

THE BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Berkshire family history association, inc.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Spring 2018



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WELCOME!!

In this issue we will be giving updates including BFHA annual meeting in May, the Friends Book Sale in July, and the latest from Local History and Genealogy Department.

We hope you like it and we welcome and encourage any submissions you may like to have printed.

Happy Spring!

REMEMBER

Your membership entitles you to **2** hours of free research by a BFHA volunteer at the Berkshire Athenaeum. Some of the sources used are:

- Vital records-MA, CT, RI, VT, NY
- Knurow Collection
- Berkshire Histories
- Probate Records and Court of Common Pleas
- Loiseau Collection (Canada)

- Corbin Collection
- Census Records
- Newspapers
- Berkshire Family History Index (specialty in-house index)
- And our National Archives microfilm

HELLO FROM THE BFHA PRESIDENT

Greetings,

Often we hear researchers say, "It's all online now." Pajama genealogy in the comfort of our homes does sound very appealing. However, like the tip of an iceberg, only a tiny portion of the records needed by family historians is actually available online. Beneath the surface, the iceberg has courthouses, libraries, historical societies, and other repositories of unique information available nowhere else. Featured in this issue of *The Berkshire Family Historian* is a prime example of the unique Knurow Collection, not available online, but available only at the Berkshire Athenaeum. As a member of the Berkshire Family History Association, you have access to this collection. Volunteers here in Pittsfield can access the index to this collection and see if your Berkshire County family is represented. Copies of anything found will be sent to you.

Take note that the annual meeting of the Berkshire Family History Association will be held at 6 PM, Friday, May 18, 2018, at Zucco's Restaurant, 451 Dalton Avenue, Pittsfield. Those attending will select from Zucco's menu and self-pay, so no money needs to be sent in ahead of time. Our after dinner speaker will be Eugene Michalenko, President of the Adams Historical Society. His topic will be the history of Adams as an industrial center.

A brief business meeting will be held to elect officers for 2018-2019 and to approve minor changes to our bylaws. Reservations must be received by May 15th. Reply by email at bfhainc@gmail.com or phone Jan Rogge at 413-743-2732 and leave a message.

Finally, thank you to all of you who continue to support BFHA with your membership dollars. A special thanks goes to the MANY people who include additional donations when sending in their membership fee. That extra money is greatly appreciated and important to the fulfillment of the association's objective, which is "to research, promote, educate and encourage the study of family history and genealogy." (Article II of bylaws)

Happy Hunting,

Jan Rogge, BFHA President

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Established 1975, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

PRESIDENT

Janet M. Rogge

VICE-PRESIDENT

Angela Rifkin

SECRETARY

Margaret Rotti

TREASURER

Lauren Miller

DIRECTORS

Veronica Silvia	Clark W. Nicholls	Barbara Kelley
Michael Collins	Betty Ann Hamm	Judith Rupinski
Brenda Struthers	Arthur F. Young, Jr.	Norma Zullo
	Philip Collins	

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs-Janet Rogge Membership-Meryl Delasco
Website-Clark W. Nicholls Newsletter Editor-Michael Collins

PAST PRESIDENTS

Ronald A. Stratton, 1975-1977 Denis J. Leisieur, 1978-1982
Mary H. DeGiorgis, 1977-1978 Joseph G. Guertin, 1982-1985
Donald L. Lutes, Jr., 1985-2017



For more information please email :
bfhainc@gmail.com

or visit our Website:
<http://www.berkshirefamilyhistory.org>

Write to us:
BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY
ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1437
Pittsfield, MA 01202-1437



Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum BOOK SALE JULY 12-14

The Friends of the Berkshire Athenaeum will be holding their Summer 2018 book sale this year on July 12th, 13th, and 14th. The Friends Book Sale provides much needed funds for a wide variety of programs offered by the Berkshire Athenaeum from lectures and children's events to movies and musical performances. Without these funds the free programs offered by the Berkshire Athenaeum would not be available for the patrons of the library. Along with being a great way to find a new book, the book sale is a great way to come together as a community to help support the Berkshire Athenaeum. For more information go to the Athenaeum's web site at www.pittsfieldlibrary.org or contact the library at (413) 499-9480.



LDS Family Search Affiliate Library Information

Exciting News! The Local History and Genealogy Department is now able to access some Family Search records that originally could only be accessed through a Family Search History Center Library.

In order to access this information:

1. Patron must have their own Family Search Account.
2. They sign in with this account **IN** the library and will be able to access the records.
3. **Note:** Some records will NOT be available because of ownership permissions. They simply do not want them to be accessible to online affiliate libraries. The patron should be able to access those records at a family history center.
4. If you have any questions please contact the Local History Department at :



localhistory@pittsfieldlibrary.org or (413) 499-9480 ext 6

Resources in the Local History and Genealogy Department :

The Knurow Collection

By Michael Collins

Many visitors to the Berkshire Athenaeum's Local History and Genealogy Department may hear a staff member or volunteer say the phrase, "Let's Check Knurow..." or "Maybe it's in Knurow" when answering a question or query. For readers who have never done research at the Local History Department, we will highlight the significant collection known as The Edward R. Knurow Collection. This collection is a significant part of the BFHA Index and for those looking into surname searches, and it contains many of them which is helpful for genealogical research.

Edward R. Knurow (1909-1997), son of Polish immigrants, was born in Marlborough, Massachusetts. After serving with the Marines in World War II, Knurow settled in Lanesboro and became a Natural Resources Officer with the Pittsfield District of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation.



His job was to make sure that people were not breaking the law in the foothills and rural woods of Berkshire County. During his over 30 years of work, he plotted out unknown roads on maps, photographed interesting locales, and he made notes on the locations of ruins, abandoned buildings, and other interesting historical spots. Knurow's hand-drawn maps illustrated a unique topographical view of certain areas of Berkshire County which today may have changed over time due to weather, construction, or a lack of maintenance. These notes, photographs, and maps were the basis of an extensive collection which are now accessed via computer only in the Local History Department.

The total collection was 77 scrapbook type volumes which were acquired throughout the last three decades of the 20th Century to the Local History Department. In 2005, the entire Knurow collection was digitized and microfilmed to make it easier for researchers to access this vast wealth of Berkshire County history.

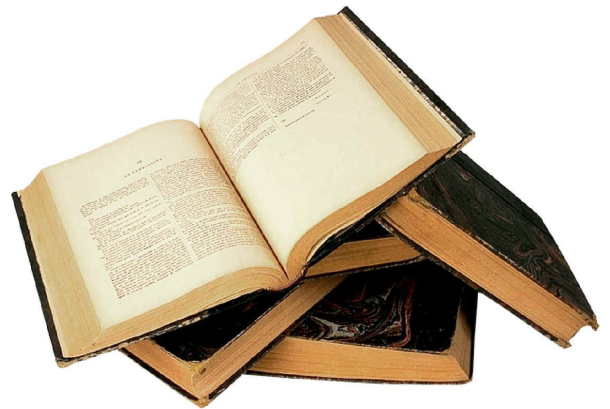
You do not need to make an appointment to view these files, but if it is your first time using the collection you may find yourself looking at files that are not part of your research. The Knurow collection is a nostalgic trip for current and former Berkshire residents and out of town researchers marvel at its breadth and distinct combination of different files. Each file is in an Adobe PDF format but you can only print from one of the computer stations but you cannot use email because none of them are connected to the internet.

So, next time you hear the name "Knurow" in the Local History Department, you now know that is just not a person's name but a very special and important record of Berkshire County history.

NEW BFHA ACQUISITIONS

The following materials have been added to the Library's Local History and Genealogy Collection for the first three months of 2018. The Library Staff wishes to thank the members of the Berkshire Family History Association, as well as all of our other thoughtful donors, for their continuing generous support of the Library. Items with an* are direct gifts from Berkshire Family History Association.

- 1994 Street List of Persons Listed by the Board of Registrars, Town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts
- 2018 Hilltown Business Directory
- Agroecology, The Universal Equations
- Annual Report of the Town of Tyringham 1975-1975
- Automobile Lunch
- Berkshire County, Massachusetts and Vicinity Cross and Search Reverse Phone, 2016
- Bibliography of American Literature, Volume 8, Charles Warren Stoddard to Susan Bogert Warner, 18,969-21,311
- Biography and Genealogy of Captain John Johnson
- Black Family Notes
- Bryant's Poems
- Can It Happen Again, Chronicles of the Holocaust
- Charlemont Family Records
- Chateau Higginson
- Darkness Falls on the Land of Light
- DeWitt Clinton & Amos Eaton
- Dickens and Massachusetts
- *Early Vermont Settlers to 1771
- Favorite Recipes of The St. Luke's Hospital Ladies' Auxiliary
- Fire Side, Morningside Community School, 4th Grade, 2017
- Flow of Time in the Connecticut Valley
- Foreign and Female, Immigrant Women In America, 1840-1930
- France and New England, 1929
- Ghosts of America-Massachusetts
- Groton Story
- Guide Book of The Long Trail, 18th edition
- Guide To Cemeteries in Essex County, Mass
- *It's All Relative
- *New York City Municipal Archives
- Record of the Martin Family, 1902
- *Sailor's Creek: Major General G.W. Custis Lee
- *Settlers of the Beekman Patent v XIII
- Windsor Phone Book and Community Directory, 1989-1991; 1993-2007; 2009-10; 2013-14; 2016-17
- Windsor Then and Now, 1984-2017



**Membership/Magazine Subscriptions:

American Communal Societies Quarterly

Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, 25th Anniversary Series,

Bulletin of the Massachusetts Archaeological Society, Inc.

Historical Journal of Massachusetts

William and Mary Quarterly

COMING IN FUTURE ISSUES

- Mystery Photos-Help identify!!
- Excerpts from our files
- What's new in the World of Genealogy?
- And.... Maybe some interesting topics of research!!

Want to get your Berkshire
Family Historian faster?

To receive future issues via email,
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bfhainc@gmail.com

BERKSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1437
Pittsfield, MA 01202-1437

bfhainc@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.berkshirefamilyhistory.org>



REMINDER

Annual Meeting:

Friday, May 18, 2018

6pm Zucco's