



LEAVITT LEAVES



May 2009

Newsletter of the National Association of Leavitt Families

Volume 26 – 4

Remember to write to us!

Visit us on the web at Leavitts.org

Register now for Reunion 2009

GENEALOGY TO BE FOCUS OF 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN STURBRIDGE, MA

This year as we celebrate the founding of our Association by genealogist Emily Leavitt Noyes, it is appropriate to take some time to reflect on genealogical research. How did our predecessors compile their genealogies? How do we carry out this research today?

We start with the works of Emily Leavitt Noyes, our Founder. However, Emily started with the works of Joseph Parker Leavitt. Joseph, referred to in our genealogy books as "JPL", lived most of his adult life in Cincinnati and Chicago. He was born 15 Nov 1830 in Dover, Strafford, NH, a New England town that a few years prior to his birth most likely very closely resembled the town we are visiting at Old Sturbridge Village. Dover grew but slowly the first 150 years, then the population nearly doubled between 1820 and 1830 "principally owing to the establishment of manufactories, which has also been



the means of increasing the wealth of the town in an equal ratio." [Samuel C Stevens, *Sketch of Dover, NH*, 1833]. Thus Joseph's early life saw the changes brought by the Industrial Revolution in progress.

(Continued on page 4.)

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE REUNION SITE HOLDS MANY ATTRACTIONS

While at the reunion this year you would do well to take advantage of the two-day discounted OSV tickets offered by our host. Just \$10.00 buys your entry into this great museum...a museum consisting of an entire New England Village. Set in 1790-1840, a period "of major significance because it was a time in which the everyday lives of New Englanders were transformed by the rise of commerce and manufacturing, improvements in agriculture and transportation, the pulls of emigration and urbanization, and the tides of educational, political, aesthetic, and social change."

Here you can visit the homes, churches and shops of this time period. You will learn such fascinating things! Did you know that left and right shoes have been made for thousands of years, but "straight



shoes" in which both shoes in a pair were identical, were popular from the 1500's to late 1700's? Left and right work shoes did not come back in style until the mid 1800's, but this type of dress shoe began to reappear earlier. For every type of trade and profession you may learn similar little known details. There are heirloom garden plants, diaries, journals and so many other visual aids too numerous to mention.

(Continued on page 4.)

(See also "Tinsmiths and Peddlers" on page 7.)

THE PUBLICK HOUSE HAS A RICH HISTORY TOO

The Publick House, location of our Friday Buffet Supper, is an inn rooted in the early history of the town. It is located on the Sturbridge Common where Militia drilled to prepare for the Revolutionary War. From its web site we learn that the inn saw heavy traffic throughout history, as did Sturbridge, due to the junction of two very well traveled routes. The East-West route from Providence to Springfield started as the "Old fordway to Tantiusque", used by the Indians when they traveled to Plymouth bringing the Pilgrims corn. In their turn, the first white settlers traveled over the same route on their first westward journeys. The Old Post Road ran from Boston to New York. The story goes that when Benjamin Franklin was postmaster of the thirteen colonies he made a trip around to the 28 existing post offices. As he made

(Continued on page 5.)



THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEAVITT FAMILIES, INC. is an organization formed with the objective of promoting acquaintance and good fellowship among the living descendants of the immigrant John Leavitt, who came to America in 1628 and settled in the section of the New England Colonies now known as Hingham, MA, and immigrant Thomas Leavitt, who came to America in 1636 and settled in the section now known as Hampton, NH, and to establish such memorials to their name and memory as may be most appropriate.

Regular dues are \$10 a year (Sustaining Membership \$15) and should be sent to Treasurer Dick Leavitt at the address below. Checks may be made out to NALF, Inc.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

President	Roland Rhoades, Jr	10 Blackberry Lane	Gorham, ME 04038	Leavitts.org@gmail.com
Vice Pres & Historian	John Stephen "Steve" Dow	93 Emerald Acres	Barrington, NH 03825	NALFhistorian@myfairpoint.net
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Treasurer	Richard H Leavitt	23 Beacon Hill Road	Windham, NH 03087	rleavitt1930@yahoo.com
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Reunion Chair	Frances R Woodin	580 Charles Bancroft Highway	Litchfield, NH 03052	Woodinx@aol.com
Trustee	Connie Leavitt	34 Barden Hill Road	Hillsboro, NH 03244	cfleavitt@embarqmail.com

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR:

- **N**ominations for our new slate of officers will be announced at the reunion next month. If anyone is interested in serving on our Board, please contact Win Leavitt at the above address....it's not too late to get involved!
- **A**wards for this year's scholarship essay contest will be announced June 27th at our annual meeting. This is one way that the NALF keeps the practice of honoring our legacy alive for the next generation.
- **L**ooking forward to hearing more from Carol Leavitt Altieri as she reads from her poetry collection again at this year's reunion. If you cannot make the reunion, or just want to collect a great book, read about *The Jade Bower* on page 16.
- **F**riends, family and facebook....yes, you read that right! This past year my sister in law got my family into facebook as a way of keeping updated with each other's busy lives. It does have its quirks and is not always the easiest to use, but we have all enjoyed seeing what family and friends are up to, especially those relations that don't always have time for regular correspondence. With that in mind I have created a NALF page on facebook, added myself as a fan, and posted an event...you guessed it...the reunion! If you don't yet have an account, it is free and easy to get one at <http://www.facebook.com/> and please don't forget to friend request me! You can become a "NALF fan" by typing in "National Association of Leavitt Families" into the search bar at the top of your new facebook page. Hey...if all of my family members can work facebook....so can you!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Cousins,

Time really flies. It is hard to believe that I've been President for 4 years already. You will have a new President elected at our Annual Business Meeting in Sturbridge in June. This is an election year, so make plans to attend our 75th birthday Reunion and place your votes for new officers.

April 23 we had a free Leavitt table at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Manchester, NH with about 700 people attending the 4-day event. Board members Richard Leavitt, Sara Leavitt Goldberg, Steve Dow, and I helped staff the table, passing out many brochures and applications, along with info about our Reunion, DNA program, and our publications, and talking with many Leavitt cousins.

As you know, I'm a genealogy addict, as are many others in our association. As my wife Cyndy asks, what is the attraction of delving into all those names and dates of dead people? Even she gained some insight into that this month. We are cleaning out her aunt's apartment. She is 95 and has moved into a nursing home because of a broken hip, but her memory is sharp as a tack. I love talking with her. In the various bureau draws, closets, and boxes we found old photos and clippings. I brought them home to look at when I had more time. One was a class photo that we thought might include her. She said, oh yes, that's my 9th grade



1929 graduation at Currier school in Newburyport, and then she identified all the names of her classmates faster than I could write. Cyndy thought the newspaper clipping of her parent's wedding describing her going away costume "a matching hat and suit of

moonstone blue velvet" was so cool. And then she was even more amazed to read the newspaper clipping of her grandparents' wedding in 1912, mentioning that part of the honeymoon included going back to the bride's New Albany, Nova Scotia homestead. We've been taking the photos that Cyndy can't

identify, to ask Auntie who they are, and she is identifying her ancestors and cousins. Cyndy is more interested in....oh that's G-Aunt Ella who I got the antique table handed down from, and my grandmother's sister. When we collect stories to put meat on the bones of names and dates, we can make this interesting for anyone. Also pretty cool, when I donated some of the group photos to the Newburyport library, the historian there turned out to be a distant cousin; her female ancestor was not even in my records, a half-sister of Cyndy's grandfather, and she helped get our common line back 3 more generations.

As announced previously, much of our research databases in Maine are now available for free via email, IF you are an official paid-up member. Included are Maine births, deaths, marriages, deeds, and probate, not all complete but as far as we have recorded, updated in April.

The Newsletter gives email addresses for all of us. So that non-computerized people can easily reach us, you are also welcome to call me at 1-207-892-0923.

ROLAND RHOADES, NALF PRESIDENT, GORHAM, MAINE
NEHEMIAH AND ISRAEL LEAVITT BRANCHES

GENEALOGY FOCUS FOR 75TH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After Joseph married he moved to Cincinnati where he was successful as a merchant for many years. Building a new store in 1874 failed, and he apparently lost everything and moved to Chicago. Over the years he wrote more than 1000 letters to Leavitt descendants, mostly in New England, and accumulated over 12 volumes of genealogical data that was never published. The notebooks and letters were archived by the Chicago Historical Society, and later by the Newberry Library. You may recall reading about our own NALF Genealogist Ray Thomas going to Chicago twice, once to examine the archives when he secured a microfilm for the society, and again to arrange for the Newberry to digitize the remaining documents. Emily referred to these documents extensively in her genealogies, unfortunately not always documenting which facts came from them and what part of the document. We have just scratched the surface of cross referencing the events and families contained in this work.

From there Emily used the census, military records and available local history books. She also wrote to and visited many families. As you can imagine, without modern technology, this research proceeded at a slow pace. Also, today the most recent Census available is the 1930. The decades after that are not released to safeguard privacy. So, when she first began her research, the 1850 was likely the only every name census she had to work with. It goes without saying that we can not expect this work to be complete and perfect in all respects. But it is a great foundation. I picture her with a collection of thousands of note cards, one for each individual to be placed, with the facts for that individual as she knew it. Then I see her floors littered with these cards as she placed them into families in the various towns and states. We sometimes come across an individual that seems shoehorned into place, with a note that reads something like "I have no proof, but there was no other Leavitt family here at that time" or "Many a man has been hanged with less proof than I have here." (And then not sharing what that proof is.) We shake our heads incredulously, wondering how she ever came to such a silly conclusion? Well, my guess is that she really wanted to clean her floors, and had to pick up the mess first! Now, with much of the work done for us, we can proceed to comb through and fix these errors.

OSV ATTRACTIONS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Stop by the Bullard Tavern and learn about stagecoaches in early New England, and the role taverns served along a traveler's route. Buy a ticket at the Tavern (seating is limited and operation is weather dependent) and get a feel for early New England travel in a reproduction early 19th-century stagecoach.



Our Reunion Meeting takes place at Oliver Wight Tavern, a modern adaptation of an 1830's rural New England tavern that presents the



foodways, receipts (recipes), furnishings, ambiance, and community spirit of a "licensed house" that provided early New Englanders with a world of information, entertainment, recreation, socialization, citizenship, and great Yankee dining!

In the spacious Federal Ballroom and adjoining Federal Parlor, find working hearths (and occasional hearth-cooking demonstrations). In the Tap Room, sample the kind of hospitality early American travelers would have enjoyed. In the Grecian Parlor, experience the gracious

service and elegant appointments of a period "ladies parlor." The lawn and apple orchard adjacent provide the perfect setting for our group photos and the 1830's games.

Take a relaxing River Boat tour of the Quinebaug River. These tickets, like the stage coach ride, are offered on a first come, first served basis. This river is part of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, known as "The Last Green Valley" due to its location in the Boston to Washington urban and suburban corridor. Of course we all know there are other green valleys remaining in this corridor, but they claim this is the most vast.

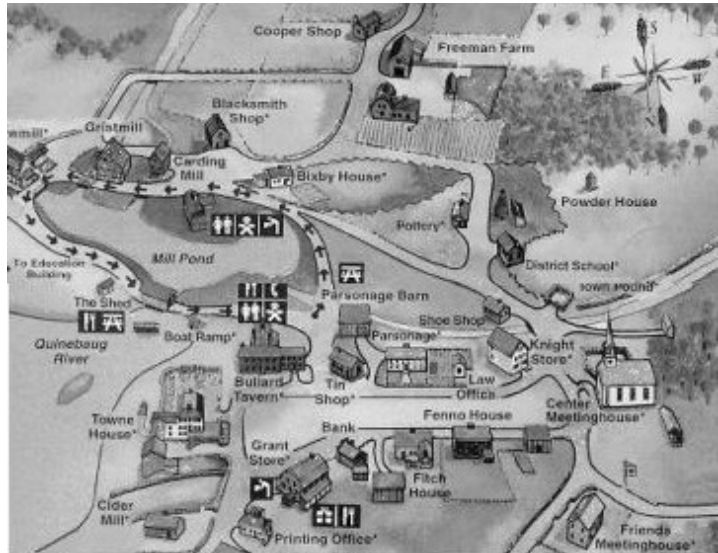


DIRECTIONS TO OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE AND AREA MAP

Old Sturbridge Village outdoor history museum is located on Route 20 in Sturbridge, and is easily accessible by car from I-84 and the Massachusetts Turnpike I-90. You will find directions to Old Sturbridge Village and drive times from all major cities on our web site at [Leavitts.org](http://www.osv.org) as well as the OSV web site at <http://www.osv.org/visitor/directions.html>. For detailed driving directions, visit Googlemaps or Mapquest. If you need directions mailed to you please do not hesitate to contact us. [See page 2 for contact information.]

ADDRESS:

1 OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE ROAD
STURBRIDGE, MA 01566
PHONE: 800.733.1830



Oliver Wight Tavern is just outside the museum grounds, to the left of the map you see here, within walking distance.

THE PUBLIC HOUSE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

his way along the route he attached a mileage counter to the wheels of his carriage and had his men set milestones along the route to guide the postmen. Legend has it that Sturbridge's milestone reading "67 Miles to Boston" came out of this trip. During the War of 1812, a sea embargo closed that avenue of transportation for commerce. As a result the Post Road saw even more traffic. The Publick House provided an excellent stop for travelers and haulers. The inn founder, Colonel Ebenezer Crafts was a gracious and attentive host.



You can read more detail about the history of the inn and Sturbridge on their web site at <http://www.publickhouse.com/history.htm>, but their closing paragraph sums it up quite well: "Colonel Crafts has left his equestrian profile on our familiar sign, his name on our gracious bed & breakfast inn atop Fiske Hill, his legacy of majestic elms and maples shading our grounds, and his spirit of uncompromising good taste and hospitality on every greeting, eating, and meeting at the Publick House. Today we like to think that nothing much has changed at the Publick House, and this is essentially true. Sheep still graze in the meadow, just beyond our Bake Shoppe with home-made sweets, breads, and relishes to go."

In addition to the main inn for lodging and dining, the Publick House operates, on the same site, Chamberlain House, six gracious lodging suites, and the Country Motor Lodge—92 rooms with all the amenities. In addition to providing home baked goods, their Bake Shoppe provides a great spot for coffee and pastry. Besides Crafts Hall, where our buffet is to be held, they have 10 function rooms of varying size, purpose and décor.



GENEALOGIST'S REPORT

REMEMBER OUR ENTIRE GENEALOGY TEAM WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION AT THE REUNION AS USUAL! PLEASE COME AND TAKE A LOOK ALSO AT OUR DISPLAYS SHOWING HOW OUR RESEARCH PROGRESSES.

NERGC CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER, NY WAS WELL ATTENDED

Last month Roland, Ray, Dick, Sara and Steve all attended the New England Regional Genealogy Conference. Roland, Dick, Sara and Steve manned a booth for NALF while Ray staffed his CHARETTE-CHAREST Family Association. Sara took photos and Roland shares with us some of what he learned.



ROLAND CHATS UP
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

www.GENEALOGYBANK.COM/GBNK/ My cousin Tom Kemp (common Starbird ancestor about 1700) was a founder of HeritageQuest, and says they have much more - complete runs of many newspapers instead of saying they have a newspaper when they only have a few scattered issues; currently 3800 different titles. Obituaries 1690 to present. Their SSDI is updated weekly. All military registers 1789-1980, listing officers with birth dates etc. They are working on getting every printed item to 1900; on 1820s now; have 8 times as many as HQ, who stopped. Obits are routinely published in government reports. They have the Serial Sets (historical documents) 1817-1980, reports selected for gen content.

Free download, search for Library of Congress Rowell's & Ayer's American Newspaper Directory to see what newspapers were near your ancestor.

www.Footnote.com started by former Ancestry employees Jan 2006. Exclusive rights to digitize everything in the National Archives, currently publishing 20-million pages per year. FREE 2 wk trial. WHOLE Rev War pension records filed, not just selected pages like HQ has, plus service records for those who didn't apply for pensions. Immigration petitions and declarations. partners Allen Co Library, Clayton Lib, Family Search. FBI case files 1908-1922. WWII files. \$60/yr if you do join.

In probate records, an infant could be anyone under 21; "next friend" was an unofficial guardian; orphan meant one parent dead; mothers had to petition to be guardian of her own ch.; nephew could be grandchild or stepchild.

Something I never saw in 1840 census: you have all those tick marks for white people, then tick marks for slaves that we in New England ignore; well there are more columns after that for occupation. 1820 also has columns for whether involved in agriculture, commerce, or manufactures. If a son or woman was involved in manufacturing anything (even the smallest of things at home), their name could be listed in a separate schedule. This part of the census was never microfilmed and is at Natl Archives.



STEVE DOW, ROLAND RHOADES AND RAY
THOMAS AT THE NALF BOOTH.

TINSMITHS AND PEDDLERS

The tinsmith has been plying his trade in America since 1720. Colonial tin products were made of imported tinplate. England banned the production of tinplate in the colonies, thus restricting the amount of goods the colonists could produce. Tinplate is thin steel that has been dipped several times into molten tin. (When you see rust on a piece of tinware it is because the tinplate has worn away or a cut in the metal has exposed the steel that has rusted.)

Colonial tinsmiths used tinplate, wire, solder, and a few simple tools to produce their wares. When tinplate was finally produced in America in the early 1800's the products of the tinsmith became more widely available. They in turn saw an increase in demand and a need to speed up production. This brought about the development of many ingenious hand powered machines which sped up production and helped the tinsmith meet the demands for his products. The goods were brought to market by peddlers traveling from village to village.

You are all no doubt aware of the play "Death of a Salesman." Walter Friedman wrote a book called *Birth of a Salesman: The Transformation of Selling in America*. Among other things, this book tells the story of James Guild, a Vermont farmer born around the turn of the century who left the farm in 1818 and took to the road. He kept a diary of his travels and his selling strategies. Friedman tells us that in addition to peddlers like Guild who operated alone, there were those employed by a particular shop or artisan and sold on commission. There were also networks organized, "bringing together artisans, banks, shipping and transportation companies and warehouses into an effective distribution system."

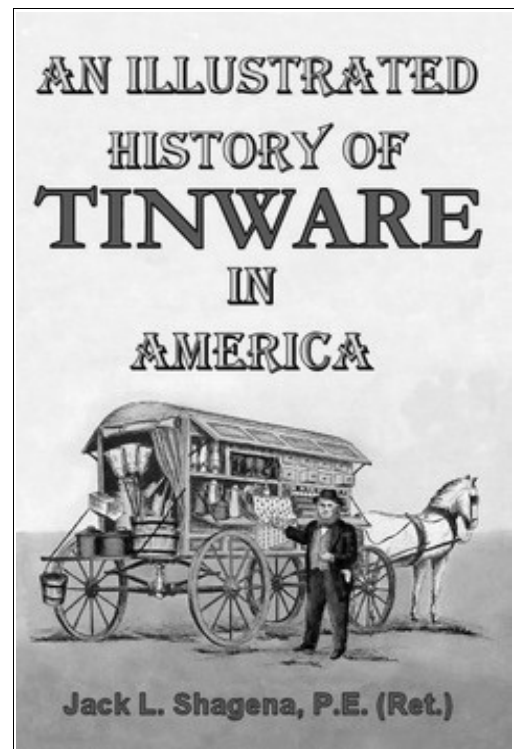
These peddler networks were not always popular. Southern shoppers were cautioned to beware of counterfeits, lest you imagine that "Shop Local First" is a new slogan. The Virginia Legislature received frequent petitions in the early 19th century, protesting that the "vast monopoly wrought by the tin peddling system rendered the livelihood of Virginia tinsmiths precarious. [Scott Martin, *Cultural Change and the Market Revolution in America, 1789-1860*. Rowman & Littlefield, 204.]



Make sure to visit the tin shop at OSV or on line at www.osv.org/explore_learn/village_tour.html to learn more about how tin items were produced and what types of household goods and decorative items were made of tin.

You will find the tin shop in Center Village, between Bullard Tavern and the Parsonage. (See map page 5)

The book pictured to the right is a complete history and tells "How the Tinsmith, Peddler, Tinker, and Toolmaker Built an Industry." The book is available from the author for \$18.00 which includes shipping and handling.



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BRINGING BACK THE BARN

HAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS FROM WAYNE ELLIOT

You may recall that in November of 2005 the Newsletter ran an article about the Leavitt Barn being restored by the Hampton Historical Society. Wayne Elliot has kept us abreast of the developments as the project progressed, and sent in an article about the opening last summer. The project took four years, and involved dismantling, moving, then reconstructing the barn and adding historically correct finish materials.



According to the Historical Society, the barn was built in 1796 as an addition to a tavern owned by the Leavitt family. Moses Leavitt, son of Hezron (2), opened a tavern on Country Road, (now Post Road) just North of the Marston Garrison, shortly after 1700. Later, after Moses died, his widow (Mary Carr Leavitt) continued to operate the tavern, much to the satisfaction of the Puritan settlers who did not regard the occupation as unseemly for women. On a Sunday morning in March 1733, the tavern caught fire and burned to the ground while nearly everybody in the North Division (of Hampton) was attending church in Hampton. In the absence of husky Yankee men, the Widow Leavitt lost almost everything. Since the tavern performed a valuable service to travelers, and more importantly, provided a cozy setting for the farmers' only social life, the next day the widow's neighbors gathered and in a few days built her a spacious, two storey tavern. Her son, Captain John, succeeded her as taverner at the site. (This paragraph from Win's article Nov. 2005.)

The barn was slated to be demolished back in 2004 before the Hampton Historical Society purchased the property. The Society received enthusiastic support from the community for this adaptive reuse project. The barn is now one of several structures on the grounds of the Tuck Museum, home of the Hampton Historical Society. Finished, it houses displays about early Hampton industry – shoe making, fishing, farming, blacksmithing, ice cutting, marsh haying, carpentry, etc.



LEAVITT GUEST BOOK CORRESPONDENCE WITH ROLAND'S RESPONSES

CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 2009

Gillian Leavitt Mueller in MA posted "I'm researching my Leavitt genealogical line for my daughters and relatives." And also responded to my query "[My line is on-line.] I'd love to join the association and was really sorry to miss the Deacon John Leavitt Family reunion this summer in Hingham. I was in the area, but didn't know about it until after the fact. We just moved back from overseas (in the State Department's Foreign Service) and are living in Quincy. A tour of Hingham is now a requirement for all family visitors. We even took a group out to see the Deacon's grave on Thanksgiving day. It included my 90 year-old father, whose name is also John Leavitt. Thanks for getting in touch and let me know what's involved in joining."

I responded that the NALF does not have anyplace to post information online, so please submit to us.

She responded "I'm joining right now! My lineage is attached. What I got from the Mormon database is in black. What I added to it from personal knowledge and my grandfather Leavitt's notes is in blue. He (Arthur Howland Leavitt) was much interested in his genealogy, but while he traced the Howland line back to John Howland's (of Mayflower fame) brother Henry, the Leavitt line remained a mystery. As a professional archivist and history nut in his spare time, he would have been thrilled to find out the Leavitts were one of the original settlers to New England."

Her attachment showed she was descended from John's son Israel Leavitt, and I responded. "Thank you very much cousin Gillian. I also have an Israel line which goes to John Leavitt & Tabitha Crane, but then we split off with my line dau Tabitha who m a Thayer. Boy, your line certainly adds a lot of new place names to our database!!! Maybe you could write up a summarized article for our newsletter with who begat who and what the heck took them all over the world."

Diana Johnson in WV also posted and replied with her line, "A cousin, I believe, submitted info on my WV Leavitt line about 10 years ago. I think it's included somewhere in the Leavitt files. I haven't worked on the Leavitt lines for a long time since it's well-documented, compared to some of my other lines. Here goes: Diana; Josephine Leota Leavitt Johnson (1924), her father was: Thomas A. Leavitt (1870), his father was: John Bradbury Leavitt (1833), his father was: Samuel Quarles Leavitt (1808), his father was: (Major) John Leavitt (1767), {Mary "Polly" Parsons} his father was: John Leavitt (1740), {Elizabeth Lamphrey}, his father was: John Leavitt (1706), {Abiah Marston}, his father was: Moses Leavitt (1674), {Mary Carr}, his father was: Hezron Leavitt (1645), {Martha Taylor}, his father was: Thomas Leavitt (1616), {Isabella Bland}, his father was: Thomas Levett {Margaret Lindley} (if my info is correct from what I gathered and understand). And if someone needs help with WV lines, be glad to help. Most of the WV Leavitts descend from Samuel Quarles Leavitt, Charles Parsons Leavitt, and their sisters who married the Pease brothers."

I replied "Thanks. I believe our records do have this WV line. My database has as far as Thomas 1870. I think our Genealogist has the rest."

And she responded "Thanks. I probably need to start updating the WV Leavitts. I believe my grandfather was married 4 times and I'm not sure that was included among other info that I've found since, so let me know and keep after me."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The "I" above all refers to Roland Rhoades, who responded to the correspondence and then submitted these reports. We still have more guest book entries to print in the next issue! I noticed last month a post appeared from **Norma Leavitt Nightingale**, responding to **Karen Bell's** letter that was published in the February newsletter. We will include that post as well as others as this feature continues.

ARCHIVIST REPORT

May 2009

Dear Family,

As time and space did not allow for the inclusion of these images in our last newsletter, I thought we should do it now. Once again, a big THANK YOU to the cousins who made these very generous donations to the Leavitt Family archive!



Emily (Cummings) Noyes photo album, donated by Sharon Noddin of CT.

On the left is Dr. Minnie (Leavitt) Greene, dau. of Dr. Julius Leavitt.

On the right is Dr. Julius Leavitt's 2nd wife, Gertrude.



Three of the eighteen *Leavitt's Farmer's Almanacs*, donated by Warren and Nancy Leavitt of NH.

I look forward to profiling these and more images in our upcoming newsletters and online at www.Leavitts.org.

Cheers,

Sara Leavitt Goldberg



 WELCOME! 			
NEW MEMBERS SINCE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER			
KENNETH W LEAVITT	2515 HARBOR BLVD #3	VENTURA, CA 93001	MOSES 12
EMILY A McGIFFIN	1756 25 TH AVENUE	RICE LAKE, WI 54868	MOSES
LOLA L MORSE	PO BOX 143	SANBORNTON, NH 03269	MOSES
KATHRYN C ZAUGG	1017 POQUOSON CROSSING	CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320	MOSES
MARILYN L LEAVITT	24298 SECOND STREET	TREMPEALEAU, WI 54661	ISRAEL 12

REUNION REGISTRATION DUE MAY 23RD

Enclose registration fees and mail to Richard Leavitt at 23 Beacon Hill Rd, Windham, NH 03087

Name: _____ Email _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Name tags [Name, Line. Generation] for all in your party. [ex: John Jones Nehemiah-12]

Friday Buffet at the Publick House: _____ Reservations @ \$20.00 = _____

Saturday at Oliver Wight Tavern _____ Adults @ \$35.00 = _____

_____ Children @ \$20.00 = _____

1830's Games _____ Interested @ No Additional Charge

Two Day Discount Admission to OSV _____ Tickets @ \$10.00 = _____

Optional Saturday Craft Studios _____ Adults @ \$10.00 = _____

_____ Children @ \$7.00 = _____

Studio First Choice [Circle one below]

Studio Other Choices [Check all others below that you would attend]

Hearth Cooking Textiles Print Celebrations

Home Remedies Tin Smithing Woodworking Games

Decorative Arts

Saturday Evening Hospitality at Publick House _____ Attending @ No Additional Charge

Planning to stay at the Publick House Country Motor Lodge? [yes/no] _____

[Reserve and pay separately by calling Reservations at 800.782.5425.] _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED

BE SURE TO.....VISIT OUR LEAVITT STORE AND SILENT AUCTION!!!!

These two fundraisers help keep the NALF subscription and reunion registration fees low for you; please support them! You can save time and confusion by pre-ordering your Leavitt Store purchases for reunion pickup using the order form on the back of this page or on line at <http://leavitts.org/Store.html>.

The Silent Auction has been successful and much fun in the past. If you can bring an item to donate, that is great. It should be something that others will want...though you may not want it. Perhaps you have a decorative item that just doesn't go with your décor or an antique that you no longer have room for?

Each item will have a bid sheet next to it to record the bids. As you visit the table, if you want to increase the bid, just cross off the previous bid and write in your own higher one. If you REALLY want to make sure you get it, go back to check that no one topped you!

THE LEAVITT STORE ORDER FORM

	Sizes (Please Circle the *)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<p><i>Sizes apply to items 1 - 4: >>> available sizes are noted by an *</i></p>	<p>S M L XL 2XL</p>			
1. Golf Shirt White <i>Embroidered Logo</i>	* * * * *		\$24.00	
2. Sweat Shirt 50/50 Birch <i>Embroidered Logo</i>	* * * * *		\$22.00	
3. T Shirt -White <i>Youth Only</i>	* * * * *		\$7.00	
4. Deacon John Leavitt T Shirt <i>White Design on Navy Shirt Large and Extra Large only</i>	* * * * *		\$5.00	
5. Deacon John Leavitt Mug				
Single Mug			\$3.00	
Four Mugs	<i>(Note that for this item, Quantity One = 4 mugs)</i>		\$10.00	
6. Tote Bag Large - Natural/Navy <i>Embroidered Logo</i>			\$22.00	
7. Apron - Red <i>28" wide with 2 wide pouch pockets and embroidered Logo</i>			\$13.00	
8. Baseball Hat - One size fits all <i>White/Navy Visor Embroidered Logo</i>			\$10.00	
9. Note Paper <i>15 Count Package</i>			\$6.00	
10. Coat of Arms <i>Leavitt Crest</i>			\$3.00	
Merchandise Subtotal:				

Ship to: *(Unless Reunion Pickup)*

For items 1-8 add \$6.00 per order S + H

For items 9-10 add \$2.00 per order S + H

**Total \$\$
Enclosed
for Order:**

Make check or money order payable to N.A.L.F., Inc. and mail form and payment to :

Richard H Leavitt
23 Beacon Hill Road
Windham, NH 03087

*If you are going to the Reunion
and can pick up your order
there, do not add S & H
charges.*

TWO REUNION SPECIALS ABOVE, THE DEACON JOHN LEAVITT T SHIRT AND MUG ARE NOT ON THE WEB ORDER FORM.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING AN ITEM FOR THE SILENT AUCTION IF YOU CAN....A GREAT CHANCE TO "RE-GIFT" SO OTHERS CAN APPRECIATE THOSE GREAT THINGS YOU HAVE NO USE FOR! SEE PAGE 11 FOR MORE DETAILS.

THE LEAVITT'S OF AROOSTOOK, MAINE AND EAST BARNARD, VERMONT

Most of you are familiar with Marian Leavitt Levasseur's stories that appear regularly in our newsletters. She, like myself is a Nehemiah, descended of Amos Leavitt and Hannah Sleeper. I come down from their son Oramel while Marian descends from Amos Jr. Nevertheless, our "cousinship" is closer than many Association relations.

We read of Amos:

"He and his brother, Nehemiah, had come to Vermont in 1797 with their widowed mother. They liv. on Broad Brook on the l. side of the road that leads to the Gifford farm at Royalton. Ref: Excerpts from story written by Mrs. Lillian H (Leavitt) Sawyer (9), dau. of Wm. (8), Oramel(7), Amos (6), which appeared in the 1952 bulletin of the former National Association of Leavitt Families, Inc. - dated Oct 16, 1950: "It seems that there were five Leavitt boys in this family of Amos Leavitt's. They were Enos, Amos, Oramel, Moses and Merrill. Oramel and Moses were the first to start out. They followed a spotted line from South Royalton, Vermont, with their food and possessions tied up in a small package, and walked to Smyrna, Maine.. Moses settled in Smyrna, but Oramel settled in Sherman. Later the next year, I should say, Merrill and Enos came. Merrill settled in Hodgdon and Enos in Littleton, Maine. Amos remained in South Royalton and made his home there." - (History of Royalton VT, p850) - Nehemiah v6 p25/30 & v6-1997 p4



[Amos] Went to East Barnard, Vermont - Nehemiah v6-1997 p68"

Barnard is a quiet, picturesque Vermont town located just north of Woodstock, Vermont. Originally spelled "Bernard" the town was named after Sir Frances Bernard, a former Governor of the New Jersey Colony and the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Bernard was the second listed grantee of the town. The spelling change to Barnard was made sometime before 1810 for reasons unclear.

We genealogists frequently make use of the US GenWeb, a free web site with branch sites for every state and county. Of course the content varies in volume and quality, depending on the volunteers available. There is precious little to be found there for Barnard, Vermont—we will have to see what we can do to change that using Marian's stories about "the olden days" in that area. This story illustrates how those with "no issue" can leave behind a legacy as memorable as those with descendants, and should not be skipped over in our genealogies.

BAREFOOT TRACKS IN VERMONT

"MISS LUCY"

by Marian Leavitt Levasseur

Miss Lucy Allen was a fine, elderly lady and a wonderful neighbor. She taught school in Massachusetts but in summers she lived at the Brailey place, Maple Grove Farm, next door to us Leavitt's. She was active in community affairs and especially in the church and never missed a Sunday. Her sister, Florence, died when I was young. She was mother and grandmother to many Braileys and they were neighbors of my Dad's family when he was young.

Miss Lucy never married. She made beautiful hand hooked rugs, lovely knitted things and had a nice garden. She had a great sense of humor and told wonderful stories. She wrote a "Local History of East Barnard, VT" and I have a copy. She wrote about many families, schools

(Continued on page 14.)

MISS LUCY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

and such. She wrote about church history and camp meetings. The following is one of her stories:

~~Somewhere around the middle of the 19th century, Revival Meetings were held in the Allen Hill school house. A great deal of interest was shown, and after the leader had left, the commity weekly prayer meetings were held in the school house.

One summer night Thankful Boyden, who lived in a house near the top of a long hill, walked down to the village and up to the school house on the opposite side of the valley. The next morning she was asked how many were there. She answered "Only the Lord and me. I had a session of prayer and came home." Two or three weeks later Virgine Keith who lived down on the Pomfret road went to a prayer meeting. His wife, Calista, was his opposite in many ways, energetic, quick motioned, she had a ready wit and a sharp tongue. I suppose Uncle Virgine was a great trial to her at times. She was not interested in the prayer meeting and stayed home. In due course of time she saw the team coming up the road. She met Uncle Virgine at the door and said, "Well Virgine, who was there?" "Only me", said Uncle Virgine. "Hmph." said Calista. "Wasn't so many there as when Thankful went, was there?"~~

Another story is of the Ashleys who came to the top of the hill on the Line Pond road in 1784. the first year the family, father, mother and seven children lived on venison and wood nettles. The next summer, having cleared some land they planted corn. That spring Lemuel walked the many miles to Windsor and bought a pig that he brought home on his back. The family had visions of Johnny cake and salt pork to add to their diet the next winter. But, when fall came before they had a chance to butcher the pig the Episcopal church in Woodstock took the pig to pay for the church tax. It was reported that they were not ardent Episcopalians after that and in fact became known as "fox hunters and fiddlers". However one of Lemuel's descendants, Jonathan Ashley, became a minister in the Christian Church.

Susan Osborne Ashley, Jonathan's wife, lived in the log cabin at the top of that hill. In 1797 or 98 one of her two children fell into the well. She was alone and unable to call anyone. Although she was pregnant she climbed down into the well and rescued the child. After her third child was born Susan was paralyzed and unable to walk. She managed to get around the house in a chair and she looked after her family. She had ten children in all. Before her paralysis she sowed flax seed, harvested it, spun the flax into fine linen thread, wove it into cloth and from it made two shirts for Mr. Boyden, receiving in pay five acres of land.

Miss Lucy told about a lady who walked up the hill to call on a friend. (This was before 1900 and there were no telephones or bathrooms in East Barnard at that time.) When the visitor arrived at her friend's house there did not appear to be anyone at home. She opened the door, stepped in and called out. She heard a muffled answer, "Have a seat. I'll be right out." "But where are you?" asked the visitor. The lady of the house answered "I am here in the closet." "What are you doing in there?" asked the visitor. The answer came loud and clear, "I am naked and wet and I am taking a bath!" "Taking a bath?" said the visitor. "Do you mean you are washing your body?" "Yes" came the answer. The visitor was not sure she heard right. She said "Your WHOLE body?"

My favorite Miss Lucy story is about the quilting bee. She said some ladies went to a quilting bee at an East Barnard house. They secured the quilt onto the quilt frames and were busily hand stitching with tiny stitches. There was much news and stories. During a lull in the conversation a distinct little "peep" was heard. At first nobody said anything and the peeps continued. The ladies asked what was making the peeps. One large and amply endowed lady continued on with her quilting and said, "My mother hen came off the nest this noon time with eleven baby chicks. One egg had not hatched and I just couldn't leave it there to become cold and lifeless so I put the egg down in my bosom—and—I believe it has hatched!

CORRESPONDENCE

Susan B Cardwell sent this note with Jane Bartholomew's obituary:

“Dear Friends at NALF,

My mother wished for me to notify you at the time of her death.

Thank you for being everything that you were to her!”

Thanks Barbara, we are always glad to find out that others enjoyed our Society.

A recent packet from Win included an email from Doris M Dawson, Israel Line, asking him about a previous newsletter item mentioning “...that the houses had straw ceilings, bride bath in spring, baby bath water...” and she asked him to send her a copy.

Before he sent me all his files, Win had checked for this item and found nothing. Then he also looked in all our books to no avail. Having done due diligence he sent her mail to me with a note that he didn't even recall ever discussing it at a meeting, and could I please reply.

As it turns out, Doris must have seen it in SOME newsletter anyway, just not ours. It struck a chord with me because it matched what I remembered from a ten-year old email that I had saved, finding it so very interesting. It concerns surprising facts about life in the 1500's. I copied part of this email to share with you below.

THE OLDEN DAYS...WHERE DID THOSE SAYINGS COME FROM?

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, they were starting to be fragrant, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers.

Baths equaled a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying “Don't throw the baby out with the bath water.”

Houses had thatched roofs. Thick straw, piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the pets...dogs, cats and other small animals...lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery, and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying “It's raining cats and dogs.”

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whiskey. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a “wake.”

Sometimes they could obtain pork and would feel really special when that happened. When company came over they would bring out some bacon and hang it to show off. It was a sign of wealth and that a man “could really bring home the bacon.” They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and “chew the fat.”

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, hence the saying “dirt poor.” The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh on the floor to help keep their footing. As winter wore on they kept adding more thresh until when they opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed at the doorway, hence a “thresh hold.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS &....

The Jade Bower

New and Selected Poems by Carol Leavitt Altieri

Those of you who were with us last summer in Hingham to hear Carol open the meeting with one of her poems will be happy to learn that she will be back again to read for us this year. In the meantime you may enjoy her latest book, *The Jade Bower*, which can be purchased from Amazon.com if unavailable from your local booksellers.



Praise from reviewers:

Carol...begets poems which double as footprints of creatures visible and invisible, including those left by our own oversized boots.....Underlying this exuberant, encyclopedic collection is a warrior spirit, calling upon language to exhort even as it extols and taking its place, with a deep joy and rare integrity, among the family of all things.

~ *Claire Zoghb*

The beautiful imagery is born from Carol Altieri's deep love for all of nature. The daily life of the poet, with its singular dedication and tireless efforts to preserve our natural heritage is further testimony to this devotion. The lyric melody of memories, feelings, and impressions in this book springs from Altieri's celebration of nature's many creations, large and small. Her poetry helps us to see everyday things we might not otherwise notice. While all of these poems are beautiful, many are also powerful reminders of the marks of our trespass on nature.

~ *Henry Ferris*

Jane L Barthomew

Jane L. Bartholomew, of Simsbury, died Wednesday, (November 19, 2008), at Hughes Convalescent Home, West Hartford. Born Jane Elizabeth Creighton Leavitt on August 5, 1925, to the late V. Russell and H. Edna (Rice) Leavitt, she was the granddaughter of the late Charles and Anna (Hoagland) Rice of West Hartford. She attended Beach Park School, and entered The Oxford School in 1935, graduating from there in 1943, and later attended Bennington College.

A former member of The Junior League of Hartford and The Town and County Club of Hartford, she was past president of the Oxford School Alumnae Association and served on their Board of Trustees. A long time member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, she served time on their board of music. She was a member of the Simsbury Historical Society as well as the CT Historical Society, where she spent many hours researching the families of friends, clients and her own ancestry. She also held membership in many organizations dedicated to animal welfare. She was a member of the Connecticut Republicans and was proud to be called a "dyed in the wool Republican".

Jane is survived by her sons, David Creighton Bartholomew and his wife, Peggy of Pleasantville, NY and Richard Brooks Bartholomew of Charleston, SC; and her daughters, Sarah Bennett Babcock (Bartholomew) Amanek and her husband Michael of Lake Forest, CA and Susan Lee (Bartholomew) Cardwell and her husband Garrett of Granby; eight beloved grandchildren, Susan Linn Bartholomew, Katherine Jane (Amanek) Keller, Robert Michael, John Russell and Caroline Paige Amanek, Dana Bartholomew, Randall James and Eliza Grace Cardwell; and 11 nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by an infant son, John Paige Bartholomew, II, and her sister, Marion Rice (Leavitt) Beach, and her brother, Brooks Russell Leavitt.

In lieu of flowers, it was her hope that contributions in her memory would be made to The Masters School, 36 Westledge Road, W. Simsbury, CT 06092 or to a ministry of the donor's choice.

Jane is
Israel-12

.....OBITUARIES

SCOTT M. GRIFFIN, SR.



CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa — Scott M. Griffin Sr., 44, of 4106 Majestic Ct. NE, Cedar Rapids died Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008, at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy following a long illness.

He was born May 27, 1964, in Manchester, N.H., to William and Yvonne Brusso Griffin. He served in the U.S. Navy.

He married Jayne Adams (Diederich) on June 5, 1995, in Cedar Rapids.

He was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan. He was athletic and enjoyed golfing, fishing, soccer, traveling, the ocean, and spending time with his friends and family.

Survivors include his wife, Jayne; his children, Christine and Scott Jr. at home, Amanda Griffin of Iowa City, Liz Underwood and her husband Jake of Cedar Rapids; his mother, Yvonne Griffin of Portsmouth, N.H.; two brothers, Blaine Griffin and his wife Rhonda of South Bend,

Ind., and Shawn Griffin and his wife Carol of Geneva, N.Y.; aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his father, William Griffin, and his grandparents.

WE REMEMBER: A memorial fund has been established.

A funeral Mass will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic church in Hiawatha, Iowa, with Rev. Dennis Cahill officiating. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Cedar Memorial Park Funeral Home with a wake service beginning at 7 p.m. Please leave a message or tribute to the Griffin family at www.cedarmemorial.com under obituaries.

Scott is Nehemiah-13

WILLIAM J. LEAVITT

BOSTON GLOBE

In Winthrop, formerly of East Boston, April 19. beloved son of the late Marion B. (Ryan) and Geogre W, Leavitt. Survived by Ann and Joseph Picardi of East Boston and other extended family. Dear friend of Ronda, Steven, staff and housemates. Funeral Mass in the Sacred Heart Church Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock. Relatives

and friends invited. Visiting hours at the Magrath Funeral Home 325 Chelsea St. (at Day Sq.) East Boston Tuesday evening 6-8. internment Woodlawn Cemetery. Indoor parking and entrance available from 340 Bremen Street.

EDWARD PARKER LEAVITT

90, of Centerville, formerly of Newton, died Tuesday, Nov. 11. Beloved brother of David Noel Leavitt and his wife, Judy of Falmouth; the late Virginia Loughlin and her husband, Edward of Newton; and the late Gerard Leavitt of Centerville. Mr. Leavitt is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Mr. Leavitt's career included being the Director of the Tufts Medical School Library, and also librarian at Stanford University, Boston College, Harvard University and the New York Public Library. He also served in the US Army during World War II.

A private service will be held in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. BOSTON GLOBE

Edward is Thomas-11

FORGOTTEN LEGACIES

At some time during our lives, most of us will dream of achieving fame; almost all will fall short. But, for better or worse, we all leave a legacy for those who follow. Time erodes the knowledge of this legacy, but still it lives on in the descendants of those we touch—our stories disappear but the fractals remain as part of an infinite mosaic. Just as the archeologist recreates past cultures from skeletal fragments and pottery shards, so the genealogist recreates ancestors' stories from a chance sighting here, a glimpse of shadow there, chasing echoes down the corridors of time, tracking footprints across continents and oceans, until enough flesh is added to the bones. Yes, we can see them if we try!

They cry out to us from the mists: "Find me. Tell my story. I was once important to someone."

The genealogist hears these cries and *must answer*. We really have no choice in the matter—you see, we are obsessed.

Valerie LaRobardier, Editor



LEAVITT LEAVES
VAL LAROBARDIER, EDITOR
C/O DICK LEAVITT
23 BEACON HILL RD
WINDHAM, NH 03087

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Inside This Issue

	See page #:
Reunion:	
● Genealogy	1, 4
● Old Sturbridge Village	1, 4, 5
● Publick House	1, 5
● Registration Form	11
● Leavitt Store Order Form	12
● Silent Auction	11, 12
From the Board:	
● President's Message	3
● Genealogist's Report	6
● Archivist's Report	10
● Editor's Notes	2
● Tinsmiths and Peddlers	7
<i>Note: We hope to see some punched tin items at the Silent Auction!</i>	
From our Members:	
● Bringing Back the Barn from Wayne Elliot	8
● New Members	10
● Barefoot Tracks in Vermont from Marian Levasseur	13, 14
● Correspondence	9, 15
● Obituaries and Announcements from Tom MacDonald, Carol Altieri, Susan Cardwell and Yvonne Griffin	16, 17