



# MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 1

March 1984

NEXT MEETING --- Monday, March 26, 1984  
8:00 p.m. at the Darien Library

LINEAGE SOCIETIES will be the program topic, with representatives of various hereditary organizations speaking on the purposes, membership selection processes and genealogical importance of their group. Some of the societies to be represented are: The Mayflower Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames and the Piedmont Association.

This will also be the first Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served following the program.

### WELCOME TO OUR FIRST ISSUE!!!

This is the first issue of what we, the officers, hope will become a medium of communication for the membership of the Middlesex Genealogical Society. Through this quarterly newsletter we will try to encourage members in their genealogical searching by offering articles to stimulate and direct research, a place to register family names and a Queries column, where someone may be able to help with a problem ancestor. The newsletter will also report on the activities of the MGS - meetings, new acquisitions to the Genealogy section in the Darien library and special projects in progress.

We welcome input and help from the MGS membership. If you have genealogical information you feel would be of interest to others or any ideas of what kinds of items you would like to see appear in this newsletter, please tell us. Genealogical research is worth nothing if it is not shared. This newsletter is for YOU so let us hear from each of you!

Send everything to: MGS Newsletter  
Editor, 45 Old Kings Highway North, Darien,  
CT 06820.

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There is a history in all men's lives.  
-William Shakespeare

### GENEALOGICAL TREE

Undoubtedly you will never see,  
A poem like a family tree.  
A tree that proves, beyond demur  
How eminent one's fathers were.  
A tree whose branches boast the charms  
Of mothers, crests and coats of arms.  
In Azure, Argent, Vert and Gules,  
Designed by strict heraldic rules.  
A tree, the intimate 'who's who',  
Of gentle folks, whose blood is blue.  
A lofty, noble, spreading tree  
Of lineage and pedigree.  
Where he who looks too closely for  
A primitive progenitor,  
May find him hanging stark and grim  
Suspended from a lower limb.

Author Unknown



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Middlesex Genealogical Society was founded on December 10, 1982, for the purpose of helping those interested in genealogy to pursue the investigation of their family heritage, and to provide guidance in research to that end.

The name Middlesex was chosen as a reflection of sentiment and respect for "Middlesex Parish" by which name Darien was known when originally established by the state legislature in 1737 and so remained until incorporated as Darien in 1820.

Recognizing the current interest in genealogy as one of the fastest growing avocations in this country, the Middlesex Society seeks to encourage the activity in its pursuit by providing knowledgeable speakers at at least four meetings each year, to include an annual meeting in March; to organize workshops; to maintain a headquarters for the collection of a library of relevant books and periodicals; and to hold consultation periods for beginners with experienced members or outside authorities, to the end that such neophytes may receive instruction in the art of ancestor research.

In addition, the society is cognizant of the threat of destruction by our mobile populace of much valuable genealogical material, perhaps unappreciated in one part of the country because it is indigenous to another - and seeks to explore the practicality of causing its return to its place of origin and historical relevance.

The Darien Historical Society has graciously provided the new venture the use of its address - 45 Old Kings Highway North and its meeting facilities and the Darien Library is providing shelf and meeting space as well.

-R. E. Fatherley

(Parts reprinted from the Darien Historical Society Notes, V. II, No. 2.)

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At this time, the Middlesex Genealogical Society has a membership of about 90 persons! The first hundred will be designated Charter Members. A list of members will be printed in the first Annual Report.

The response to the organization of this Society shows that there is a great interest in our community in the field of Genealogy.

OFFICERS OF THE MGS

President: Robert E. Fatherley  
9 Point O'Woods Rd., Darien,  
CT 06820

Vice-President: Leo J. Dunphy  
10 Hamilton Ln., Darien, CT  
06820

Secretary: Ray H. Bartlett  
15 Hillside Ave., Darien, CT  
06820

Treasurer: George T. Cushman  
P.O. Box 527, Norwalk, CT 06852

DIRECTORS: Louise Berry  
Fred W. Farwell  
Raymond H. Gross  
Doris Hollander  
Charles Lemons  
Carl K. Moses  
Grant M. Radmall  
Edward L. Warren  
Donald E. Wentworth

Editor of the Newsletter: Marianne W. Sheldon  
3 Revere Rd., Darien, CT 06820

Address all correspondence to:  
Middlesex Genealogical Society  
45 Old Kings Highway North  
Darien, CT 06820

Annual Dues are \$10.00 for one person and \$15.00 for a couple or family. Checks should be made payable to the Middlesex Genealogical Society and sent to the above address.

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DID YOU KNOW...

The U.S. Census Records (1790-1910, except for 1890 which was destroyed) can be ordered through the Reference department at the Darien Library. Census records are an invaluable research aid for the genealogist, especially the later Censuses which contain more information. Forms are available which are copies of blank pages of each particular Census form. This is the best way to record your information without losing any of the data on the page.

The Library also has the Fairfield County Census, 1790-1830, including Darien, on microfilm. In addition, they have reels containing information of Darien from 1830-1910.

NOTES ON THE SOCIETY'S RECENT MEETING  
AT THE LDS LIBRARY

On Wed., Jan. 25, 1984, Grant M. Radmall, Librarian at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) in New Canaan, presented a program to introduce our members to new tools and services developed for expanded genealogical searching. The Church's main library in Salt Lake City, Utah has the largest collection of genealogical materials in the world and much of this is now, or soon will be, available through the branch libraries.

The LDS library has various types of materials to aid researchers. These records are collected on microfiche, which are kept at the branch library, and microfilm, which must be ordered from Utah. The library has 5 microfilm and 3 microfiche readers

New materials include:

1. "How to Use the Branch Genealogical Library", a video cassette orientation program, will be available in April to introduce first-time users to resources provided by the LDS library. It will explain the process of genealogical research.

The library has reproduced 1,000 of their "most heavily-used reference books, research sources, gazetteers, and other valuable resources" on microfiche. These should be at the branch library about July 1984.

3. The International Genealogical Index, a set of 5,500 microfiche cards with over 62 million names extracted world-wide from birth and marriage records is available now. This is to be expanded to include death records and increase the number of names available to genealogical searchers to 82.5 million. This new Index is expected to be at the library about October 1984.

Grant Radmall also introduced the new Family Registry service. It will help serious researchers to coordinate their research with others working on the same lines and refer people to family organizations and their research efforts with various surnames. For more information, interested persons should contact Grant at the LDS library.

The library is located on South Ave. in New Canaan and the phone number is 966-1305. Hours are Tues. and Wed., 7-9 p.m. and Fri., 3-6 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENEALOGICAL SECTION  
AT THE DARIEN LIBRARY

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One of the society's special projects is the establishment of a Genealogy section, located in the Darien Library. Mrs. Doris Hollander is the MGS Curator. The purpose of this section is to accumulate materials for the use of persons engaged in research of their family history. It is not intended to be limited to just our local area.

A number of basic reference books are being ordered to add to the existing collection. Donations, in the form of printed genealogies, local histories and other genealogically-pertinent books and publications are welcome and encouraged. Monetary donations for the purpose of buying books are another alternative for those interested in helping with this project. If you have materials to donate, contact Doris at 204 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853.

PARTIAL LISTING OF BOOKS IN THE  
GENEALOGY SECTION

The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy  
Guide to Genealogical Research in the  
National Archives  
Index to American Genealogies  
Connecticut Researcher's Handbook  
Early Connecticut Marriages  
Genealogical Books in Print  
Directory of Historical Societies in the  
U.S. and Canada  
Hall's Norwalk Records  
Directory of the Heads of New England  
Families, 1620-1700  
Irish Families  
Virginia Settlers, Vol. I  
History of Newbury, Vermont  
Guide to the Vital Statistics in the  
Church Records of Connecticut  
Genealogists Handbook for New England  
Research  
Locating Your Immigrant Ancestor  
Emigrants in Bondage  
Directory of Genealogical Periodicals (1979)  
Early Families of Eastern and Southeastern  
Kentucky  
English Genealogies  
Dows or Dowse  
Our Loyalist Ancestors: Kith and Kin of  
Holden Turner  
Jonathan Waterbury Genealogy  
Richmond City, VA, Marriage Bonds 1797-1853  
Bedford, NY, Historical Records (Vol. I,II)  
The Compendium of American Genealogy  
(Vol. III,IV,V,VI)  
Franklin Co., OH, Irish Refugee Tract History

## GRAVESTONE RUBBING

Gravestone rubbings are a wonderful way to artistically expand and portray one's genealogical gleanings. So many of us have our hard-earned research hidden away in closets and file cabinets with no one but ourselves, and perhaps a few family members, to appreciate and enjoy it. Rubbings done of ancestors' gravestones or interesting epitaphs found in old cemeteries can be used as decorative additions in our homes and provide verification of genealogical research.

It is important to learn a bit about rubbing techniques before going out and trying it. Many stones have been ruined by people who did not know what they were doing. First, and most importantly, the rubber should be able to recognize the different types of stone used for grave markers in American cemeteries. Time periods, styles and availability of local stone usually determined the kinds of markers produced in a particular area.

The earliest markers were made of slate, a hard, gray-colored stone which is excellent for rubbing. Later sandstone, a reddish-colored stone was used. One must be careful with sandstone since it is common for water to have seeped inside the marker and eroded the interior so the slightest pressure can create a large hole. Since sandstone is fairly soft, the inscriptions are also usually weather-worn and difficult to make a clear impression of. The third type of stone is marble. These are of a more recent period (the last hundred years or so) and there is usually little erosion or damage.

The technique for making a gravestone rubbing is simple. First, the stone should be cleaned. A stiff bristle brush can usually remove dirt, lichen, bird-droppings, etc. Be careful, however, not to damage the stone by trying to remove something which refuses to come off. Using masking tape, attach the paper securely to the stone so it will not slip with the pressure of rubbing. Have the paper overlap the edges of the marker so there will be no chance of wax being rubbed on the stone accidentally. Never rub to the edge of the paper. The best paper is one which is fine and lightweight, yet sturdy, such as rice paper. Any art store carries, or can obtain, paper suitable for gravestone rubbings and the costs are reasonable.

Now take your rubbing medium and go over the paper, lightly at first to block in the design. For the amateur a wax rubbing crayon is the best medium since it will not smear and is easy to use. The broad sides are used for most of the filling while small, delicate areas might need work with a corner of the crayon. Work slowly and carefully, rubbing the areas of the paper until the degree of darkness is to your taste. Various colors of rubbing wax crayons are available.

When you are done, remove the tape carefully so the paper does not tear. Your rubbing is best carried and stored (until you can display it) in a cardboard tube so it will not crease.

With the ever-present threats of vandalism and weather-related destruction, it is important to preserve, in some way, information vital to your genealogical searchings. Future generations of your family will appreciate your work and treasure these rubbings as part of their heritage.

For more information on this subject, try some of these sources:

- Gillon, Edmund V. Early New England Gravestone Rubbings. 1966, Dover Publications, New York.
- Jacobs, G. Walker. Stranger Stop and Cast an Eye. 1973, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT.
- Kelly, Susan H. and Williams, Anne C. A Grave Business, New England Gravestone Rubbings. 1979, Art Resources of Connecticut, New Haven.
- Kull, Andrew. New England Cemeteries: A Collector's Guide. 1975, The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT.
- Mann, Thomas C. and Greene, Janet. Over Their Dead Bodies, 1962, and Sudden and Awful, 1968. The Stephen Greene Press, Brattleboro, VT.



RUBBING IN DARIEN'S CEMETERIES

Darien has many historical cemeteries, most of which have had the genealogical information on their markers recorded by the Darien Historical Society. Some of these graveyards have been obliterated or are merely filled with broken stones, but there are several cemeteries which would be suitable for gravestone rubbing. Remember, these are part of our town's heritage. Be careful in your rubbing techniques so the stones will not be damaged!

The following is a partial list of cemeteries where you might like to try out your rubbing techniques:

- Spring Grove - Post Rd. & Hecker Ave.
- St. John's - Hoyt St. & Camp Ave.
- Bates #1 - East Lane (behind Georgia Pacific building)
- Mather - Stephen Mather Rd. near Brookside Rd. and partly in Norwalk
- Noroton River - Post Rd. just east of Noroton River
- Andreas-Hoyt - Middlesex Rd. opposite Ox Ridge Club
- Waterbury #3 - Mansfield Ave. near Ox Ridge School
- Waterbury #1 - Hoyt St. near St. John's, east side
- Stevens #1 - Hoyt St., west side near New Canaan line
- Leeds - Hoyt St., west side
- Stevens #2 - Hoyt St., west side
- New Jewish - Hoyt St., just north of RR crossing, east side
- Old Jewish - Hoyt St., rear of New Jewish
- Waterbury #2 - Hoyt St., east side

HAVE FUN!!!!

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Everyone has ancestors and it is only a question of going back far enough to find a good one.

-Howard Kenneth Nixon

FAMILY BIBLE RECORDS

The Newsletter would like to publish original Bible records which may be in the possession of MGS members or friends. If anyone has a family Bible with genealogical material and would allow the Newsletter to print that information, please contact the Editor.

FITCH HOME CEMETERY PROJECT

One of the primary interests of the newly-formed MGS is the cataloging of the records and grave markers of some 2500 military veterans interred in Spring Grove Cemetery. These men were residents, at the time of their deaths, of the Fitch Home for the Soldiers and Their Orphans, located in the Noroton Heights section of Darien. This Home was the first establishment of its kind in the United States, erected in 1865, and accommodated veterans of the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns, the Philippine insurrection, the China Relief expedition, the Spanish-American War, the Mexican Border service of 1916, the Nicaraguan campaigns and World War I. Many of these men have been "lost" to the military archive record system and it is hoped that in cataloging these names, many questions for genealogical researchers will be answered.

At present, Doris Hollander, who is in charge of this project, is in the process of reviewing every record for accuracy as to names, dates and military information. When the weather permits, the grave markers will then be checked against the corrected information. Finally, the completed records will be computerized so future researchers will have access to these veterans.

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Our ancestors are very good kind of folks; but they are the last people I should choose to have a visiting acquaintance with.

-Richard Brinsley Sheridan

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DID YOU KNOW...

The U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services publishes a booklet which is a "must" for every genealogist's library. It is entitled "Where to Write for Vital Records" and gives the addresses, costs and availability of birth, marriage, death and divorce records, state by state. It costs \$3.25 and can be ordered through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Ask for DHHS Publication No. (PHS) 82-1142. The Darien Library also has a copy - ask at the Reference Desk.

SURNAME FILE

These members are working on the following surnames and welcome anyone with knowledge of, or interest in, these families to contact them.

WINSHIP, SEELEY, WEBER, FRENCH, MATT,  
BARTLETT, BURDICK, PARSONS, LEEK, CORWITH  
Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd., Darien.

BEARDSLEY, BELDING, BLAGGE, BREWER, COLE,  
BRISTOW, ELDRED, EMBRY, FINNEY, FOOTE,  
GLEZEN, GOODWIN, HARRINGTON, HAWLEY, HINE,  
HAYNES, HOLBROOK, HUTCHINSON, MARBURY,  
MEMFORD, MUSE, PAYNE, PEACOCKE, TOBEY,  
POPE, WELLES, WHEELER, WITCHER, YATES  
Sherrill Yates, 6 Edgerton St., Darien.

FARWELL, GILBERT, WHITCOMB, NEWCOMB, PIER,  
GARDINER, KEYES, FAY, COCHRANE  
Fred W. Farwell, 6 Pasture Ln., Darien.

BATES  
Grace Clarendon, 70 Brookside Rd., Darien.

HARTER, BITTENBENDER, KARCHNER  
Karen Polett, 15 Heather Lane, Darien.

ALDEN, TROW, WASHBURN, LATHAM (all MA),  
JOHNSON (MA, NY), WINN, LOWERY (England),  
THROCKMORTON (RI, NJ), COWARD (NJ, NY)  
Robert Fatherley, 9 Point O'Woods Rd,  
South, Darien.

BOYD, CARMICHAEL, CONNER, EVANS, FORBES  
(FOARD), LOVE, OWEN, PURYEAR, SLAYTON,  
STIGALL, WADE, WHITLOW, MILBORNE, WILSON,  
WHITT  
Robin Evans, 21 Revere Rd., Darien.

We hope all members of the Society will  
register their genealogical surnames.  
Perhaps there are others in the area who  
are engaged in research on your particu-  
lar problem areas!

Great families of yesterday we show,  
And lords whose parents were the Lord  
known as... Daniel Defoe

QUERIES

Seek info on John CHISUM, d. 9 Oct. 1792,  
Amelia Co., VA; m. Elanor GUILLOTINE, d.  
Apr. 1804. Seek info on Cynthia HUBER, b.  
5 Apr. 1851, Bowling Green, IN; m. James  
Bryce WALLACE, b. 5 Apr. 1851. Seek info on  
Zachariah Taylor BOSLEY, b. 16 Apr. 1848; d.  
11 Aug. 1894, IN; m. Mary E. CLARK, b. 3  
Dec. 1853; d. 3 June 1938, Terre Haute, IN.  
----Anna L. Wallace, 12 Silver Lake Dr.,  
Darien, CT 06820.

Seek par. and birthplace of George YATES,  
b. 31 Mar. 1784; d. 7 Aug. 1824, Mt. Vision,  
Otsego Co., NY; m. 31 Jan. 1804 Elizabeth  
HARRINGTON, b. 3 Nov. 1784, VT; d. 10 July  
1858, Mt. Vision, NY; dau. of Stephen and  
Patience (ELDRED) HARRINGTON. Seek info on  
Senica SMITH, b. ca. 1804, VT; m. Jane ?,  
b. ca. 1811, OH. Seek par. Sarah GLEZEN,  
b. 25 May 1763, Lenox, MA; m. 4 Dec. 1783,  
in Stockbridge, MA, Isaac JONES, b. 1 Oct.  
1756, Wethersfield, CT; d. 1840. Seek info  
on Hannah BREWER, b. Worcester, MA; dau. of  
Judge Josiah BREWER and ?; m. Isaac JONES,  
b. 19 June 1722, Colchester, CT; son of  
Isaac and Hannah (WELLES) JONES.  
----Sherrill Yates, 6 Edgerton St., Darien,  
CT 06820.

Seek info on w. of Jabez BINGHAM. Was she  
Bethia WOOD or WOODWERE, who d. 3 Apr. 1769,  
Salisbury, CT? Who were her par.? Seek par.  
Phebe LEEK, b. 1779, Long Island; d. 23 Aug.  
1842, Beekmantown, NY; m. David Robert  
PARSONS.  
----Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd., Darien,  
CT 06820.

Seek par. of Sybel or Sybil DUNN, who m.  
Bethiah KEYES (1776-1859) and moved to  
Keene, NH before 1803. Seek par. of Lemuel  
RICHARDSON (1773-1846), who m. Mary CHASE  
(1774-1854) of Cornish, NH (1795) and moved  
to Rochester, VT. His mother may have been  
Elizabeth HOLBROOK; other evidence suggests  
his mother was an Indian squaw.  
----Fred W. Farwell, 6 Pasture Ln., Darien,  
CT 06820.

Address all Queries to Editor, Middlesex  
Genealogical Society Newsletter, 45 Old  
Kings Highway North, Darien, CT 06820.

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The Newsletter would like to publish members' lineages. If anyone  
has any ideas as to how this could be done well and in a minimum amount  
of space, please contact the Editor. Lineage charts are also welcome.