

Sikes/Sykes Families Association

Vol. 1 1992 No. 1 NEWSLETTER

New Name?

This is our first issue of the newsletter and we're looking for suggestions for a name. The name SIKES/SYKES is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word "sulcus aquarius", a water course, or water furrow. Maybe that gives us a clue. Some examples of names: 'Folkways', 'Pathways', 'Else Echoes', 'Smith Family Tree' Now what can you come up with? Bring your name idea to the reunion on August 8th.

SIKES FAMILY ASSOCIATION

On August 10, 1991 a family association meeting was held at the Second Baptist Church, Suffield, CT. to determine the future of reunion and organization of SIKES FAMILY ASSOCIATION. The minutes follow on page two.

OFFICERS

President: Arthur Sikes, Sr.
Secretary: Jill Fuller Gray
Treasurer: Gay Sikes Fuller
Historian/Genealogist:
Arthur Sikes, Jr.
Newsletter Editors:
Jeanne Sikes Weise
Warren Weise

From the President:

This is the first in what we hope will be a long line of newsletters for our new Sikes/Sykes Families Association. The newsletters can only be as good as the information that gets to the Newsletter editors. Your efforts in feeding any news that might be of interest to the association members are essential for its success.

The ultimate success of any new organization depends on increasing the membership beyond the group that participated in the organizational meeting. Here again, everyone's efforts are needed to interest perspective members to join the organization.

Remember, the date of the first reunion of the new association is the second Saturday in August 1992. Keep this date open when you plan your summer activities.

Sincerely,
Arthur, Sr.

JUNE



SIKES/SYKES FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting August 10, 1991

1. A meeting of 21 persons for the organization of a Sikes Family Association was held at the Second Baptist Church, Suffield, CT on August 10, 1991 at 10 A.M.
2. Arthur Sikes, Jr. gave a report on recruiting over the past year. Out of 130 contacts he had a response of 46 persons or families interested in forming an association. Arthur has researched the family lines of Sikes' in U.S.A. and found two major families; the Richard Sikes family of New England which constitutes 40% of the Sikes' in America and another that settled in the Carolinas which constitutes another 40% of Sikes' in America. Family of Sikes' in Georgia suspects they are part of family from Carolinas. The spelling of Sikes/Sykes has changed back and forth quite frequently in some cases.
3. Arthur Sikes, Jr. stated that he felt an organization would need:
 1. Dues for financial stability
 2. Newsletter
 3. Person for history and genealogical lines
 4. Place to collect information
 5. Meetings - either regional or other
4. Discussion of forming an organization. It was announced that the family reunion last year at Sunrise Park produced \$200. of which one half has been used for postage and a Yankee magazine ad querying for descendants of Richard Sikes.
5. Officers were elected as follows:
 - President: Arthur Sikes, Sr.
 - Secretary: Jill Fuller Gray
 - Treasurer: Gay Sikes Fuller
 - Historian/Genealogist: Arthur Sikes, Jr.
 - Newsletter Editor: Jeanne and Warren Weise
6. The new president, Arthur Sikes, Sr. appointed Richard Leroy Sikes as chairman of bylaws committee. This committee includes: Edward Chase, Lilla Sykes and Louella Lyman.
7. After discussion, the name of the new organization was voted as: Sikes/Sykes Families Association.
8. Bylaws of Austin family are to be used as interim bylaws of Sikes/Sykes Families Association until new bylaws are set up with the exception of dues which was voted on as:
 - Individual dues \$10.00 (Age 18 and over.)
 - Family \$15.00 (allows one vote for each spouse.)Annual dues run from August 1 to July 31 yearly. Annual dues entitles voting privilege and all mailings.
9. Support from all members is necessary to assist the secretary in making contacts for new members.
10. Newsletter editor will also need support from membership for articles and pertinent family happenings. The editor is shooting for quarterly publications.
11. First family get together, the Reunion, 2nd Saturday in August 1992 at which Joanne Neilson, Abbie Perisweig and Jill Gray are chairpersons. Reunion to be held tentatively at Sunrise Park, Suffield, CT.

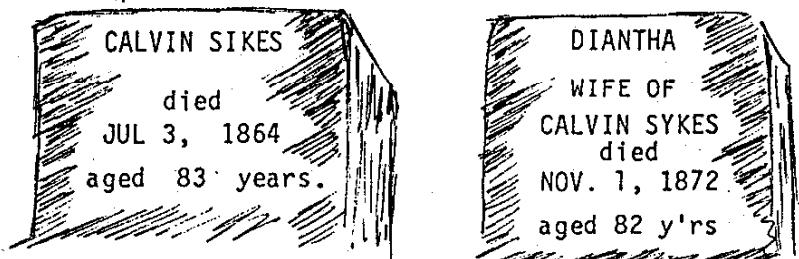


What is in the Spelling of a Name?

SIKES/SYKES -- There seems to be two ways to spell the Sikes/Sykes name here in America. It gets very confusing at times doing genealogy research. It appears that on at least the Richard Sikes line between the Revolutionary War and the Civil War many of Richard's descendants changed their name spelling from Sikes to Sykes. This is not only this line that this has happened; there are other lines that I have seen the same thing and also Sykes to Sikes changes.

If you look back into the old English records there are other spellings such as: Sicke, Syke, Sykes, and Sikes. There are many Sikes/Sykes still living in England today.

The most interesting example of spelling differences is on grave stones where family members are buried together and use different spelling. An example is the old center cemetery in Suffield. It has two stones placed next to each other with the following inscription:



A good example of the name changing spelling is Henry Alexander Sykes, 1810-1860, the famous architect. His father and grandfather used the Sikes spelling and so did Henry in his early years. I have a copy of an architectural drawing of the Second Baptist Church in Suffield, dated 1835, that is signed by Henry "Sikes" and muster papers for Suffield Militia Company No. 2, 17th Regiment, as Captain Henry A. "Sikes" dated 1838. All of the historical data written on Henry is "Sykes" along with all of the stones in his family burial plot here in Suffield.

The U.S. census that I have used of Suffield in the 1800's are about split between Sikes and Sykes. Sometimes the spelling changed from one census to the next.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

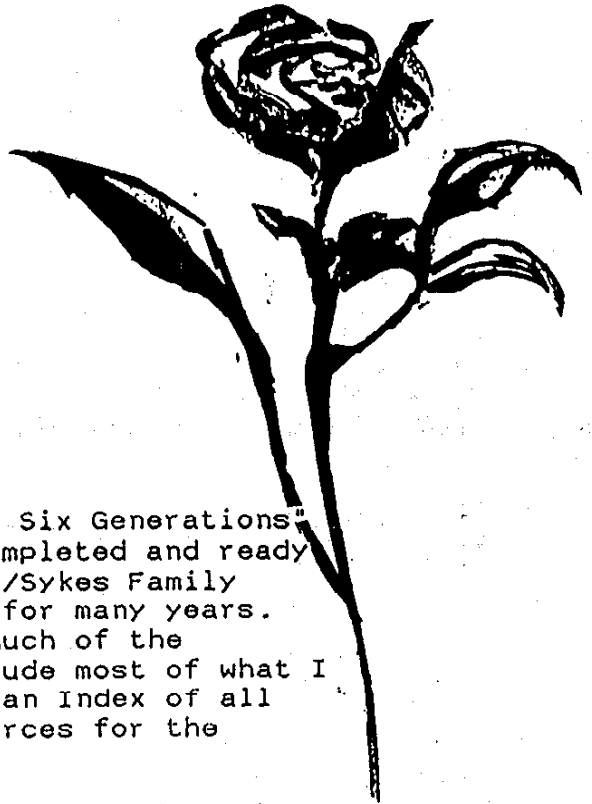
April 6, 1992

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Please help us update addresses.

If one of your family did not get a copy, we probably weren't sure of address. After this issue, membership dues paid will ensure getting the newsletter. Come to the meeting for an update - and give your opinions. The meeting is after lunch at the Reunion - August 8th

*Roses to
Arthur!*



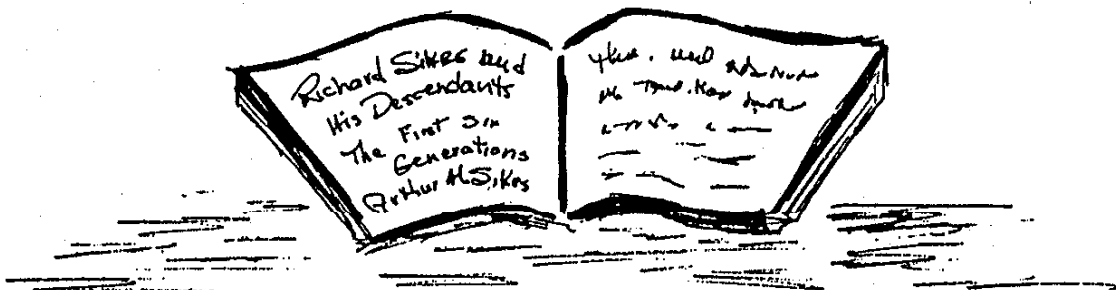
"Richard Sikes and his Descendants, the First Six Generations" is the Title of a book that I hope to have completed and ready for distribution for this August at the Sikes/Sykes Family Reunion. I have been collecting information for many years. Over the last two years I have been putting much of the information into my computer. This will include most of what I have collected on the first Six Generations, an Index of all the names and a list of all the Reference Sources for the information.

Why Six Generations? First, as each generation is added, the amount of data grows by about 50% per generation. This is also one point of a large westward migration of many family members. Many of my reference sources lose trace of many of the line at about this time. I plan to add a generation every two years along with updates and corrections to the already published data.

If anyone has data on these first six generations that could be included in this book, please let me know. After the first six generations are done I will also be looking for information on following generations. I hope to eventually have everyone that is a Sikes/Sykes Family Association member in the Richard Sikes line in my computer data base. For example, Titus Sykes and his family of 15 moved from Suffield, CT to Dorset, VT around the Revolutionary War. I have some of the lines but I'm missing others. I try to follow each line including the daughter's with their marriage and children, but that is as far as I have included data on each daughter.

Arthur M. Sikes, Jr.

April 6, 1992



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