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# The Weekly Genealogist

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Edited by Lynn Betlock, Jean Powers, and Valerie Beaudrault  
[dailygenealogist@nehgs.org](mailto:dailygenealogist@nehgs.org)

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Greetings from the [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#)! If you would like to unsubscribe or change your email address, please click on the link at the bottom of the email and follow the instructions provided.

*NEHGS collects, preserves, and interprets materials to document and make accessible the histories of families in America.*

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### NEHGS Database News

by Sam Sturgis, Digital Collections Administrator, and Christopher Carter, Digital Collections Coordinator

#### [The American Genealogist, vols. 74-77](#)

Newly updated on [AmericanAncestors.org](#), *The American Genealogist* database now includes volumes 74-77, publication years 1999-2002.

The journal now known as *The American Genealogist* (TAG) has been published quarterly since 1923, and represents an important body of scholarly genealogical research covering the breadth of the United States (with an early preference for New England). The current TAG database now covers volumes 9-77. Volumes 1-8, covering the years 1923-1932, are available on [AmericanAncestors.org](#) under the name [Families of Ancient New Haven](#).

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### A Note from the Editor: Recent Reader Responses

by Lynn Betlock, Editor

This week, at the end of the holiday season, we share reader comments made in response to recent surveys, a name origin column, and a story of interest.

Responses to surveys on saving holiday cards and genealogical gift-giving:

Jeannette Maxey of Kalamazoo, Michigan: *I had a card that my parents and I exchanged for well over twenty years, each year telling the other how cheap we were that we could only afford "this ratty, old Christmas card." Beginning in 1960, the card went back and forth between my house in Midland and then Kalamazoo, Michigan, and their home in Bloomington, Indiana. It was great fun, but the post office lost it; one year it never arrived.*

Anne B. Wagner of Portsmouth, Rhode Island: *No genealogical presents are on my list for Santa. However, I am giving genealogical presents in the form of old family movies from 1927 to about 1954, which have been transferred to DVD, as well as a representative sampling of our children's childhood snapshots, scanned to DVD.*

A response to the Christmas name origin column:

Leslie Nutbrown of Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada: *I thought you might find it interesting to know that I have several ancestors in several generations with the name Christmas. Christmas Warren was born in 1848 in Marnhull, Dorset, England. His grandfather was Christmas Kendall, born in 1774. His father was Christmas Kendall, born in 1730. His grandfather was Christmas Keinell, born December 25, 1650, in Marnhull. So the name Christmas spanned almost 200 years in this family and only the first one to bear the name was born on Christmas Day.*

[On the topic of the Christmas surname, readers might enjoy an article in *The Hamilton [Ontario] Spectator*, "[Don't Call Her Merry Christmas](#)," which features a profile of Hamilton resident Mary Christmas and a brief discussion of the Christmas surname.]

A response to the story of interest on the daughter of a Civil War veteran ([Kearney Woman is a Living Link to the Civil War](#))

Aline (Grandier) Hornaday: *I was interested to read the story about the daughter of a Civil War veteran, a living link with her father's long-ago war service. Perhaps you'd also be interested to know that I am the daughter of a Franco-Prussian War [1870–71] veteran, who is now long gone but still sorely missed! I am a proud American citizen by birth — I was born in San Diego, California. My father became an American citizen and was very pleased to vote and carry out the responsibilities of citizenship. I am sure there must be many others with the same sort of historical connections with the past!*

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#### **Name Origins**

by Julie Helen Otto, Genealogist

**SILOME** (f): **Silome Hurd**, b. Woodbury, Conn. 29 Dec. 1715, daughter of Benjamin and Hannah (Cothren 3:15), may have been named not for the Salome who caused such trouble for John the Baptist, but for the Pool of Siloam, in Jerusalem, which, according to the Gospel of John, was said to have healing powers. Or "Silome" could be a mistake for the name SILENCE.

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#### **The Weekly Genealogist Survey**

Last week's survey asked what family history writing you have done. 3,214 people answered this survey. The results are:

- 76%, I have written bits and pieces for myself or my family.
- 10%, I have written family history articles for my website or blog.
- 6%, I have written family history articles for other websites.
- 17%, I have written articles for my family association/genealogical society newsletter.
- 3%, I have written articles for popular genealogy magazines (*American Ancestors*, *Family Chronicle*, *Family Tree*, etc.)
- 3%, I have written compiled genealogies for peer-reviewed journals (*Register*, *TAG*, *NGSQ*, etc.)
- 13%, I have written and self-published a book.
- 2%, I have written a book and published with a traditional publisher (NEHGS, GPC, etc.)
- 17%, I have not written anything about my family history.

This week's survey asks about your genealogical resolutions for 2013. [Take the survey now!](#)

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#### **Spotlight: North Carolina Digital Heritage Center**

by Valerie Beaudrault, Assistant Editor

#### [North Carolina Digital Heritage Center](#)

The North Carolina Digital Heritage Center is a statewide digitization and digital publishing program. It is part of the North Carolina Collection at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Center's online collections come from cultural heritage institutions across North Carolina. Click on the Collections link in the menu bar to access them. Select the collection you would like to view from the dropdown list.

**Images of North Carolina**

The Images of North Carolina collection contains more than 4,500 items from nearly thirty different repositories. There are photos and postcards of people and places in more than forty North Carolina counties from the late nineteenth century to the present. You can search by keyword, view all items, and browse by location or subject.

**North Carolina City Directories**

City directories for nearly sixty North Carolina cities and towns located in about forty counties have been digitized and uploaded to the website. They cover the period from 1860 through 1953. You can search by keywords and browse by city, county, or date.

**North Carolina Memory**

The North Carolina Memory collection contains more than 2,000 digitized items related to North Carolinians past and present. The collection can be searched by keywords or browsed by item type or location. The types of items in the collection include account books, bills of lading, correspondence, death registers, funeral programs, indentures, land grants, pamphlets, financial records, and many more. The items are primarily from (or related to) North Carolina, but some items also have connections to other places, including South Carolina, Maryland, Michigan, Virginia, Connecticut, Georgia, and Africa.

**North Carolina Newspapers**

This collection comprises nearly forty community and twenty student newspapers from towns and schools throughout North Carolina. The collection can be searched by keyword and location and limited by title and date range. You can also browse through the newspapers by location and by title.

**North Carolina Yearbooks**

The North Carolina Yearbooks collection contains nearly seventy college and university yearbooks and fifty high school yearbooks from fourteen counties. They cover the period from the 1890s to the present and include both public and private schools. Clicking on the North Carolina Yearbooks link in the menu bar will open the College & University main page. Enter the institution's name in the search box to begin your search or click on the institution's name to browse. To view the high school yearbooks collection click on the High School Yearbooks button at the top of the page. As noted on the website, many of the yearbooks in the high school collection are from schools that no longer exist. Enter the institution's name in the search box to begin your search or click on the county's name in the list and select a school.

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**Stories of Interest**

**Watch Collector's Find Brings a Lincolnesque Journey**

A Duxbury, Mass., resident discovered that a watch he purchased on eBay had a fascinating history.

**Cook County Poor Farm to Be Preserved**

A site twenty-five miles south of Chicago, which served as a working farm, an infirmary, and a burial ground for Cook County's indigents, will become the Oak Forest Heritage Preserve. If funding can be secured, the second phase of the project will allow access to records of the 90,000 people buried in the cemetery.

**Aaron and Betsey Thomas Headstones Belong to Morningside Cemetery, Malone**

Two headstones that were housed for several decades in the basement of *The Watertown Times* in Watertown, New York, were matched to the correct cemetery after publicity from a recent article.

**Sisters Unite at Christmas after a Lifetime Apart**

Half-sisters, who had not previously known about each other, recently met in Wilmington, North Carolina.

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**Upcoming Education Programs**

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Weekend Research Getaways

Spend a weekend at NEHGS delving into research, meeting with staff genealogists, learning from themed lectures, and enjoying group meals. Explore the rich offerings of the NEHGS Research Library and benefit from the knowledge of expert genealogists. Register for all three days, or choose which days to attend. Both programs are held at the NEHGS Research Library at 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.

**Winter Weekend Research Getaway — African American Family History Research**

Thursday, January 31—Saturday, February 2, 2013

**Spring Weekend Research Getaway — Organizing Your Research & Records**

Thursday, April 4—Saturday, April 6, 2013

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**NEHGS Contact Information**

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**New England Historic Genealogical Society**  
99 - 101 Newbury Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116, USA  
888-296-3447

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