grave next to the Moags' was Warren, the infant son of Clara and John Clemens. Clara was my grandaunt, and her maiden name was Moag.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with Imogene. She is a lovely lady who provided me with a great deal of information on the death of Mary Moag, David's mother and my great-great-grand-mother. I also found out from Imogene that Moscoe, NY, is now Leicester, NY. I drove down Old State Highway where David's obituary said he had lived and died, past Moag Road, and stopped at the Mountain Ash Cemetery to take pictures of the gravestones. The proximity of certain gravestones provided me with additional clues. For example, the gravestone of Anne M. and William McIntyre next to the Moags' helped me to identify the first name of one of the sisters mentioned in the obituary.

I drove to the Leicester Town Hall, where the Town Clerk checked for David's death certificate. It was not there, but she called to the next town, York, and had their Town Clerk check. It was in York. I was able to get a copy of the certificate, but,

more importantly, was able to read the original record in the Town Clerk's book. David is also buried in Mountain Ash Cemetery, although there is no headstone to mark his grave. I was finally able to snap the last piece of David Moag's puzzle in place.

Visiting this very small town in upstate New York was a rewarding experience. When researching in a large town or city, a family historian is often just another interruption for the Town Clerk. In Covington, however, I was close to an "event." The Town Clerk pulled up a chair in her kitchen to allow me to read the records. The Town Historian left work to meet me at Imogene's and provided copies of maps and a diagram of the cemetery to help me find the graves. The Town Clerk in Leicester got down on her hands and knees to pull out the old vital record



registers and, when she couldn't find the information, called nearby towns until she did find it. The Town Zoning Officer, who was in Leicester, volunteered to lead me to the Town Hall in York.

Driving through this rural farming area revealed something that I probably should have noted while examining maps. The four towns I visited within perhaps a 10-mile radius (Pavilion, Covington, Leicester and York), are located in three different counties (Genesee, Wyoming and Livingston). If records are not where you expect them to be, check neighboring areas.

Researching the Moag family has been a process of working down through a descendancy to find living relatives. I now regularly e-mail or talk with Moag descendants in Texas, Florida and Pennsylvania, as well as New York, and I've been put on the mailing list for the Moag Family Reunion held every summer in Pavilion, NY.

Historical journals and newspapers are two secondary sources that can provide a great deal of information. Historical journals routinely print extracts from various local records, such as cemeteries, vital records, land records and court proceedings. An example of an extracted record is the one that I found for David Moag's marriage:

David MOAG, aged 25, Fireman, of Dunbar Twp. s/o William and Mary MOAG, and Ella EICHER, aged 30, of Dunbar Twp. d/o Robert and Margaret MCDOWELL, were married 01 Jul 1886 at Connellsville by George C. SHEPPARD, minister. Groom's former wife died: 21 Jun 1883. Bride's former husband died: __ Aug 1882. Groom born: Ireland. Bride born: Fayette County (LaFayette).

This was the proverbial jackpot! I got both sets of parents' names, birth places and previous spouse information. The minister's name, George Sheppard, enabled me to determine through *The Centennial History of Connellsville:* 1806 - 1906 that he was the minister of the Methodist Protestant Church of Connellsville.

Don't overlook the use of secondary source material such as newspapers, historical journals, printed genealogies, town histories and church histories. Many of these materials can be found in the local library, and the reference librarian should become your best friend.

COMPUTER CORNER

by David Bowley

Board member Kim Paterson is busy putting together a database that will allow members searching for records of people in Connecticut to register the surnames and the period for which data is being sought (see page 7). This is an important initiative which I hope all members will support.

My wife, MaryEllen, and I have recently had great sucess in using the database run for members of the Jersey (UK) Family History Society. As this is a good example of genealogical research being facilitated by use of the Internet and also demonstrates the benefits of a surname database, I thought that you might be interested in hearing about it.

MaryEllen's paternal grandfather, William Harden, was valet to an Admiral FitzGeorge in the British Navy. When his vessel visited St Helier (capital port of the Channel Island of Jersey) around 1884, William fell in love with a local girl, Emily Carrel, from the town of St Martin. Emily joined William in London where they were married, and subsequently served in the Admiral's house in Hanover Square.

During our 1996 visit to Jersey we had seen Emily Carrel's baptismal record in the St Martin register, but it was not until this year that I started using Internet resources to find out more about the Carrel family.

The best general access for those searching in the UK is Genuki:

http://cs6400.mcc.ac.uk/genuki/
Going to the Channel Island area of this Web page, I rapidly found that the Channel Islands are a genealogist's paradise! The area is small and has been keeping good records for hundreds of years, most of which are still intact.

Under "UK and Ireland" one can find the Channel Islands Region and the Island of Jersey at:

http://user.itl/~glen/CIResearch.html

There is an excellent "FAQ" (frequently asked questions) page, and, if you click on the "Who can help with research enquiries?" link found there, you will find a "Volunteers' Page." When you click on that link you will get a list of about 10 people, some of whom are located in places such as Australia, that will do look-ups on censuses, marriage indexes and death records. Clicking on a volunteer's name brings up a preformatted e-mail form. Using these, in a matter of a few days I was able to trace the Carrel

family back two more generations to a Jean Carrel, mariner, born in St. Martin in 1791. Census look-ups were provided for the years 1851 through 1891 and for MaryEllen's great-great-grandfather Jean Carrel. The Webmaster for the FAQ page, Alex Glendinning, looked up Jean Carrel's records in the Jersey Seamen's Benefit Society and provided information about his time at sea.

With so much free help received, we felt that we should join the Jersey Family History Society, and on the application form we put six surnames of families into which the Carrels had married. The society published our names in their journal, along with the six additional surnames that we had given them (standard proceedure for all new members). The next issue of the journal arrived, and within days we received a phone call from a Carrel and a letter from a lady with Le Seeleur (one of the additional surnames we had submitted) ancestry, both of whom thought they might be related to MaryEllen. We sent them our Carrel data, and to our amazement a Daphne Hinault who had married a Le Seeleur sent us a Le Seeleur family tree going back to 1463, comprised of two two-foot square sheets of paper covered with names that included a number of Carrels. The tree had been put together by a couple in Winnipeg. As this is MaryEllen's hometown, we used "Canada 411" on the Internet to find their telephone number and called them. They had a Le Seeleur grandparent and had published a Le Seeleur book and produced the family tree based on a database of over 2,000 people. They delivered the book and family tree to Jersey personally some years ago.

We are off to Jersey 26 May and will be visting with Daphne Le Seeleur, a distant relative of MaryEllen's, as well as MaryEllen's second cousin once removed Charles Carrel.

The final bit of serendipity was that the couple in Winnipeg were kind enough to visit St James Cemetery and e-mail MaryEllen details from her maternal grandfather's grave which she had been trying to get for a long time. It turned out that he was Scottish born.

REMEMBER: Every Saturday morning, 10:00 am to noon, an MGS volunteer is waiting at Darien Library to help you with your research.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and "BROADWAY LIGHTS"

MGS President David Mordy began the 18 April meeting by conducting the election of board members whose term will end in 2001. R. Geoffrey Blain, Donna Moughty and Kim Paterson were elected unanimously.

Dave then introduced our speaker, Suzanne McVetty, CG, who gave a fact-filled, lively talk on New York City research entitled "Broadway Lights."

Suzanne McVetty provided a timeline for New York City from the first Dutch arrivals in 1609, leading to the tiny settlement of New Amsterdam at the southern tip of Manhattan Island in 1625, through establishment of the Reformed Dutch Church (1663), English rule (1664), the arrival of members of other churches (Lutherans, Quakers, French Reformed, Church of England or Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Baptist, Moravian, German Reformed, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Unitarian Universalist, Congregational), the flood of immigrants in the 19th century, the 1848 beginning of city (Manhattan) vital records entered in ledgers which were replaced in 1866 by use of certificates, the amalgamation of the city from separate elements until in 1898 it finally reached the outline that we know today -- a single city composed of five different counties: New York (Manhattan), Bronx, Kings (Brooklyn), Queens and Richmond (Staten Island).

There are Dutch, colonial, court, land, port, city, county, church, state and federal records scattered around the city, and you will almost certainly have to visit several of the following major repositories to find what you seek:

- New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 122 E. 58 St., New York, NY 10022; telephone (212) 755-8532. Open Tues.-Sat., 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Excellent collection from Dutch and colonial periods up to the 19th century. Daily user fee for nonmembers. It is possible to request by mail a one-hour record search on one person by a competent volunteer at a \$10 fee for members, \$20 for nonmembers.
- New York Public Library, 5th Ave. & 42nd St., New York, NY 10018. General Research Division; U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division; Microforms Division (includes microfilms of newspapers from around the world, city

directories, soundex indexes, census schedules for New York State and some for surrounding states, the 1890 Police Census³; index of NYC vital records mid-1888 on) Jewish Division; Map Division; Rare Books and Manuscripts Division. Among their holdings are mid-19th century Emigrant Savings Bank records.

- New York City Department of Records and Information Services, Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007. City archives housing various city agency papers, including vital records that are open to the public. There is a small, daily user fee. Mail requests for vital records (1866-ff.) and the 1890 Police Census will be fulfilled for a fee if proper forms are used and adequate information is provided. They also have city directories and 19th century city employment records.
- National Archives -- Northeast Region, 12th floor, 201 Varick St., New York, NY 10014. Regional office of the National Archives specializing in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. (A microfilm index of NY State vital records is also here.) Some research can be done by mail; e.g., they will search indexes and relevant naturalization records and try to respond to written requests within 10 working days after receipt if you fill out their "Request Form for Naturalization Records" and provide very complete information.
- County Clerk's Office, State Supreme Court, New York County, Division of Old Records, 7th Floor, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007. Old court records from Colonial period, state census records for New York County, and first enumeration of 1870 federal census. Open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, New York, NY 10024. Specializes in New York City collections and is open to the public.
- Bronx Historical Society, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467. Covers Bronx County.
- Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Concentration on Brooklyn with some Queens County/Long Island material. Nominal, daily user fee.

- Queensborough Public Library, L.I. Div, 89-11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432. Concentration on Queens and Nassau Counties.
- Staten Island Historical Society, 302 Center St., Staten Island, NY 10306.
- New York State Library, Cultural Education Center, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230.
- New York State Archives & Records Administration, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12230.

Suzanne McVetty recommends analyzing your goals to determine which repositories are most likely to contain material of interest to you and then planning your research trip accordingly.

CLUES IN 1850-1920 CENSUSES

In its Website:

http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/cenclues.html
the National Archives and Records Administration
points out clues found in 1850-1920 federal censuses that can make genealogical research more
thorough and more successful. For example:

- Date of birth: The 1900 census indicates a person's month and year of birth; the 1850-1880 and 1910-1920 censuses indicate a person's age. This can help in the search for vital records.
- Place of birth: 1850-1920 censuses show a person's state or country of birth, which can narrow somewhat a search for the town of birth.
- Date of marriage: 1850-1880 censuses indicate whether a person had married within the year. ("Within the year" means during the year before the official census day, e.g., between 1 June 1859 and 31 May 1860 for the 1860 census.) The 1900-1910 censuses indicate the number of years of marriage for each married person, making marriage certificates easier to locate.
- Number of children: The 1900-1910 censuses indicate how many children were born to each woman and how many of those children are still living, helping to determine whether or not you have identified all the children in that family.
- Immigration: The 1900-1910 censuses show a person's year of immigration to the United States, which can help in locating an arrival record.

The mayor of New York City contested the NYC population numbers generated by the 1890 Federal Census and directed the NYC Police Department to do a recount which came to be known as the "1890 Police Census." This contains only the names, ages and addresses of the people counted, but destruction of the 1890 federal schedules has made it invaluable.

- Naturalization: The 1870 census has a check mark for "Male Citizen of the U.S. of 21 years of age and upwards." If this is checked for a foreign-born citizen, it means he had become naturalized by 1870. Answers on the 1900-1920 censuses indicate a person's naturalization status: "Al" for alien, "Pa" for "first papers" and "Na" for naturalized. The 1920 census also shows the year in which a person was naturalized. These clues could lead to naturalization records.
- Foreign-born parents: The 1870 census has check marks if a person's parents were of foreign birth. The 1880-1910 censuses indicate the birthplace of a person's parents.
- Service in Union or Confederate Army or Navy: The 1910 census shows whether a person was a "survivor of the Union or Confederate Army or Navy": "UA" for Union Army, "UN" for Union Navy, "CA" for Confederate Army, and "CN" for Confederate Navy. This information can lead to military and pension records.
- Real property: The 1850-1870 censuses indicate the value of real property owned by a person. The 1900-1920 censuses show whether a person owned ("O") or rented ("R") a home or farm and also whether or not the property was mortgaged ("M") or free of mortgage ("F"). These clues could suggest exploring real estate, tax and probate records.
- Economic data: 1850-1880 censuses show a person's occupation. If the answer is "farmer," look for information about land ownership, crops and livestock in the agricultural census schedules. If the person was a saw or grist miller, cheese maker, or other "manufacturer," check the manufacturing census schedules. Agricultural census schedules exist for 1850-1880; manufacturing census schedules exist for 1820 and 1850-1880.

UPCOMING SEMINAR

During New York Genealogical & Biographical Society's "Research in Albany" program, 18-20 November 1998, participants will be able to research at the NY State Library, NY State Archives and local Albany repositories with guidance from repository staffs and NYG&B Education Committee members. For more information, write to: NYG&BS, 122 E. 58 St., New York, NY 10022-1939.

SURNAME DATABASE

by Kim Paterson

Our society is initiating a surname database, the purpose of which is to publish a list of names being researched by our members. Although our focus is on Connecticut, we will collect names from all areas. For now, we will have surnames researched or in progress and, eventually, will have queries submitted — to be published in our *Newsletter* as space permits. When we have gathered a number of surnames, the information will be put on our Website.

All members' names will be cross-referenced to the surname database so that new people or visitors will know whom to contact for research information.

Please fill in the form accompanying this Newsletter and submit it as soon as possible to Kim Paterson via: e-mail -- kim@edgar-online.com (preferred channel); fax -- (203) 852-5667 (second choice; be sure to use my name); or mail to me at 75 Fairfield Ave., #8, Norwalk, CT 06854 (include my name and unit number).

MGS NEWSLETTER

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

As this season of MGS activities comes to an end, I would like to thank those who have contributed to these pages since September. David Bowley, David Mordy and Chick Scribner provided their regular columns to inform and guide us. Florence Wyland wrote of her long search for a Union soldier, and Donna Moughty shared a major body of work over four issues. I am very grateful for their help.

I encourage all members to contribute news, information and personal experiences to our Newsletter. Sharing information benefits us all. A case in point: While browsing a few months ago in the genealogy room of a library 1300 miles from home, I came upon two loose-leaf binders, chockful of handwritten material on early Connecticut wills. I did not find the two names I looked for in the index, but I did find a name that I recognized from a story that appeared in our Newsletter a year ago. I copied eight pages of relevant material and was able to pass them on to our delighted author on my return. It could happen to you, if your story appears in the Newsletter. Submissions need not be in finished form as significant help is available. Feel free to call me at 655-8350 about *your* story.

WORLD'S OLDEST FAMILY TREE

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter reports that according to a story in the London Daily Mail (one of the UK's largest-circulation newspapers) a man alive today is genetically related to a caveman who died violently at about the age of 23 approximately 9,000 years ago in the mouth of Gough's Cave at Cheddar Gorge in Somerset. (Gough's Cave is composed of limestone which tends to keep minerals and DNA intact.) DNA tests on the caveman's skeleton were conducted by Oxford University's Institute of Molecular Medicine over a period of some months for an HTV documentary on archaeology. Scientists also took swabs from local people, including staff and students at Kings of Wessex Comprehensive School in Cheddar, looking for a match. Analysis proved that Adrian Targett, a local, 42-year-old history teacher who lives in a cottage a short distance up the road from Gough's Cave, is genetically related through the female line of his ancestors to "Cheddar Man." "I'm overwhelmed. I had no idea it would be me. I only joined in the test to make up the numbers," said Mr. Targett.

PRIVACY LAWS IN GERMANY

From: The Family Tree, Moultrie, GA, Aug.-Sept. 1997

American researchers dealing with recent German records often encounter the strict legal regulations of the German privacy laws. In Germany some records are not public property for 150 years.

For records not yet made public, access can be provided only to "direct" relatives such as the daughter/son, a parent or grandparent. Not considered direct relatives are brothers or sisters, aunts or uncles, cousins, nieces or nephews. You may not secure records for them.

You also may be required to provide a legal document necessitating your access to records, such as for business purposes, to open an account, purchase insurance, establish or use credit, etc.

Deadline for next newsletter 15 September 1998

