

Growth of the membership of the ACGS-NH has been encouraging. From an initial membership of slightly over 40 members we now have 100 members on March 1st. Members are from the following states and Canadian province: N.H. 60; Mass. 24; Quebec 6; Conn. 4; R.I. 2; Maine 1; Vt. 1; Fla. 1; Md. 1; Calif. 1; Mich. 1. Thus we are represented in 11 states/provinces.

At a meeting of the Executive Board Jan. 23, 1974, the main topic was the feasibility of a regularly published journal. Of pertinent importance was the resignation from the editorship and as corresponding secretary by Henri Chapdelainedue to pressures from a new position. Leo Bisailon volunteered to become editor and was approved by the board. An editorial board consisting of the president and another member to be appointed later was set up. Printing costs will determine the size and frequency of the publication, so it was decided to start with a small issue twice a year. It is hoped that the first issue will be ready for the spring meeting. As funds permit, with the increase in membership, the size of the publication will increase. Ultimately it will appear quarterly.

Plans are being made for the spring meeting set for Saturday, May 4 at St. Anselm's College in Goffstown, N.H. The program will include a main speaker, subsidiary speakers, and a workshop period with reference materials. The duration of the program will be for the afternoon and early evening. Make a note on your valenderto reserve this date. We request that you bring other genealogists and interested persons with you.

A genealogy workshop was held on Feb 1, 1974 at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Armand Lagasse in Manchester, N.H. to introduce more than a dozen members to information on finding genealogical data. Basic techniques and sources were shown and several new family genealogies were started. Other workshops will be held about each month. Mrs. Lucille Lagasse has also personally met with many new members at her home for instruction and has taken some to the N.H. Bureau of Vital Statistics in Concord, N.H. A number of members who requested aid with their ancestry were referred to other members who had suitable information in their personal libraries. We hope that the more advanced members in the field may be willing to aid those starting and some having special problems.

The president, Roger Lawrence, has been granted a sabbatical leave from his teaching for the latter part of this year and he will spend his leave in Europe. He anticipated spending some of his time in genealogical research in the areas of Rouen and Paris. In the meantime several members have inquired about the feasibility of a European trip for genealogical purposes for the membership. Prof. Lawrence will investigate the facilities and availability of information. If conditions are suitable, a genealogical trip to Europe could be considered for the future.

The Sunday, February 10, 1974 issue of the New Hampshire Sunday News carried a feature article by Nancy Meersman entitled "Tracing a Family Tree May Uproot Odd Branches". It was the result of an interview of Mrs. Lucille Lagasse, the vice-president, on genealogical adventure and about our Society. The article stimulated a flow of inquiries which brought new members into the society.

The vital records of the City of Manchester have again been made available for study and research. This is due to the efforts of the President of the Society and the Right-to-Know Law. The records had been restricted for some time due to a discovered attempt at alteration of one of the records. Happily, not by a genealogist. Since space at the Office of Vital Records at the Manchester City Hall is limited, genealogists should arrange their research to periods of lessened activity for the office help. It is hoped the more working space can be made available in the future. It may be noted that the N.H. Right-to-Know Law permits any citizen of the state to inspect and copy from non-confidential records at the place of their storage during regular business hours. This access includes all vital records.

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VITAL STATISTICS RECORDS OF THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

The records of vital statistics from 164 to date for the state of New Hampshire are available for study at Concord, N.H. These include the oldest state records for

any state in the U.S. In other states the early records are not in a central location and must be obtained from cities or towns.

Location of the Records

61 South Spring St. (Lower floor) Concord, N.H. 03301

Arrangement of the Records

Births - Marriages - Deaths

These are each filed separately in four categories as follows:

Prior to 1901	}	On individual cards arranged alphabetically
1901 to 1937		Female marriages indexed on microfilm
1938 to 1948		
1949 to date	-----	Bound in volumes in chronological order

Divorces

Prior to 1938 -----Alphabetical card file
1939 to date -----Bound in volumes in chronological order

For access to the cards, merely a request for a family name is required. This is expedited by looking up the drawer number for the attendant. The alphabetical arrangement of the cards is based on a first and third letter of the name list. In this manner all the vowels possible will be in the group of cards with two consonants as first and third letters. This speeds the search for names which are spelled in a variety of ways.

To use the file of volumes with the records in date sequences, the searcher should know at least the approximate date. Random search through many volumes is not encouraged due to the handling of the material. However the Right-to-Know Law does allow this type of search. Consideration in this case, should be given to the work required of the attendant in bringing and returning many volumes, in addition to his or her routine search for requested records to be mailed out.

A fee of \$2 is required for each legal copy of records from the staff. Mail requests should include the fee.

Office Hours

Summer (App. School Vacation)	8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Winter	8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Working Facilities

One large table with 6 chairs. Comfortable and adequate space.
Two microfilm readers available.

We welcome similar descriptions of facilities for other states. Facilities for larger cities would be of interest to the members. We often assume that since we are familiar with the fact-finding techniques, others must also be. Many workers do not have the chance to work out of their own area and would appreciate knowing about other records and their availability.
