

# THE HARTWELLS OF AMERICA

(an association)

Vol. 92 - No. 1

SPRING / 1974

© 1974, ALBERT THOMAS HARTWELL<sup>9</sup>, Editor

Published by RANDOM PRESS (A Hartwell Company) 176 1/2 East 75th St., New York, N.Y. 10021

## ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN HARVARD, MASS.

**DATE:**

Saturday, June 29, 1974

**PLACE:**

Fellowship Hall, Unitarian Church,  
Harvard, Massachusetts

Driving 90, 93, 95, 495, 1, 3, 9, 24  
to Route 2 to Route 110 exit-  
south to Harvard Center.

**MOTELS:**

Mosley Motel, Routes 2A and 110  
Littleton, Massachusetts 01460

The Concordian Motel, P.O. 71  
Hosmar Street, Acton, Mass. 01720  
5 Mi. W. on SR 2, 4 Mi. E. of I-95

**LUNCHEON:**

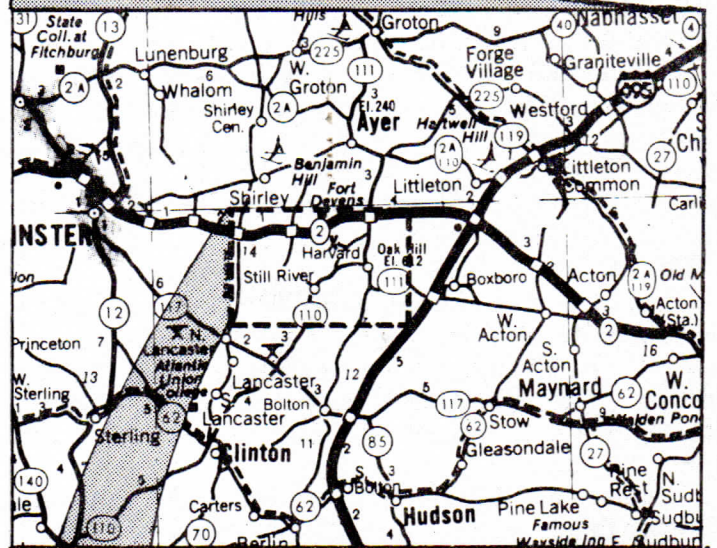
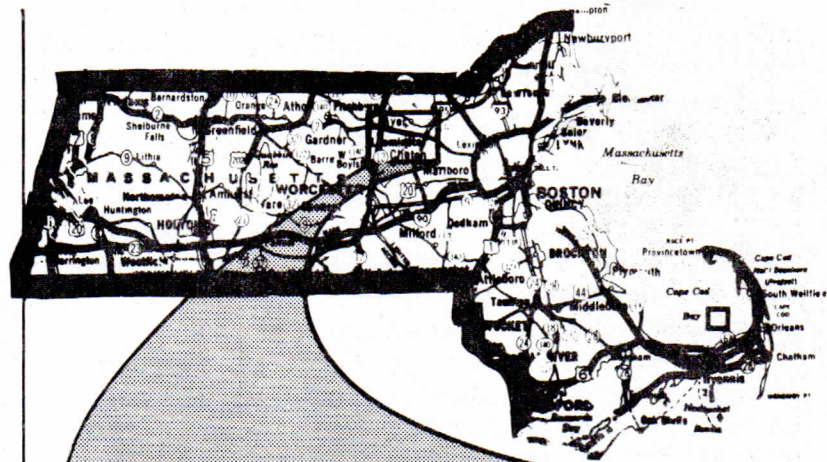
The Ladies of the Unitarian Church  
will serve another of their  
delicious lunches.

**RESERVATIONS:**

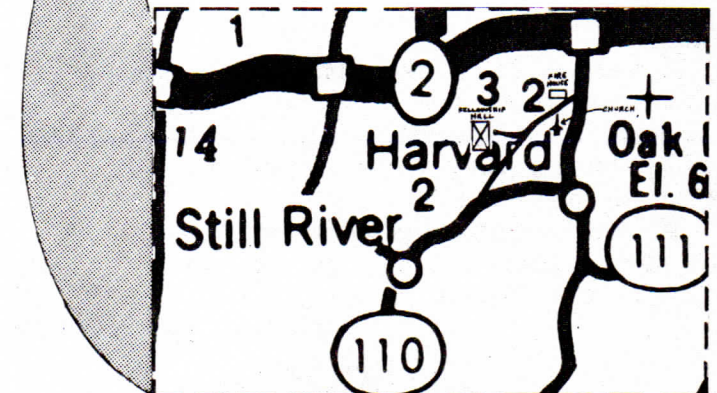
To be made by Monday, June 24, 1974  
to Mrs. Harry P. Sturdy,  
Harvard, Massachusetts 01451  
Telephone (617) 456-3941

**TIME:**

- 10:30 A.M. Gathering
- 12:00 NOON Lunch
- 1:00 P.M. Annual Business Meeting -  
Election of Officers  
Any other necessary business
- 2:00 P.M. Entertainment



(area detail from map of Mass)



(blow-up of Harvard area)

IF YOU DID NOT MAKE RESERVATIONS  
FOR LUNCH BUT FIND AT THE  
LAST MINUTE YOU CAN COME, DO SO.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Those of you who didn't get to the 36th Annual Meeting missed a mighty good time—swapping stories and experiences, and becoming better acquainted were pasttimes indulged in with much enthusiasm, the lunch was excellent and the weather was fine! Many children were present and we hope they'll "get in the habit" and attend all future meetings.

COME EARLY - one of the most important aspects of our Annual Meeting is the opportunity it provides for all of us to get to know each other a little better. FELLOWSHIP CREATES FRIENDSHIPS and even if you are a first-timer it will only be a few minutes before one of the Hartwells will have you involved in conversation and meeting the rest of the clan. New England hospitality and friendliness do abound at the Hartwell Meetings.

Everyone likes to look at family things and hear about them, so if you have a portable family heirloom at home please bring it to the meeting for display and discussion. If you cannot bring the object, let us know about it anyway.

Several Hartwell Scrapbooks will be available for those who are interested in browsing thru them and if you have newspaper clippings or other items for us to add to the scrapbooks, be sure to bring them along and give them to our librarian H. Roger Hartwell for safekeeping.

There are some attractions in Harvard which you may want to see before departing after the meeting. The Sears' Museum; The Shaker House; Indian Museum; "Fruitlands", home of Louisa May Alcott as a child.

Come at 10 am and spend the day in a beautiful place and meet your friendly cousins, I shall make every effort to be there and I hope you will too.

I would like to thank the many Hartwells who have written, sent in items of interest, and especially those who have asked me to "drop in anytime".

Please continue sending along any items at all which pertain to Hartwells.

See you in Harvard!

*Albert H. Hartwell*

## - FIRE DESTROYS HARTWELL RECORDS -

On January 10th, 1974 at about 8:30 in the evening, a fire broke out in the home of Rodney Hartwell (our Genealogist from 1961 to 1973) and destroyed four rooms in which much of his records and related materials were stored. The fire began in a section of the house, just below where the materials were stored and therefore that which was not burned was so blackened and water-soaked as to be useless to try to salvage. The cause of the fire was the hot water heater.

Since Mr. Hartwell was involved in a number of genealogical projects, and the publisher of a number of newsletters and periodicals pertaining to many family heritages—it is not yet known if all, part or any Hartwell materials were lost in the blaze. Mr. Hartwells' main headquarters were at another address, and it is possible that at least some Hartwell materials were there. We have asked Rodney to advise us as to the status of Hartwell materials in his possession after he has had time to inventory materials in storage at other addresses. We hope to include his report in our Fall Newsletter.

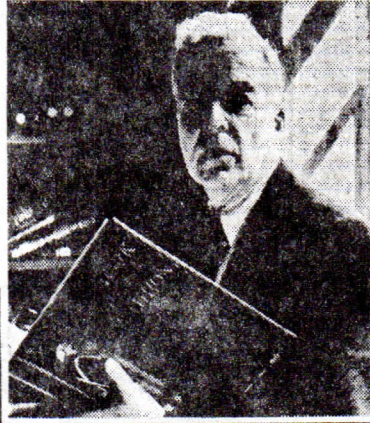
While we presume some Hartwell records were lost, we are hopeful that much of that information is contained in our own archives and those of a number of Public Libraries with Genealogical Sections.

Mr. Ray Harris of Detroit has contacted a number of these institutions, and has committed himself to the recovery of information wherever possible for which we are very grateful.

## - GENEALOGICAL HELPER -

Canadian Cousin Ernest A. Hudson has sent along some exciting news pertaining to Genealogical Research and related publications which we will subscribe to and in the Fall issue we will condense and pass the information on to you. We are indebted to you Ernest, thank you.

# Curiosity About Roots of the Family Tree Is Growing



By TOM BUCKLEY  
 These are busy days, comparatively speaking, at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society.  
 "There has been a resurgence of interest lately," said Harold Hazelton, looking across the vaulted library that occupies the top floor of the society's headquarters at 122 East 58th Street, where eight or 10 persons were

quietly perusing old books and manuscripts.  
 "Some of it has been stimulated by the national bicentennial," he said. "People who always vaguely thought that they had an ancestor who was a close associate of George Washington or some other figure of the Revolution are feeling themselves challenged to find out whether it's true or not."  
 Mr. Hazelton, a slender,

silver-haired man of 68, a descendant of Puritans who arrived in Massachusetts from Yorkshire in 1936, has been a member of the society for 30 years. He took charge of the library 10 years ago after retiring from the advertising business.  
 The society, founded in 1869 by members of the city's old Dutch and English families, now has more than 1,000 members from every

state in the country. The library, with 55,000 volumes and a large collection of manuscripts and microfilm, is a major center of genealogical research. Only the book collection is open to the public.  
 Mrs. Sara Delano Roosevelt was an active member of the society. Portraits of her son, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, his cousin, President Theodore Roosevelt, and Presidents Martin Van Buren and Calvin Coolidge hang in the board room.  
 The Roosevelts and Van Buren were members of old Dutch families. Coolidge, although not particularly distinguished from a genealogical point of view, presided at the cornerstone-laying of the society's headquarters.

### 'A Worm's-eye View'

"Genealogy is a disease once you get started on it, like detective stories or doublecrosses," Mr. Hazelton said. "It's what might be called a worm's-eye view of history, but our records are often of great value to historians."  
 The society building also houses several "lineage" organizations — the Holland, Huguenot and St. Nicholas Societies, the Society of Mayflower Descendants, the New England Society of the City of New York and the Society of Colonial Wars.  
 Officials of these organizations use the library to authenticate applications for membership. "One of our regulars is Mrs. Julian Woodward, the registrar-general of



Photographs for The New York Times by EDWARD HAUSNER

The reading room of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society at 122 East 58th Street. Inset: Harold Hazelton, library's director.

### Continued

the Society of Colonial Dames," said Mr. Hazelton, pointing out a distinguished-looking woman seated at one of the tables. "It is regarded by many people as the most prestigious of all of them."  
 Given the obscure and humble origins of the overwhelming majority of American families, an interest in genealogy, with its overtones of snobbery, has often been considered a laughable self-indulgence of the rich.  
 Many of the moguls of the gilded age tried to provide themselves with ancestries that they thought were more appropriate to their wealth and power than a line of descent that included indentured servants, hostlers and store clerks.  
 It was a dark period for professional genealogy, said Dr. Kenn Stryker-Rodda, who edits the society's Journal. "There was a lot of what we call ancestor-hunting being done," he said. "A man would decide that he wanted to be descended from William the Conqueror, and the genealogist would go ahead and do it."  
 Dr. Stryker-Rodda shook his head in dismay. "Real genealogists work, as we say, only one generation at a time. We won't proceed to great-grandparents, say, until the identity of all four grandparents has been established with certainty. Usually we require three independent sources for confirmation."

Among the problems encountered by genealogists are the relative frequency of bastardy, divorce and desertion in the country's early days.  
 "It's estimated that 17 per cent of births in colonial times were out of wedlock," he said. "Beyond that, it may be very unrealistic to trace parentage through the putative father. The mother is really the only parent you can be certain about."  
 Stryker-Rodda, who is also the president of the National Genealogical Society and a fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, an organization whose membership is limited to the 50 most eminent practitioners in the country, went on to say that it occasionally happened that clients became dissatisfied with a genealogist's findings.  
 "I don't think, though, that it happens as much as it used to," he said. "People seem to be more realistic about such things, and there is less feeling of shame about an ancestor who went wrong. You don't hear so many comments like, 'Oh, we never talk about her.'"  
 Nor are people so interested in tracing their ancestries back to European nobility, he said. "Mostly we work to the water's edge, as we say," he said.  
 An indication of the growing interest in his specialty, Dr. Stryker-Rodda said, was the fact that the membership in the national society has increased from 2,400 to 3,000 in the last four years.

It reflects a sense of rootlessness in American life, he suggested. "The three-generation family scarcely exists any more," he said. "Grandparents no longer take the youngsters on their knee and tell them about their grandparents. The sense of human continuity is lost, sad to say, and there is a growing realization that it's something precious."  
 One of the strongest forces in genealogy today, Dr. Stryker-Rodda said, is the Mormon Church. Its members have been microfilming records all over the world for 40 years or more and storing them in vaults blasted out of living rock in a mountain not far from Salt Lake City.

The reason, in simplified terms, is that Mormons believe that their ancestors back to the earliest days can be baptized retroactively, as it were, and thus ascend to Paradise with them at the Day of Judgment.  
 Dr. Stryker-Rodda, a retired school administrator, said that he had hyphenated his name, an uncommon practice in America, to preserve the heritage of his mother's side of the family, which arrived in New Amsterdam from the Netherlands in the 17th century.  
 "My father's side—Rodda is Cornish — has only been here for three generations," he said.



Mrs. George W. Gardiner, one of the library's volunteers, at work indexing the card files.

Reprinted from  
 THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1974

THE HARTWELL NEWS  
 is edited by  
 ALBERT THOMAS HARTWELL<sup>9</sup>  
 for  
 THE HARTWELLS OF AMERICA  
 (an association)  
 and published by  
 Random  
 PRESS  
 a hartwell company  
 at 176½ East 75th Street, New York, N. Y. 10021  
 Telephone (212) 734-4000



Family trees! Get your family trees here! You can't tell Uncle Harry from Cousin Sam without a family tree.

**HARTWELLS WANTED!**

If you know of a HARTWELL who is not receiving this Newsletter just use the coupon below to send us his or her name and address, and we'll make sure they get a copy from now on.

If you're reading someone else's copy, just fill in the coupon below and we'll put you on the complimentary list!

If you are in a position to donate time, service, or what have you - please let us know - we need you!

**PLEASE PRINT**

name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I can help.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zn. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zn. \_\_\_\_\_

- HARTWELL BOOKS -

We have diligently traced the publishers of one or two Hartwell books which deal with Historical Hartwells, and will be able to offer them to you at reduced rates in the Fall Newsletter.

**In Memoriam**

**Avery R. Hartwell**

...retired fireman  
Thompson & Sons

GROTON — Avery R. Hartwell of 37 Townsend St., West Groton, died yesterday at the Nashoba Community Hospital in Ayer. He was born in West Groton Sept. 16, 1887, the son of the late George and Josephine (Nutting) Hartwell. He was married to the late Adeline (Hill) Hartwell. Mr. Hartwell was educated in the Groton school system and was a retired sawmill foreman from the Thompson Sons Co. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. William (Esther) Beresford of West Groton; a son, Arnold Hartwell of Groton; and two grandchildren.

MARCH 6, 1974

**Mrs. Hartwell**  
...born in Groton

WEST GROTON — Mrs. Maude A. (Fuller) Hartwell, formerly of Pepperell road, died yesterday at the Glenwood Manor Nursing Home in Lowell. She was the widow of Ernest M. Hartwell. She was born in Groton Nov. 13, 1888, the daughter of the late Charles and Abbie L. (Stiles) Fuller and had made her home in Groton most of her life. She is survived by a son, Myron E. Hartwell of Pepperell; a daughter, Mrs. James (Maude-Smith of Lowell); and six grandchildren.

\* MR. ERNEST F. HARTWELL AT 95 resided at 5645 40th Avenue, St. Petersburg, Fla. on 1/14/73

\* In the Fall 1973 issue of the newsletter, we inadvertently listed Mrs. Ernest F. Hartwell as having passed away...we're very sorry for the error, and we are very happy to hear that she is still very active.

**HARTWELL ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM THE TREASURER**

	United States	Foreign
1636-1956 Genealogy inc. Supplement to 1968	\$13.00	\$15.00
1636-1956 Genealogy without Supplement	12.00	14.00
1968 Supplement only	2.00	2.25
Full Color Coat of Arms [of the present Baronet]	2.00	2.25
Coat of Arms Description only	.25	.30
14 page Booklet "The Hartwell Arms"	1.00	1.25

Please send orders to:

David H. Webber, Treasurer, Hartwells of America, 13 Sleigh Road, Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824.

Make checks payable to: THE HARTWELLS OF AMERICA