

SARGENTRIVIA

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Ziegler Sargent, editor; Agnes W.B. Sargent, assistant editor.

Murray Sargent, son of Henry Bradford Sargent, entered the New York Hospital for an emergency operation on April 3d. He returned to his apartment after twelve days. On April 21st he and Mary, his wife, motored to New Haven among other things to see a performance at Yale's Pierson College of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" in which their son John and nephew Roderick Engert had chorus parts.

Ruth Kingsbury Sargent, Jane Cater Sargent, Elizabeth Collier Sargent, Elizabeth Day Sargent, Laura Rice Deming and ye assistant editor were joint hostesses at Our Society meeting on April 21st at Ruth's home, Ridge Road, North Haven, Conn. Our Society is an ancient charitable sewing club founded in 1831 or 1832 to provide women's and children's garments for the needy. The membership is now limited to 130, with preference given to daughters of members in the filling of vacancies. Because of its size only three or four meetings (afternoon and supper) are held each year. To-day the work is concentrated on diapers. In the early days some gentlemen are known to have attended the meetings as guests, but for more than a hundred years all males have been excluded. Perhaps their presence was found a hindrance to the production of garments.

The address of Norman Pettit, son of Millicent Lewis Pettit, is, until August 1st, Box 1313, Mather Air Force Base, Calif. He enlisted in the Air Force in August 1948.

Jane Cater Sargent, wife of Lawton G. Sargent, recently spent three weeks at Macon, Ga., visiting one of her sisters. She motored back to New Haven with Richard and Ruth Sargent (son and daughter-in-law of George Lewis Sargent) who had been spending a winter vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida.

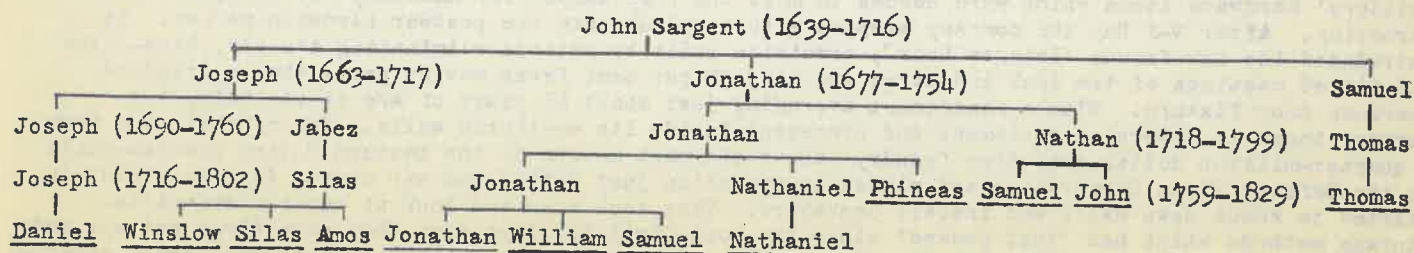
William P. Sargent, Jr., wrote on April 9th that he and Marion, his wife, ".... have changed our address from 111 West 11 Street, New York, N.Y., to 108-53 64th Road, Forest Hills, L.I., N.Y. I got a new job on February 1, and am now in the Market Research Department of Charles Pfizer and Co., Brooklyn, who are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year. They are manufacturing chemists, their principal products being antibiotics (penicillin and streptomycin), citric acid and vitamins."

James C. Sargent, son of Murray Sargent, with Becky, his wife, and Stephen, their son of twenty months, were welcome visitors at the publication office for the week-end of April 9th. Family visits and tennis doubles (in which ye editor joined) were features of their stay. They are seeking a larger apartment than their present one at 529 East 84th Street, New York.

Sargent & Company's hardware is installed in the new Shamrock Hotel, which opened at Houston, Texas, on March 17th. Some 4000 Integra locks (with the complicated system of masterkeying required by large hotels), also door closers, exit bolts, etc., are on the building. The opening of the hotel had a great deal of publicity, notably an illustrated article in Life.

Sargent & Company employees' monthly magazine, Keyways, for April contains a story about the "grandfather's clock" of Nathan Sargent (1718-1799) and how the lead weights were melted up in April 1775 to provide bullets for the Leicester Minute Men, who, including his son Samuel, were on their way to Cambridge. William Parker Sargent, Jr., who acquired the heirloom by inheritance, lent the picture which accompanied the article. Sargentrivia of April 5, 1945, contained a brief account of the incident.

Twelve Sargents were soldiers in the American Revolution, according to the Sargent Genealogy of 1895. Nine were from Leicester, Mass., and three (the brothers Winslow, Silas and Amos) from Malden. The Revolutionary soldiers are underlined in the following genealogical chart, which shows their relationship. None of the descendants of Joseph Denny Sargent (1787-1849) can qualify through a Sargent ancestor for membership in the Daughters or the Sons of the American Revolution. Daniel was a brother of Joseph (1757-1787) and an uncle of Joseph D. (1787-1849). John (1759-1829) was the grandfather of Homer Earle Sargent (1822-1900).



SARGENTRIVIA

BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARIES

- May 3 - (7th) Linda Sargent, daughter of Richard Collier Sargent, Jr.
 (6th) Faith Sargent Lewis, daughter of Wilfred Sargent Lewis
 5 - Harry Harland Skerrett, Jr., husband of Sylvia Murray Tilney Skerrett
 (24th) Vincent Roy Mikeshook, husband of Catherine Virginia Deming Mikeshook
 7 - (6th) SARGENTRIVIA
 8 - (25th) Dorothy Joan Wiser MacDougall, daughter of Dorothy Sargent Wiser
 9 - Bruce Fenn, 2d, son of Russell Sargent Fenn
 (21st) Michael Motte Grove, son of Barbara Sargent Moorehead
 12 - Elizabeth (Lib) Owen Sargent, wife of Thomas Denny Sargent
 15 - Janet Wyer Sargent, wife of Frederick Kingsbury Sargent
 17 - Elizabeth (Betty) Day Sargent
 23 - Leicester Bodine Holland, son of Mary (Minnie) Rupert Holland
 26 - (82d) Samuel Herbert Fisher, widower of Margaret (Daisy) Sargent Fisher
 David Thurston Holland, son of Rupert Sargent Holland
 29 - Marion Hunnicke Sargent, wife of William Parker Sargent, Jr.
 31 - (22d) George (Gid) Gardner Loring, son of Suzanne Bailey Loring

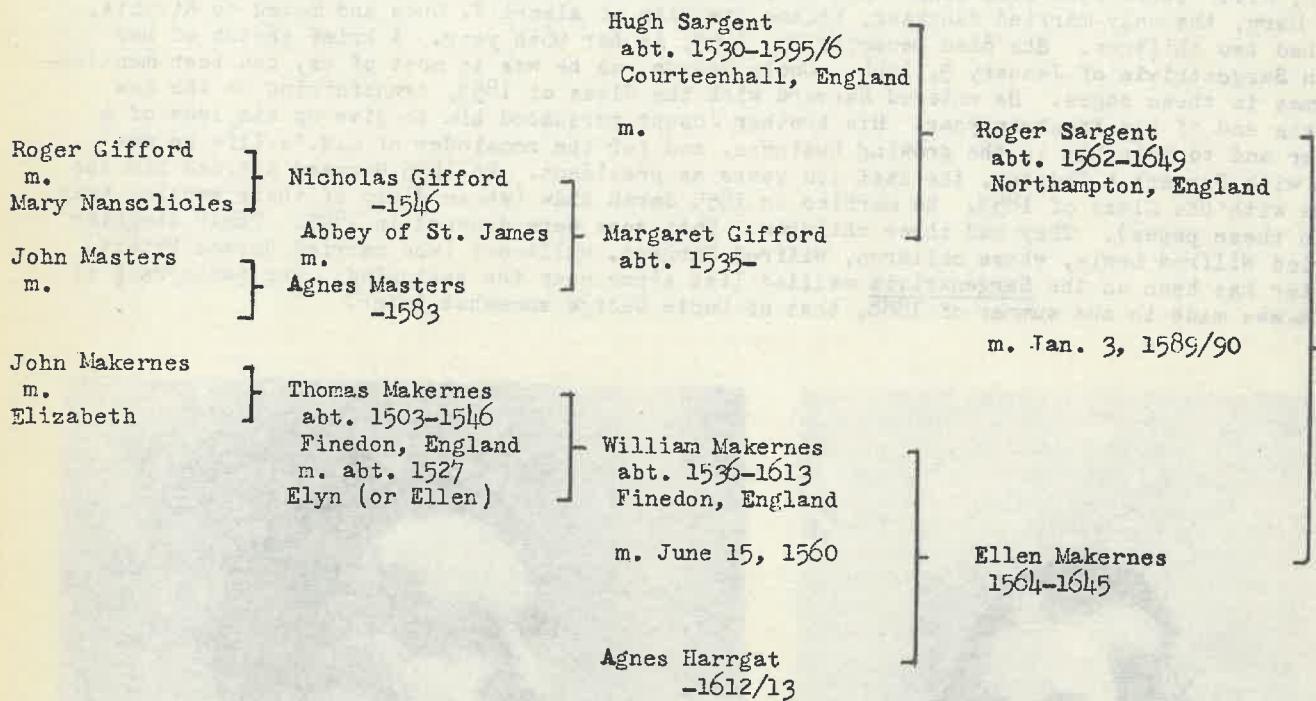
WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

May 23 - (13th) Catherine Cole and Robert Percy Tate

Sargent & Company is featured in the March issue of Hardware Consultant & Contractor, published by the National Contract Hardware Association. Under the title, "Hometowns of Hardware - New Haven, Conn.," the illustrated article covers some seven pages, of which five are devoted to Sargent & Company, one to The H.B. Ives Company and one to the city. The following are excerpts: ".... The native Yankee skills which first fostered Sargent's growth in the Elm City have been retained and handed down from father to son within the plant so that two and three generations of New Haven family names are not uncommon on Sargent payrolls. Similarly, the job opportunities which the expanding hardware company, among others, offered newly-arrived immigrants to this country at the turn of the century is reflected in New Haven's good-sized population of foreign parentage. A passerby would never guess from the weathered Sargent buildings that a drive toward modern economies has convulsed the interiors. Since 1944 Sargent has taken several important steps which have streamlined its distribution machinery and consequently boosted sales. In that year, it established a policy of selling no less than case quantities of stock merchandise. A little later, the concern took another drastic move, cut its customer list some 85%, and now sells exclusively to jobbers and builders' hardware distributors. And finally, Sargent slashed its line from about 20,000 different items to approximately 2,000. The size of the firm's catalogs over the years is the most graphic evidence of the nature of Sargent's business. In 1869, the catalog contained 242 pages; in 1910 the page count had jumped 1,330; in 1942 it was 643 pages; but the new one contains some 200 pages. Although 90% of 1942 items are not being produced now, the present restricted line is complete in function and design. The firm's application of logic in plant modernization, streamlined distribution and more aggressive promotion affirm the virility of the old Yankee strain. Developments under founder Joseph B. Sargent were, for his day, comparable with those now taking place under his grandson, C. Forbes Sargent. The total output of the factory was about 1,000 different items when the business was first organized and by 1914 had advanced to over 60,000 different articles produced by the firm. The catalog that year resembled nothing so closely as that year's edition of Webster's dictionary. It contained 1,332 pages of which 1,054 were devoted to articles manufactured; the remaining pages given over to other articles for the trade, not produced by them but sold as jobbers' goods. Gradually these outside lines were dropped and the company turned entirely to the merchandising and manufacturing of its own products. But even into the Thirties the leisurely, detail-ridden practices of the early days carried over, and Sargent production schedules and sales catalogs were crammed with odd-lot listings of all sorts of nearly obsolete items. New blood in the 'front office', however, began to hack away at these outmoded practices shortly before the war, and continued to build for the future during hostilities, while Sargent workmen turned out bomb shackles for the Navy along with a steady stream of builders' hardware items which were needed to meet the huge demand for military and civilian construction. After V-J Day the company stepped with a splash into the postwar hardware market. It introduced its now-famous 'Integra Lock', precision built by methods eliminating the old, hand-filed and fitted castings of the lock industry; sporting 30 per cent fewer moving parts than a standard American door fixture. With a management averaging just about 45 years of age at the helm, the company began to modernize equipment and processes inside its weathered walls. Taking their cue from a quarter-million dollar gray iron foundry—about the most modern in the Eastern United States—built by the Defense Plant Corporation and placed in operation just before the war ended, Sargent officials started to knock down walls and install conveyors. They took a second look at packing and parts-storage methods which had 'just grewed' since the post-Civil-War days when they were first set up, and they completely revolutionized both procedures. New machinery is being installed through every depart-

ment. And a long-range modernization program promises that the last of the streamlining will not be done at Sargent's for some time to come. *** Typical of the old-line New England factory in its external appearance, Sargent & Company's internal attitudes are symbolic of the resilience and aggressiveness necessary, in the opinion of its officers, to the survival of such industries in to-day's world."

In our issues of December 15, 1943, and December 4, 1944, the Sargent genealogical line was carried back in chart form several generations. The genealogical chart below continues back from William Sargent (1602-1682), the immigrant, whose parents were Roger and Ellen Makernes Sargent. Most of those named in this chart lived in Northamptonshire, and all in England. Information on the Makernes line is from the account published in the N.E. Historical & Genealogical Register in 1917. (vol. 71).



Rev. Richard Bourne (d. 1682) wrote several letters in 1676 and 1677 to Ruth Sargent Winslow (1612-1711), daughter of our immigrant ancestor, William Sargent (1602-1682). He was many years her senior. They were married July 2, 1677 - it was the second for both of them. The first of the letters now extant, dated February 5, 1676, was printed in Sargentrivia of March 25th. As there explained ye editor recently acquired copies of these letters in the handwriting of the late John Smith Sargent, editor of the English ancestry portion of the 1895 edition of the Sargent Genealogy. The originals of the Bourne letters are now in the Boston Public Library and were formerly in the "New England Library" of the Rev. Thomas Prince, pastor before the American Revolution of the Old South Church in Boston. ^{The second} is dated February 16, 1676 (the 12th month at that time was February). "Sandwich this 16th of ye 12th/76. My well beloved upon whom my desires and affections are fixed, longing to see you but am as yet prevented. I did intend to give you a visit the next weeke, but God disposing otherwise as that my son who was at hyngham was taken with the discaas that many have dyed of, who was sick about five weeks and dyed last Saturday and was buryed the last Lords day. so that at present my spirits are soe full of heaviness that it doth not suite to goe more abroad at present, but I must bee at March Court if I bee well concerning some spetial ocation. I would entreat you to use what means may be possible to obtain a cure with the blessing of God wherefore do not delaye the tyme until it bee too late, and if you want supplys you knowe what I wrote in my last concerning that. I am the same still. You shall not want for £5 or more if you please to accept it. And for your seeking advise and counsell from your father and others it suites mee very well. I desire nothing but what may be in a way God, yet I would desire that it might not bee disclosed to any, for nothing shall change mynde respecting yourselfe, unless it bee death, if it bee not your default, which I hope it will not bee. I am just nowe very desolate. Consider of it. I shall endeavor to see you soe soone as I can with any conveniency and doe not Judg I slight you but I hope you will please to put a better construction upon it, considering how it hath been with me. I was with your father the last second day and the fourth day this weeke. Your father and mother I spoke with both of them. Your brother I saw not. I desired your father to send you a letter by mee, the which hee did intend to doe, but hee not

having spoken to Mr. Thatcher could not well do at present. I conclude hee will sende to you the next weeke. They both, your father and mother desiring kindly to bee remembered to you and do earnestly desire you not to neglect any means to attain unto a full cure. Thus desiring the Lord to bless guide and direct you in a way that may be pleasing before him, I rest at present, desiring you would present my respects to Mr. Arnold, with your mother-in law and the rest of your friends. Yours in the best bonds. Richard Bourne. I pray you when you have received these lines either conceal them or burn them. I shall give you if God bring mee to speake with you."

Pictured below are Sophia Sargent Boggs (1821-1909) and George Henry Sargent (1828-1917), the second and sixth of the seven children of Mindwell Jones and Joseph Denny Sargent (1787-1849). Aunt Sophia, as she was to most of us, married in 1842 William Boggs. He was a partner in the card manufacturing business in Leicester, Mass., with his father-in-law at the time of the latter's death, but later sold his interest in the firm to his brother-in-law, Joseph Bradford Sargent (1822-1907). The Boggs family lived in New York from 1842 to 1846, in Leicester from 1846 to 1849 and then finally in Brooklyn, N.Y. There were nine Boggs children, of whom four daughters and the younger son grew to maturity. Mary, the only married daughter, became the wife of Albert V. Gude and moved to Atlanta, Ga. They had two children. She died December 29, 1943, in her 96th year. A brief sketch of her appeared in Sargentrivia of January 3, 1944. Uncle George, as he was to most of us, has been mentioned many times in these pages. He entered Harvard with the Class of 1853, transferring to the Law School at the end of his Freshman year. His brother Joseph persuaded him to give up his idea of a legal career and to join him in the growing business, and for the remainder of G.H.'s life he was associated with Sargent & Company, the last ten years as president. In 1895 Harvard awarded him the A.B. degree with his Class of 1853. He married in 1855 Sarah Shaw (whose diary of their wedding trip appeared in these pages). They had three children. Both sons were drowned in 1883. Their daughter Emily married Wilfred Lewis, whose children, Wilfred Sargent, Millicent (who married Horace Pettit) and Leicester has been on the Sargentrivia mailing list since near the beginning. The photograph of Aunt Sophia was made in the summer of 1888, that of Uncle George somewhat later.

