

# Cogswell

*"I neither despise nor fear"*  
*April 2004*



## **Cogswell Courier**

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# Cogswell Courier

## COGSWELL FAMILY NARROWLY ESCAPES DISASTER

The Southern Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, was the pride of the city. Completed in December, 1865, the elegant six-story stone structure was the largest and most prestigious hotel in a city that was becoming a major economic and cultural center.

William B. Cogswell (DJC 4466) often visited St. Louis, staying at the Southern on those occasions. In 1874 Cogswell had become superintendent of the largest lead mine in the United States. Around this operation grew the small company town of Mine La Motte, Missouri, about eighty miles south of St. Louis on a direct rail line.

Cogswell, together with his wife and daughter Mabel, lived in the old Mansion House, built before 1800 of red cedar logs, with a brick addition built in 1868. There were about twelve large rooms, each with a solid walnut cupboard and a mammoth fireplace unit. Nearby were gardens, a race track, and a polo field. No wonder the Mansion was considered the social center of the community. (The house long ago was demolished but

Mary Lieberman has two bricks salvaged from the ruins.)

On Monday, April 9, 1877, the Cogswell family left Mine La Motte for a visit to St. Louis, staying as usual at the Southern Hotel. They were accompanied by Edward J. Kimball, Mrs. Cogswell's nephew. When they retired for the night on Tuesday evening, they

had no idea that, within a very few hours, their lives would be in great jeopardy.

Around one o'clock in the morning of Wednesday, April 11, a small fire broke out in the hotel basement store-room. The first to discover the fire awakened other employees who were sleeping nearby. Using a hose and buckets, the men, believing they could contain the fire, attempted to

put it out, but no general warning was given to the hotel occupants. Unfortunately, next to the store-



*Southern Hotel, St Louis, Mo. before the April 11, 1877 fire.*

(Continued on page 2)



## Cogswell Family Narrowly Escapes Disaster

(Continued from page 1)

room was a large pile of highly combustible hair and dry moss used to stuff the hotel's mattresses. When the flames reached this pile, the fire roared out of control, melted the hotel's gas meter (thus providing a continual fuel source), surged up the nearby elevator shaft, and burst out into every hallway on each floor.

By this time the fire department alarm had been given, and then a second, and then a third. By 2:15 a.m. every engine in the city was fighting the fire or was on its way. But because the fire had had a head start of about twenty minutes, the entire hotel became vulnerable.

Aside from its load-bearing masonry walls, the elegant Southern was built of wood. Floors and woodwork were covered with varnishes and oils. The décor featured rich carpets, heavy draperies, and thick window coverings. Thus, when the fire blew out of the elevator shaft, it found fuel on every floor and wall. Immediately, all hotel guests, especially those staying on the upper floors, were in great danger of their lives.

St. Louis newspapers provide vivid accounts of the horrific events of that morning. A number of people were unable to escape the flames and were overcome. Several jumped and were killed in the fall. Two shot themselves rather than die by fire, though they were within minutes of being saved. A number were daringly rescued by firemen once they were able to get the hand-cranked aerial ladder working.

(Among those saved was Joseph Pulitzer of the *Post Dispatch*.) At least fourteen people were killed and many more injured, and the hotel was a complete loss.

And what happened to the Cogswells? The *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* of April 11 told the story succinctly: "Mr. W. B. Cogswell, wife and daughter;

and Mr. E. J. Kimball, of Mine La Motte, were among those saved. They all came down by the stairway, when the smoke was so dense as to be almost overpowering. They were the last to escape by that route." The *Globe-Democrat* reported the same story and noted that the Cogswell family had moved to the Laclede Hotel.



***Southern Hotel*** pictured after the fire of April 11, 1877

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## From the President's Desk . . . .by Pat Cogswell



Hard to believe that it's already February of 2004!

2004 is already a good year for the Cogswell Family Association.

- Claire Cogswell-Daigle, our diligent secretary, tells me our membership is still growing and that's a wonderful thing.
- It will soon be time for scholarship applications to come rolling in and I'll be ready, one more time.
- Howard Cogswell and his family are busy planning our 2004 Reunion. I'm sure Howard will give us an update real soon. I am sure we're in for a real treat! Interesting, well organized, lots of things to see and do and learn about and in a new location for the CFA.
- Don Cogswell, the CFA historian, has been hiding in his office a lot lately and mailing out packages to members who have provided him information on their history. I bet his

database number is growing too.

Let's get a jump on 2004 before it gets a jump on us. Send our newsletter editor, Mary Lieberman, something special you would like to see in the Courier...and how about a "Getting to Know You" article so we can all get to know you. Encourage your family members to send their genealogy information to our historian, Don Cogswell, so we can keep getting ready for the next edition of the Cogswell book. Encourage your family members to join the CFA. Claire Cogswell-Daigle would be more than glad to send them information on our family organization. Addresses and e-mail addresses for all the folks mentioned in this article can be found throughout this newsletter. Please be sure to renew your membership, and keep the CFA alive and well. **We couldn't do what we do without you!**

Thanks!

Pat Cogswell  
Sebring, FL

## In Memoriam

**Ralph Cogswell** (#8952) died Monday, March 22, 2004  
He lived in Agua Dulce, CA

You may contact Judy Cogswell Smith [jsmith13668@yahoo.com](mailto:jsmith13668@yahoo.com)

\* \* \*

**Ruth Smallwood** (# 8821) died in October, 2003.  
She lived in Stratham, NH



## Canadian Cogswells in World War I

from Malcolm Cogswell

The following information is from the National Archives of Canada, with a few additions and corrections from Roger Bohn (NY), Norman Cogswell (OH), and Ray Cogswell (NB). There are some slight discrepancies from data in DJC. For more, see [www.archives.ca/02/020106\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/02/020106_e.html). [Bracketed numbers below are from DJC.]

Thirteen Cogswells volunteered or were called up for service in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the war.

1. Elmer B. Cogswell [8334], born Apr. 29, 1892, Victoria, BC, son of Oliver Cogswell. A pilot who was shot down and badly wounded.
2. Fred Newcombe Bordon Cogswell [6897], born Sep. 21, 1896, Port Williams, NS, son of Mrs. Leonard Cogswell. He served about a month in training before being exempted for farm service.
3. Arthur Douglas Cogswell, born Oct. 18, 1888, Waterville, NB, died Aug. 4, 1970, son of George Cogswell [6779]. His medals are in the possession of his son, Alvah Cogswell.
4. Cole Cogswell, born Jan. 11, 1896, Oromocto, NB, died 1937 in Waterville, NS, also son of George Cogswell [6779].
5. George Ellis Cogswell, born Mar. 28, 1893 (family records say 1892) [p. 874 DJC], died Jul. 17, 1966 in McAdam, NB. Briefly in military but didn't go overseas. Brother to 3 & 4. His brother Ashley [also p. 874] was a similar case, but is unlisted in the Archives.
6. Walter Lewis (Walter Jarvis?) Cogswell, born June 29, 1891, Waterville, NB. A farmer living in Oromocto, NB, wife living in Fredericton [pp. 874, 882 DJC]. Brother to 3, 4, & 5. In military briefly but did not go overseas.
7. Charles Cogswell, born Feb. 28, 1894, River inhabitants, NS, son of David Cogswell, not in DJC.
8. Nelson Cogswell, born Aug. 10, 1897, Evanston, NS, also son of David Cogswell, not in DJC.
9. Elisha Le Forest Cogswell [8251], born Sep. 19, 1892, Woodstock, NB, son of Mrs. M. Cogswell of Fort Fairfield, ME. Wounded several times, on one occasion he crawled into no-man's-land to bring back his wounded captain, saving his life, although wounded himself in the process. In hospital he was visited by King George V who presented him with a medal. He was back in the trenches when the armistice was signed.
10. Herbert Cogswell [6790], born Jan. 12, 1869, Oromocto, NB, wife: Lillian B. Cogswell.

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Canadian Cogswells in World War !

*(continued from page 4)*

Norman H. Cogswell identifies him as Charles Herbert Cogswell [6790] (son of Elihu Cogswell [5292]), who married Lillian Peoples, saying he later moved to Lowell, MA, where he was with the fire department. A story told of him is that when he joined the fire department, it was composed mainly of Irishmen. Herbert had lived among Irish in New Brunswick and could imitate the accent, which helped him be accepted. However, when someone noted that he had not been seen at Mass, he said he wouldn't be, since he was Baptist. The fire department kept him anyway.

11. Herbert Cogswell, born Jan. 19, 1879, in Oromocto, NB, wife: Lillian Bertha Cogswell. Ray Cogswell identifies him as Andrew Herbert Cogswell [6784], born Feb. 19, 1874 (son of George H. Cogswell [5288]), who married Lillian Brown. He was sent home when he was kicked by a horse and his leg was broken. For this or other injuries, he received a small pension. The family lived in the Devon area of Fredericton, NB. Their children were Oriol, Eldon, Lloyd, Agnes, and Cyril.

12. John Roy(al George) Cogswell, born June 17, 1888, Baxter's Harbour, NS, son of John Newton Cogswell [6829] of Canning, NS. Wife: Loretta Cogswell. Family sources suggest that he was a sergeant at the time of his enlistment, but the government form shows no military service. It does indicate he served fourteen months as a guard in a POW internment camp. His father was married to his first cousin Minnie A. Cogswell, daughter of Amos Cogswell [5298]. John Royal was the father of Mary Ellen Cogswell, mother of Roger Bohn.

13. William Cogswell, born Mar. 14, 1882, in Glasgow, Scotland, living in Chicago. (May have been an American who preferred to fight in the Canadian army to avoid being drafted in the American army). Son of William Cogswell. Husband of Julia.

\* \* \* \* \*

In addition, the Virtual War Memorial lists only one Cogswell since 1884: Cecil Edward Cogswell. Private, died June 4, 1917, from appendicitis at age 29. However, family records and the 1901 Canadian Census say he was born June 7, 1898, making him almost 19 when he died. He was the brother of 12 above, and was also a guard in the same POW camp in Amherst, NS. He was in the Canadian Militia, not the Canadian Expeditionary Force. He is buried in Billtown (Lakeview) Cemetery, Kings County, NS. (See <http://198.103.134.2/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/Virtualmem>.)



## Cogswell Connections: William H. Prescott

William Hickling Prescott [DJC 2282], one of the greatest American historians of the nineteenth century, was born in Salem, Massachusetts, on 4 May 1796. He graduated from Harvard in 1814. While there, one of his eyes was injured by a piece of bread thrown by a fellow student, and shortly thereafter he became nearly blind. This caused him to abandon his intended career in law. After a while he turned to historical writing, specializing in Spanish history. Over the years he obtained a large number of valuable manuscripts from Spain. Employing a reader and using a special writing case, he became enormously successful.

His first important work was *The History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella* (1838). This was followed by two classic writings, *The History of the Conquest of Mexico* (1843) and *The History of the Conquest of Peru* (1847). Although his eyesight was almost gone, he started a major project, *The History of the Reign of Philip II* (1855), completing three volumes before his death.

In 1850 he was awarded an honorary degree by England's University of Oxford. He was also a member of the Royal Academy of Berlin and the Institut de France.

Prescott's writing style made his narratives read almost like fiction, and his histories became very popular. His painstaking scholarship laid the basis for the work of later historians, whose research has since gone beyond his. However, his works are still highly regarded as literature. Prescott died in Boston on 28 January 1859.

John Cogswell -- Elizabeth Thompson  
Simon Tuttle -- Sarah Cogswell  
John Tuttle -- Martha Ward  
Jonathan Hale -- Susanna Tuttle  
William Prescott-- Abigail Hale  
William Prescott -- Catherine Green Hickling  
William Hickling Prescott -- Susan Amory



## From the Secretary's Computer

By Claire Cogswell-Daigle



*Hello Cousins,*

*Hope you all had a healthy winter.*

*On our past Christmas card the author's name was left off and I think you should all know who drew that beautiful painting we had on our card.. The artist was Robert Geiringer. The mistake was made by the printer.*

*Dues have been sent and your replies have been wonderful. Thank you very much.*

*Information will be out soon about the reunion. Date is not determined at this time. September or October 2004 in Jacksonville, FL*

*If any one has any pictures with Cogswells on them that could be used for our next Christmas card, I would love to hear from you. And yes, I will return the picture to its owner.*

*Have a great spring and summer and hope to see you all at the reunion.*

*It is going to be a lot of fun.*

*Your secretary,*

*Claire*



## **The Cogswell Family Association Welcomes The Following New Members Into The Family**

***Mr. & Mrs. William Erickson***

***Vancouver, WA***

***Charles Earl Cogswell, Jr.***

***Portsmouth, NH***

***Dean Gerard Cogswell***

***Dover, NH***

***Robert & Patricia Gill***

***Naples, FL***



## Cogswell Family Narrowly Escapes Disaster (Continued from page 2)

In the aftermath, the question arose: Once the fire started, how could it have reached such tragic proportions? Subsequent investigations, including a coroner's jury, found many contributing factors. The two major ones were the failure to call the fire department immediately and the failure to evacuate the guests immediately, even as a precaution. Moreover, the staff had been poorly trained to deal with a fire emergency. In addition, of 296 heat-sensing fire alarms recommended by the insurance underwriters, only 24 had been installed and most of these were in the least needed locations, while others were set so high that it was unlikely that a fire would make them go off. Thus the hotel really had no effective fire safety system.

On page 2 of the Sunday morning edition of April 15, 1877, the following appeared:

### Statement of a Victim

To the Editor of the Globe-Democrat:

MINE LA MOTTE, MO., April 14, 1877.—Having been a loser at the late Southern fire, I would like to say a word about it on a point not touched upon: the criminal liability of the persons in charge of the hotel at the time the fire was discovered, for their persistent efforts in preventing all alarm to the inmates. I refer to statements as per G.-D. of the 12th inst., of the clerk, Mr. Shepherd and Capt. Thorwegan, and of the 13th of Mr. J. M. Harper and my own below. Mr. Kimball, who was of my party, heard men in the halls at 1:35 say that there was no use disturbing any one, as the fire was nearly all out. He was up, but did not think there was any

use calling me. In about fifteen minutes after I was awakened by calling in Fifth street that the hotel was on fire, and Mr. Kimball knocking at my door. At 1:58 o'clock I was out on the sidewalk with my party. At the time I was awakened the roof was on fire. Had we had fifteen minutes notice we could have saved everything--one half hour's notice could have been given to every one in the house. At the time we passed down the stairs nearest the Fifth street entrance, from the fourth floor, the banisters of the stairs on the fifth floor were nearly all burned off, and we went down literally through a rain of fire. Yours truly,

W. B. Cogswell

The Southern Hotel fire was headline news across the country, of course, and questions of fire safety arose in cities and legislatures. Sales of rope ladders for installation in hotel rooms and boarding houses rose significantly. Slowly, over the years, changes were made in the design of hotels to maximize the number of exits from upper floors, to install effective fire alarms, to require staff training, and to provide fireproof elevator doors. Tragically, the Southern Hotel and its fire victims were the ones who had to pay the price of neglect.

\* \* \* \*

[A puzzling note: Mabel Cogswell's diary entry for April 9th: "We leave this morning for St. Louis." The next entry is for April 17th, with no mention of the fire then or later!]



## “Getting to Know You” About Mary Lieberman (Editor CFA Courier)

**Date of Birth:** April 20, 1927

**Place of Birth:** Boston, MA

**Parents:** Herbert Cogswell and Sarah Alice (Hood) Button

**Sibling:** Barbara Cogswell (Button) Filipski (deceased)

**Places Lived As A Child:** Concord, MA, Cazenovia, NY, Syracuse, NY, Buffalo, NY

**Places Lived As An Adult:** Camillus, NY, Syracuse, NY, Washington, DC, Ada, OH, Saint Cloud, MN

**Early Childhood:** I spent my formative childhood years growing up in Cazenovia, NY. This is a beautiful small town, 20 miles east of Syracuse, NY on US Route 20. It is on a lake where we could swim and sail. We lived next door to my father's sister and her children. It was like being part of a big family.

My grandfather had a farm and apple orchards just outside of town where we could keep horses. I can't imagine any better place to have been raised. I have always felt very fortunate to have had that experience.

**Marital Status:** I have been married since August 23, 1952 to Hal Lieberman.

**Children:** We have five children: Our oldest son, David Allen, is married to Tracey Gibbons. They have two children: Maura Devon, age 20, and Max David, age 15. Our older daughter Kim Alison is divorced. She has one daughter, Alisha Su Fujita, age 13. Our second son, Brock Douglas, and younger daughter, Mardi Brooke, are not married. Third son Ross Andrew is married to Cathy Hall. They have two children: Brandon Scott, age 20, and Mackenzie Brooke, age 12.

**Religion:** Unitarian

**Education:** I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Recreation and a Master of Science degree in Community Counseling from Saint Cloud State University.

**Occupation:** I have worn many hats. Briefly, from the 1960s to 1980 we raised Morgan horses and others. I taught horsemanship with the help of the rest of the family, especially David and Kim who did much of the teaching as they got older. All the children rode and showed horses from a very early age. At one time we had 28 horses on our 20 acre farm. There was plenty of work to go around. Eventually I set up and developed a horsemanship program for St. Cloud State University.

During this time span I also took classes at the University and managed to get my degrees.

After I got my Master's we sold most of the horses and I gave up teaching and worked in the area of eating disorders and chemical dependency.

**Family Life:** My husband Hal became a University professor. He had taught at Syracuse University and at Ohio Northern University in Ada, OH. We moved to St. Cloud State University where he taught for thirty years, many as the Social Science Department Chairman. The University had a Laboratory School for the children so there were several years when all seven of us attended the University. It also gave us the opportunity to spend several fantastic years in Great Britain. These experiences were very valuable to all of us. Obviously the University and horses pretty much dominated our lives for many years.

We have had a pretty good life, all said and done.





# This and That

## Correction

The caption above the poem on page 10 of the December 2003 *Cogswell Courier* should have read as follows:

Jeannette Cogswell read this poem for us at the banquet in Fredericton, New Brunswick. It was written by Mabel (Cogswell) Smith [DJC 8234], who is the aunt of Ray Cogswell [9534]. Mrs. Smith wrote this poem just before her 97th birthday this year. She still lives in her own home in Iroquois Falls, Ontario.

## From the *Essex Society of Genealogists News*, Spring 2004:

The Bennington [VT] Museum's library began in the early 1950's by focusing on data about pioneering families who settled Bennington starting in the 1760's. Because these early settlers all came from Connecticut and Massachusetts, followed by a few from Rhode Island and New York state, the library grew into a major research facility for New England genealogy. Resources include about 1500 published genealogies, census indexes, Revolutionary War payroll records, town and county histories for the New England states, and a diverse collection of Vermontiana. Last year the library acquired the full microfilmed set of Vermont vital records from the official state repository at Middlesex. These include every birth, marriage, and death recorded in all Vermont municipalities.

The library offers newly expanded quarters

that feature more space for patrons as well as books. Future plans may include the acquisition of computers for use by patrons, increasing use of CD resources, and the eventual incorporation of curatorial books and the museum's manuscript and photograph collections.

Because so many Vermonters in the early 19th century migrated westward to settle the new American continent, the collection of Bennington has taken on significance for genealogists nationally. During the current year, for example, the library has handled about 250 research queries from persons in virtually all fifty states. Most seek information about their ancestors in Vermont. The library has about thirty volunteers who assist patrons and help with the research sent by querists.

The Bennington Museum is located at 75 Main St. (Route 9), one mile west of the intersection of Routes 7 and 9 in downtown Bennington, Vermont. For more information about the museum, call 802-447-1571 or visit the website at [benningtonmuseum.org](http://benningtonmuseum.org).

## CFA Member Publishes Book

Claire Cogswell-Daigle wishes you to know: we have a very talented member **Barbara Haskell** PO Box 155 Howland ME 04448-0155 who has published a book of poems "From the Heart." Anyone interested in purchasing it may do so by contacting Barbara or Lincoln News, West Broadway, Lincoln, ME 04457. Price is \$7.95 and that includes shipping and handling.



## Born on the Old Indian Trail By David Lyman Taylor

Submitted by Peg Simons

I was born along the old Indian trail which is now Route 92. That was on July 15, 1915, when my father, the Rev. Palmer N. Taylor, was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal churches in Jackson and North Jackson.

My father had graduated from Warren High School in northwestern Pennsylvania and then--probably in summers before he attended colleges: Westminster and Allegheny, to be specific--spent some time as a registered photographer for the National Press Association taking pictures and doing research on the Cornplanter Reservation near there. The Cornplanter village and the memorial stone (an obelisk, I think) which marked the old Seneca center had to be moved later to make room for the Allegheny Reservoir.

From 1908 to 1912, Palmer Taylor attended Drew Theological Seminary in Madison, NJ. In March of 1911, he had been ordained deacon at the New York East Conference in New Rochelle, NY, and in March, 1912, he was admitted on trial in the Wyoming Conference and appointed to a six-point circuit in Springville township, Susquehanna county. He served as a circuit rider, galloping around from Springville, where the parsonage was, to Dimock, to Lynn, to Lymanville, to Lemon, to his smallest congregation which met in the schoolhouse in East Lynn. Then he was ordained an elder. In this adventure, he fell in love with and married his Lynn choir director, a schoolteacher, Bessie Elizabeth Cogswell, in August, 1912. Dick was traded for a gentle mare, Grace, and a buggy.

Bessie, my mother, was the daughter of Gideon Lyman Cogswell [DJC 4263] and Mary Elizabeth "Libbie" Cornwell. Lyman had lived in

Auburn township, but by the time he married Libbie, his third wife, he was living in Lynn. They had two children: Irwin and Bessie. In April, 1914, Palmer and Bessie, my parents, were moved to Hop Bottom (Foster) and Lakeside, but they stayed only one year until being appointed to Jackson and North Jackson, where they stayed until March of 1918, when they moved west to Randolph, NY, in our first car, a 1917 Model T.

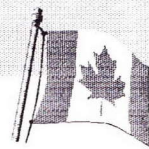
In recent years, we have revisited all these places and found the Jackson church still standing but derelict, the parsonage there apparently gone, and the church at North Jackson still in use. Also gone is the old hotel in Jackson. But in 1941, when my wife and I had visited Jackson on our honeymoon to see where I was born, we found the Hugh Robertses retired but very much alive at the hotel. Somewhere I have a picture of my wife wearing an antique hand-carved milkmaid's yoke (for carrying two buckets simultaneously)--one of many antiques saved by the hotel proprietors, who were my parents' closest friends in Jackson.

When I was a baby in Jackson (until 2 years, 8 months), I was cared for some of the time by Auntie Roberts, whom I called "Annie Abo," and Uncle Hugh, translated as "Sunny Sue." Young as I was, I have vague recollections of about three experiences, probably reinforced by my Dad's photos.

The Roberts' hotel, longer from west to east though on a north-south road, was quite a large building as we knew it, and in need of paint. It stood on the east side of the old road, which was of course unpaved in those days. The parsonage

*(Continued on page 13)*





## Canadian Connections

by Malcolm Cogswell

### Two British Cogswell "Home Children" Shipped to Canada in 1875

From 1869 to 1948 more than 100,000 children were immigrated from Great Britain to work on farms in the rapidly growing rural communities across Canada. While this program, administered by groups with the approval of the British Government, was created with good intentions and the promise of a better life, its results were often tragic...

In times of economic crisis [in Britain], many parents placed their children in the care of "charitable" society homes as a temporary expedient until times improved. Unfortunately, these societies viewed child emigration as a solution to poverty and overcrowding in Britain's cities. Parental consent to a child's emigration was often overlooked, and many parents were never informed of their children's emigration. Others would receive written notification only after the ship carrying their children had left port.

During these years, there existed a shortage of agricultural labour in Canada... Within days or weeks of the children's arrival in Canada, they would be placed on farms to work for their

keep... It is now clearly evident that many were ill-treated, neglected and overworked. Today, many of the surviving Home Children still carry the emotional scars resulting from forced emigration from homeland and separation from families at such a young age.

Most Home Children would never return to their homes or their families... Today more than four million people are directly descended from the original 100,000 Home Children who landed on Canada's shores.

In 1875 two boys, each named George Cogswell, one aged 15, the other aged 7, arrived in Canada. They came on the SS Polynesian which left Liverpool, England, on Sept. 2, 1875, and arrived in Quebec city ten days later on Sept. 12th.

I don't know what happened to them after that. My source says only that the children on that ship went to various destinations.

But some Canadian (and maybe some American) Cogswells may be descended from them.

**Did you know?** The first editor of *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* was the **Rev. Dr. William Cogswell** [DJC 874]. For forty years he collected data on Cogswells, and it was his work and interest that inspired E. O. Jameson's 1884 publication of *The Cogswells in America*. For more detail on William Cogswell's life and work, see #411 in the Jameson book.



## Born on the Old Indian Trail

(Continued from page 11)

was across from it on the west side, set back from the road on a hillside lot. My father told me that the 2000-foot contour crossed the lower (SE) corner of the lot. If so, the foundation of the house was at about 2010 and the second floor, where I was born, 2020, which happens to be the exact altitude of my study in North Carolina where this is being written! My father had brought up the subject of altitude because he had heard, he said, that to qualify as a genuine "hillbilly," one had to have been born above the 2000-foot contour. (So now, though I am in the southern Blue Ridge rather than the northern, I can identify with the natives here! I have speculated that my father was jealous, since he was born at sea-level on Long Island!)

Since I have published two volumes of family history, and both are available in the collections of the Susquehanna County Historical Society, of which I am a member, there are many more details of my lineage and of my family's history there in these books, the second one published for me by my cousin, Dr. Howard Lyman Cogswell of Hayward, CA, the son of Irwin S. Cogswell, my mother's brother. The books are: *A Heritage of Leavers*, Vol. 1: *The Taylors and the Spinks*, copyright 1991, and *A Heritage of Leavers*, Vol. 2: *The Cogswells and the Lymans*, copyright 1996.

The second volume is of particular interest since it names many who have resided or still

reside in Auburn and Springville townships and near Lemon and Silvara in adjacent counties.

To get back to the old Indian trail, now Route 92, readers of our early history will recall that the Senecas and others of the Six Nations had sided with England in the Revolution, and were driven out by American soldiers, enabling the settlement of northeastern Pennsylvania in the 1790's after the Pennamite War between Connecticut and Pennsylvania. It was 1794 when our earliest ancestor in that area, Edward Cogswell ("Uncle Ned") came from New England to Slocum Hollow (present-day Scranton), then to Silvara by way of Frenchtown (Azilum). His son Julius, who married Eunice Lyman, daughter of Gideon Lyman of Lymanville (1803), established in 1917 the Cogswell Farm where Howard was born (now owned by Andrew and Mary Albano) near Auburn Four Corners.

That is familiar territory to me, an Indian lover, now near Cherokee, NC, but in my romantic youth a neighbor to Senecas, so I get a special kick out of learning that I was born on the old Indian trail to Windsor (where some of my grandmother's relatives settled), though in a time when it had become the village of Jackson!

\* \* \*

from the Susquehanna County Historical Society  
*Journal of Genealogy and Local History*, November, 1998

## The Light Bulb Question

Question: How many genealogists does it take to screw in a light bulb?  
Answer #1: None actually; they are more interested in knowing about the first bulb that occupied the socket. Answer #2: Two; one to screw in the bulb, the other to document the occasion for posterity.

--*The Pathfinder*, Genealogical Association of SW Michigan, Vol. 25, No. 2



## In Memoriam

*Claire O'Callaghan, died Portland Oregon, December 2003*



Claire O'Callaghan was the heartbeat of her family, the Don Quixote of their souls and, as her children and grandchildren sang at her bedside, she danced away to another world. She was 83.

Claire was born in Seattle but grew up in Salem, OR. Her parents owned a dairy where she worked alongside her sister Jean. She graduated from Salem High and attended the University of Washington and was a second generation Chi Omega. She loved to dance and studied ballet and tap and was still tapping away into her '70s.

In 1941, Claire married Pat O'Callaghan in a little white church overlooking Pearl Harbor. Days later the Japanese attacked and the enemy planes were so low and close that she could see the pilots' faces. Pat fought in the European campaign and when the war was over they made their home in Oregon. She raised six children: Lane, Colleen, Molly, Peggy, Mike and Patrick. Husband Pat was a contractor and that required nine major family moves and in this challenge she taught her children the importance of work. They picked berries, beans and apples; addressed and stuffed envelopes for pennies and sold Kool-Aid in those long hot summers. She was fiery, firm and directed but always found time for play. She took her children on picnics and swimming and made life an adventure with a smile and laugh that was intoxicating. People loved Claire and she made friends like Betty who stayed beside her for a lifetime.

Claire also developed an extended family full of exotic adopted daughters and friendly misfits who needed a meal and a place to stay. In 1960, she read William Nickerson's "How I turned a \$1,000 into a Million in My Spare Time" and so she began to invest in real estate. Eventually, she owned farms in Tualatin and Hawaii, a home in Mexico, a gold mine outside Cottage Grove in the Bohemian Mountains, fixed-up apartments and houses and created a significant estate which she shared generously with her family. Her 23 grandchildren and great grandchildren could always count on Nana's birthday checks and Christmas gifts. She raised cattle, rode horses and camels, and traveled all over the world, priding herself at having swum naked in five different oceans.

She was the Fertile Mahkahee, the Golden Girl, La Grande Dame. A masters swimming champion, Claire set two national records: She was an extra in a Paul Newman movie and was his titillating bridge partner between scenes. She liked little tricks and magic wands and her electric spirit was galvanizing. She breathed life into the mundane with a point of view that was a cocktail of delight. She was a member of the Kona Yacht Club Hawaii and caught and cooked crayfish for the annual Tualatin Crayfish festival. She wore bows, top hats, silver shoes, anything that sparkled and brought an irreverent sense of humor to every event and gathering.

The years passed and Pat was stricken with cancer and died in Kealahou, Hawaii in 1987. In 1989 she married "Papa John Ackley" who brought her comfort and rich companionship as they grew frail together.

As Claire moved toward her transition, the light in her life seemed to emanate from the faces of her children. Her struggle was not easy, but she did so with grace, courage and dignity. On Claire's last day her family covered her with rose petals and sang "The Hokie Pokie." She had sparkles in her hair, wore silver shoes and as the curtain fell she seemed to bow out; sighing, "Honey, I'm off to join the circus."

The family will hold a Big Ol' Irish Wake in celebration of Claire's life at the home of her daughter Colleen.

[Claire O'Callaghan was the great-great-granddaughter of John Cogswell [DJC 4116]. See "Oregon Pioneers--John and Mary Gay Cogswell" in the August 2001 issue of the *Cogswell Courier*. The above obituary was sent by Claire's daughter, Molly Jane Gorgor, of Wilsonville, OR.]



## Kay Lamb Takes Genealogical Research To New Heights

By Terri Likens, Roane Newspapers, Rockwood TN

Some people trace their family tree. Kay Lamb's genealogical research has amassed into something more like a forest.

For half a century, the longtime Rockwood resident has dug up family roots, revealing common ancestry with the likes of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Oliver Wendell Holmes and even Princess Di.

The famous people aren't the ones that really hold her interest, however.

"History is just plain old people doing plain old things," Lamb said in a soft Southern accent blended with a hint of her Canadian and New England ancestry. "History is nothing but us."

She lived in Massachusetts when she met Ben Lamb, then a young Harvard Business School student from Rockwood. After marrying and making her home in Rockwood, she took her husband up to Canada where many of her relatives lived.

"I wanted him to know I had family too" she said.

While in Nova Scotia, she noticed a discrepancy on the gravestone of her father and wanted to learn more. Her grandmother had given her a family history going as far back as she knew.

She began writing to relatives and contacting census bureaus.

"It was a wonderful outlet," Lamb said.

That outlet became even more important when her husband became ill and began a nearly decade-long decline before his death. As his condition worsened, she was able to sit quietly near his bedside and write letters to agencies that kept records or to other genealogists.

She researched both his and her sides of the family.

"I go out as far as I can go," she said.

Lamb's tenacity has earned her something of a reputation in the genealogical world. She has found much of her research and shared it with others. She also has written articles for genealogy publications in Canada and New England.

Lamb also marvels at the coincidences she discovered along the way, such as centuries-gone relatives whose lives parallel her own.

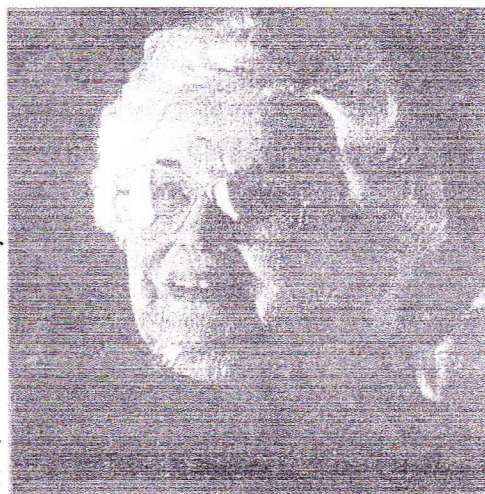
She has developed a wealth of contacts along the way, and sometimes finds help from perfect strangers. More than once, she has put a query out and had absolute strangers go collect records for her.

"I get half a dozen letters a day at least, from all over the country," she said.

People who want to dig into their own family histories often seek Lamb out. Her best advice isn't on where to look or whom to contact, but on what to expect when they start looking.

She warns them to expect anything because they are likely to find some surprises.

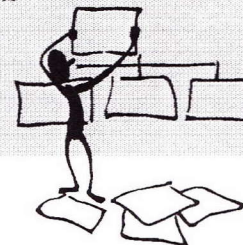
"People are people," she says. "They do some funny things."



**"History is just plain old people doing plain old things. History is nothing but us."**

[Kay Lamb is Kathleen Allen Parkman Lamb ( DJC 8119)]





## From the Editor's Den

...By Mary Lieberman

This past winter has seemed very long. This week, however, (the first of spring) promises temperatures in the 40s and 50s for the first time since last fall.

Spring is always the harbinger of good things to come. As I look out across the yard and the garden it also reminds me of the challenges of tackling all those chores that I was unable to finish last fall. The horses are beginning to shed out their reminder of a very cold winter. That challenges me to give them a good bit of help with the curry combs and brushes. (The birds love all that hair to line their nests.) Our resident herd of some 20-plus deer that has delighted us all winter will soon leave for better pastures and leave me with the challenge of a massive tree trimming job.

You may well wonder what all of this is leading up to. I hoped it would be some sort of metaphor for all you CFA members and that spring, however it develops in your part of the world, could inspire you to see an acceptable challenge in doing something for our organization in the weeks ahead. Perhaps you could recruit a new

member or two, or do a little research on your Cogswell family line. Perhaps you would find a story about one of them and would like to share it with the rest of us (in the *Courier*, of course)

Howard Cogswell of Jacksonville FL has really accepted a big challenge. He will be hosting the Cogswell Family Association reunion in the fall. He would really appreciate your making plans to attend the reunion and perhaps you could encourage other members and friends to be there as well.

Now I will wish you a challenging spring and a rewarding summer until I meet you all at the reunion.



Deadline  
for August  
Courier is  
July first.



## Our New Cogswell Descendant

Prescott C. Cogswell (8973) and Helen Preece have a new daughter.

Elizabeth Patricia Cogswell. She was born November 7, 2003.

Her proud grandparents are Prescott E. and Wilma Cogswell from San Clemente, CA



# Cogswell Family Association

"Descendants of John Cogswell" Order Form

Complete the appropriate fields (please print) and mail to address shown below.

Ship to:

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Payment by: Check Only Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Cogswell Family Association, Inc.**

And mail to:  
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Payment Policy: Prepaid

Item No.	Description	Unit / Cost	Quantity	Total
	"Descendants of John Cogswell"			
	CFA Members	1st copy / \$55.00		
	Additional Copies	each / \$50.00		
	Non-Members	1st copy / \$65.00		
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	CFA Membership 1 year	Individual / \$20.00		
	* CFA Membership qualifies purchaser for members price above	Family / \$30.00		
Select	Handling, packaging, and:			
	Priority U.S. Mail	each / \$9.40		
- OR -	4th Class Book Rate (US Only)	each / \$4.55		
	U.S.P.S. Insurance (optional)	each / \$1.60		
- OR -	Ship to Canada	each / \$9.00		
		<b>Total Due:</b>	-----	\$

Special Instructions:

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To inquire about your order: Phone: (863) 471-2735 Fax: (863) 471-6235  
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1. Name of the person	2. Age
3. Sex	4. Marital Status
5. Education	6. Occupation
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9. Date of Admission	10. Date of Discharge
11. Name of the Hospital	12. Name of the Doctor
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19. Name of the Speech Therapist	20. Name of the Music Therapist
21. Name of the Art Therapist	22. Name of the Recreation Therapist
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27. Name of the Family Representative	28. Name of the Community Representative
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31. Name of the Board Representative	32. Name of the Advisory Committee Representative
33. Name of the Accreditation Representative	34. Name of the Regulatory Representative
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53. Name of the Sustainability Representative	54. Name of the Green Building Representative
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59. Name of the Noise Representative	60. Name of the Light Representative
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73. Name of the Air Non-ionizing Representative	74. Name of the Air Electromagnetic Representative
75. Name of the Air Static Representative	76. Name of the Air Acoustic Representative
77. Name of the Air Vibration Representative	78. Name of the Air Shock Representative
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99. Name of the Air Diffraction Representative	100. Name of the Air Interference Representative

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