



Middlesex Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume IV, Number 4

January 1988

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MIDDLESEX GENEALOGY SOCIETY

On December 10, 1982, Middlesex Genealogical Society was founded by 10 men from the Darien Senior Mens Club. Those 10 men were:

**Ray H. Bartlett
George Cushman
Leo Dunphy*
Fred Farwell
Robert Fatherley
Raymond Gross
Charles Lemons
Carl Moses*
Edward Warren*
Donald Wentworth**

The Society was "born" at the home of Bob Fatherley in front of his fireplace. The same fireplace the Darien Historical Society was founded on August 10, 1953. Our Genealogy Society has survived 5 years of growth and prosperity. Your continued support should see us through many more.

* Deceased

**ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY - 8 P.M.
MARCH 16, 1988**

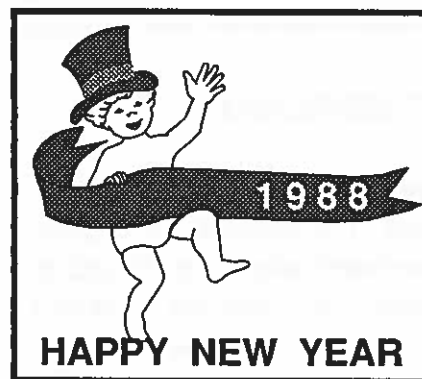
MGS MEETING - DEC. 2, 1987

SPEAKER: JEROME E. ANDERSON
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY and
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR of
THE AMERICAN GENEALOGIST

**SUBJECT: NEW ENGLAND LOYALIST
FAMILIES IN CANADA**

Mr. Anderson gave an excellent presentation on the above subject. The following is a small excerpt from his talk and literature.

History has shown that large numbers - about 1/4 to 1/3 of the American population were skeptical about the Revolutionary War. When asked to sign an oath of allegiance, they were unable to do so and opted to leave.



Most went to the nearest British colony which was Nova Scotia. The Bay of Fundy became a temporary base while a decision

was weighed whether to go back to England or try to start again in Nova Scotia which was more primitive than Massachusetts.

Small groups stayed in New York until it became clear that England had lost. The

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MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Officers:

President:	Doris Hollander
Vice-President:	Janet Jainschigg
Secretary:	Marianne W. Sheldon
Treasurer:	George T. Cushman
President Emeritus:	Robert Fatherley

The Middlesex Genealogical Society was established 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 Society holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy Section at the Darien Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10 - 12) at the Library.

Annual memberships are \$10 Individual and \$15 Couple or Family.

The Newsletter is published Quarterly. Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcome. Send to the Editor: Sherrill S. Yates, 9 Wagon Rd, Bethel, CT 06801

Correspondence to the Society should be addressed to:

Middlesex Genealogical Society
45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820

JANE MERCHANT

As the saying goes, we have some good news and some bad news. The MGS Board is sorry to lose **Jane Merchant** who has moved to North Carolina (watch for more on Jane in a later newsletter). Good luck Jane. Keep in touch!

The good news is that we are pleased to welcome **Louise McLean** to the Board. Her knowledge and experience will be a great asset to us.

MGS MEETING - DEC. 2, 1987

Continued from Page 1; Column 2

British arranged a mass movement of the Loyalists to Nova Scotia. They would be given land grants, moved and provisioned, but first, the Loyalist had to prove he was a loyalist. He had to list what he had given up for his allegiance to the King, such as property, valuables, status, etc. The amount and value of the land was determined accordingly.

In all, about 40,000 Loyalists went to Nova Scotia in the early 1780s. Of these, about a fifth left almost immediately, 13,500 settled in what is now New Brunswick, and 19,000 settled in peninsular Nova Scotia. These settlers, most of whom came from the Middle Colonies, were largely American-born (90%), civilian (60%), and from the middle or lower ranks of the societies they left. With their coming, instant towns sprang up on rocky shores. Clearly this sudden influx of new settlers was an enormous boost to local development, vacant lands were occupied, domestic markets created, and enterprise encouraged.

There will be a list of Mr. Anderson's references and suggested research materials in the Genealogical Section of the Darien Public Library.

SPARSE ATTENDANCE OF SOCIETY'S GENERAL MEETINGS

This year's meetings have been poorly attended. We have had excellent speakers with interesting topics so we do not feel that is the problem. There has been some discussion about not enough publicity which we will try to remedy and some discussion about having a phone campaign, which we will also try. Nevertheless, this is your Society. If you don't support it, it will not be there for you to enjoy. **So, get out of those easy chairs and join us. You will be glad you did.**

FREEDOM NOW!

by Norman Adams

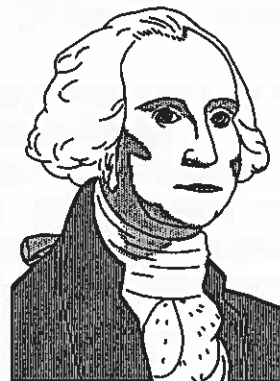
From time to time the load of clutter gets to be too much and something has to be done, something in which town dumps, landfills, tag sales, and the like play a central role. In the midst of such a liberating purge a conscientious genealogist may encounter something like a family Bible for a family in which he has no interest or a photo album depicting unknown people in a town with which he has no known link. So, what to do? It's hardly the kind of stuff that sells, so it looks like the options are, keep on keeping it (ugh!), or throw it out (ugh!). It could be a hard choice.

Fortunately the MGS offers a third option. A good name is still lacking for this activity, but the idea is simple: the MGS will accept the item and then will try to get it to a place where a person searching for the information would probably look. Genealogy relates strongly to geographical locations, so such a place is usually somewhere not too far from the area of origin of the item. Defining the area of origin of the item is often possible by close examination of the material. The next problem is to identify a suitable repository of such material - a genealogical or historical society, or a library, or a museum - near the defined geographic area. There are several reference works which help identify candidate repositories. The final placement, of course, requires correspondence.

We don't expect to be successful for every item, but so far we are doing all right. We have placed three items, we have one item that looks as if it will be placeable, and we have one problem that we may or may not get somewhere with.

If you are confronting such an object, and don't want to keep it, and you don't want to destroy it, please get in touch with me (Norman Adams in Wilton at 762-5263). We'll take it and we'll try to cope with it.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY



CELEBRATION !

Mark your calendars for our Annual Luncheon on Saturday, February 6, 1988, at the Silvermine Tavern in Norwalk. **Bob Fatherley** and **Walter Jerige** are in charge of the event. You will receive further details in the mail.

SATURDAY LECTURE SERIES

Sponsored by The Historical Society Greenwich, Bush-Holley House, 39 Strickland Rd, Cos Cob, CT 06878, these lectures are held from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on the following Saturdays:

January 30: "Tools for Finding English Ancestors Without Leaving the U.S.A." by **David Dearborn**, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

February 6: "New Sources to Aid Your Genealogical Research" by **Thomas Kemp**, Pequot Library, Southport, CT.

Admission for this series is:

\$5 per lecture for members

\$7 per lecture for non members.

THANSGIVING, 1620 BOAT PEOPLE, THEN AND NOW

by Robert E. Fatherly

Written for the Darien News-Review,
Wednesday, November 25, 1987.

During the last several years we have learned much about "Boat People", the inhabitants of several countries who have, successfully, and some unsuccessfully, escaped the harsh conditions of life in their native lands in favor of the less threatening circumstances of another country, frequently the United States.

On September 6, 1620, such a group set forth from Plymouth, England to arrive in our country about November 21, when the Mayflower Compact was signed aboard that ship off the coast of Massachusetts.

This brave contingent left their native land by stealth, first going to Holland. Like the Pharaoh of Egypt, who was unwilling to let the children of Israel depart, English law forbade the pilgrims to carry money out of the kingdom or to export goods without written permission.

As they departed Plymouth, the weather treated them tolerably until they reached the mid-Atlantic where they met the full force and fury of the equinoctial gales. The little Mayflower was torn savagely in this wild waste of water, mountains of which crashed down upon it, "breaking one of ye maine

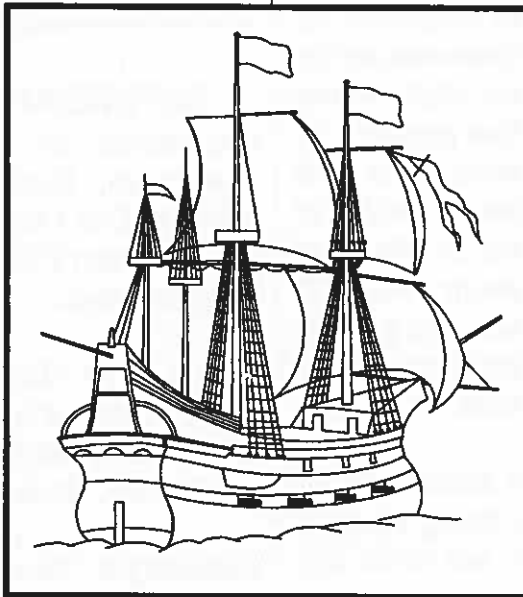
beams in ye midships," to the end that the ship was bowed and cracked. Fortunately, repairs were made and the Mayflower was judged seaworthy enough to carry on.

Passengers had to stay below deck for days on end. Under frightful conditions of crowding and wet bedding, women cared for

children and the sick. They bathed in buckets and other sanitary facilities were equally primitive. Food consisted of salt horse, dried fish, cheese and beer. Amid this nauseating squalor, mistress Hopkins gave birth to a son. He was named "Oceanus".

Unable to tolerate the fetid atmosphere, young John Howland defied orders and ventured on deck. He was swept overboard and, only by chance, caught a trailing rope and was pulled to safety by crew members. William Butten died three days before they sighted the shores of the New World. Dorothy May, William Bradford's young wife, fell overboard and was drowned.

During the first winter, for want of proper food, clothing and shelter from the cold weather, many of the 101 Pilgrims died including 23 men, 14 women and 11 children. Among them were the father, mother and brother of Priscilla Mullens, who became Priscilla Alden.



Priscilla's survival may have had some influence on American history. Her daughter, Ruth, was the ancestor of John Adams, John Quincy Adams, William Cullen Bryant and Samuel Seabury, first Episcopal Bishop in the U.S.A., who was born in Connecticut.

Bob Fatherley is a direct descendant of John Alden, William Mullins, Francis Cooke and James

Chilton—all signers of the Mayflower Compact. His wife, Emeline, is a descendant of another pilgrim, William Brewster.

COMPUTEREASE

The following was taken from a Letter to the Editor from a MGS Member, **Edward F. Beyer**, outlining his experiences in genealogical computing. He makes reference to Robert Barrows' article "Computer Programs for Genealogy" reproduced in the October newsletter.

I was faced with the problem of collecting and sorting information on my project and searched the software files for a program that would fit my computer (PCjr) and pocket book. I did purchase the Morman system but found that it lacked flexibility, as you mentioned. I went off on my own and decided that I would develop my own system. Particularly since I have limited memory (128K).

Since I had already purchased a Writing Assistant and Filing Assistant (They are IBM, but are available from other sources such as PSF) packages, I developed my own. While my system does not have the convenient "prompts", it is simple enough so that you do not need them.

I agree that it is better to store the information on floppy discs. It give you greater capacity as well as ease in filing by groups such as family branches.

The ID number is most important as it is a positive identification as well as ease of sorting and recalling the specific ancestor. Periodically I have the computer prepare a listing of name and ID number and use that as an index.

Dates should be entered Year/Month/Day numerically. This also speeds up sorting. Since we are close to the 21st Century, I recommend four digits for the year.

Enclosed [Below] is the format that I use based on Filing Assistant. This is on the top of an 8 1/2" x 11" page allowing sufficient space on the lower half for notes, sources, and most important, the date on which the last bit of information was added to the page.

Another point - list names by surname, first name, second name. If a person is known

by a nickname, this can be added as well, but more often can be included in the notes at the bottom of the page.

Using Writing Assistant, I construct a family tree showing two or three generations. With each name I show the ID number and page references to other generations. This also takes care of remarriages, etc.

The major advantage of this system is its flexibility and ease in use. I currently have over 100 names and related information in the system and have no problem retrieving and updating information.

DESCENDANT NAME IN FULL: ID#:
RESIDENCE:
DATE OF BIRTH: PLACE:
DATE OF MARRIAGE: PLACE:
DATE OF DEATH: BURIAL:
NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED:
OTHER MARRIAGES:
FATHER'S NAME: ID#
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: ID#

SPOUSE NAME IN FULL: ID#
RESIDENCE:
DATE OF BIRTH: PLACE:
DATE OF MARRIAGE: PLACE:
DATE OF DEATH: BURIAL:
NUMBER OF TIMES MARRIED:
OTHER MARRIAGES:
FATHER'S NAME: ID#
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME: ID#

ANNUAL MGS MEETING

is scheduled for WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1988 at 8:15 p.m. in the Darien Public Library.

Antoinette Segrave, Director, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, will speak on "Passenger Lists: A Rich Resource". PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB.

SATURDAYS & GENEALOGY

by Norman Adams

Every Saturday from 10 to 12, a MGS member is present in the Darien Library to assist people with genealogical questions. There are several volunteers who rotate the assignment so it is not onerous for anyone. Part of the assistance rendered is showing inquirers what genealogical resources are present and how to get at them. Most of these resources are part of the small but growing MGS collection which is housed in a particular area of the library. A second aspect of the assistance is sharing experiences concerning other resources in the area - the Ferguson Library in Stamford, the Mormon facilities in New Canaan, the Pequot Library in Southport, the New York Public Library, and the Bridgeport Public Library come to mind.

As one of those volunteers, I have met a number of interesting people and have been happily surprised by how much help my limited capabilities in genealogy have provided them. I have been less happily surprised by how few people make use of the Saturday morning opportunity. Up to the present, the service has been of benefit to the MGS mostly as a way to introduce the MGS to potential new members. That role should continue, but we would like to make the Saturday morning session be of more help to current members. We intend to do this in two ways.

Available Resources

First, we plan to run a short class to familiarize interested members on the resources available in the MGS collection. The session would probably be an hour or two some midweek evening, about a month or two from now, and would be in familiar form - someone who knows the subject, a prepared talk, some distributed notes, and questions & answers. Of course, running a class will be reasonable

only if enough members are interested. I hereby ask that people who might be interested call me. I will keep them posted as plans become more definite. I do not conceal my hope that some of the people who attend would eventually become Saturday morning volunteers.

Saturday Visits to the Library!

The second thing we hope to achieve is to have more use by current members of the Saturday morning session. We plan to try to make it a focus for interchange of information among our members. One possibility is to schedule particular geographic areas for each Saturday in the hope that people working in genealogy involving those areas will come and meet other people concerned with those areas. I would appreciate both additional suggestions as to how to make the Saturday session be a useful focus, and suggestions of what geographical areas are of particular genealogical importance to MGS members.

Please call me at home in Wilton at 762-5263. I am sometimes home in the daytime and am usually home in the evening. Thank you.



1988 NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

**April 27-30, 1988
Biloxi, Mississippi**

For program schedule and registration form, write N.G.S. Conference Committee, 4527 Seventeenth St, Arlington, VA 22207-2362

GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

A **MUST** book to have. It is for sale by the:

Superintendent of Documents
U.S. Printing Office
Washington, D.C. 20401

It can be purchased either in paperback or hardback. The hardback is recommended because the paperback has VERY small print plus it is a book you will use often. I am not sure of the price as I have had my paperback for several years, but as I recall it was less than \$10.

The book includes:

- **POPULATION & MORTALITY CENSUS SCHEDULES:**
Information on their form, their contents, and aids to research in them.
- **PASSENGER ARRIVAL LISTS:**
Lists of arrivals from abroad at ports on the Atlantic Ocean or the Gulf of Mexico and a few inland ports from as early as 1798.
- **UNITED STATES MILITARY RECORDS**
dated 1775-1912 and records of burials to 1939.
- **UNITED STATES NAVAL AND MARINE RECORDS:** dated 1776 - 1942.
- **RECORDS OF VETERANS' BENEFITS:**
contains many noncurrent records of benefits to veterans, their widows, and other heirs for service performed between 1775 and 1934 excluding Confederate and World War I service.

- **RECORDS CONCERNING THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA:**
including compiled military service records, records relating to naval and marine personnel, citizens files, amnesty and pardon records, and cotton bills of sale.
- **LAND-ENTRY RECORDS FOR THE PUBLIC-LAND STATES:**
dated chiefly 1800-1950 with a few as early as 1685.
- **OTHER RECORDS OF GENEALOGICAL VALUE INCLUDING:**
 - Records concerning Indians
 - Civilian personnel records
 - Passport applications
 - Records concerning merchant seamen

The records described in this guide are records of the Federal Government, created to satisfy legal requirements or to meet the administrative or other needs of the originating agencies. They were not originally made for genealogical purposes. To use these records effectively a genealogist must know what kinds of information they contain and how that information is arranged. This guide will do just that.

LECTURE TAPES AVAILABLE IN LIBRARY

MGS has made an effort to tape record the lectures featured during our regular meetings. While we do not have all of them, many will be available at the Darien Public Library for your use. They will be a part of our new Genealogical Section which will be available when the renovation of the Library is complete. Until then, ask for them at the reference desk.

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS (MORMONS) have a videotape out entitled *USING A BRANCH GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY and HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS*

A copy of this videotape can be found in the Darien Public Library or bought from Tom Kemp for about \$15. I found the videotape helpful in its clear outline of exactly what to look for in the Mormon branch libraries thereby hopefully saving time and helping me to be prepared for my visit to the library.

Below I have given a general outline of the videotape. However, the actual viewing of the tape is highly recommended if you have access to a VCR machine.

USING A BRANCH GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

- 1. FILL OUT A PEDIGREE CHART.**
- 2. SELECT AN ANCESTOR** born before 1900 that you want to know more about. **KEEP A RESEARCH LOG** on that ancestor and list everywhere you find information.
- 3. THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF RECORDS - PREVIOUSLY RESEARCHED AND ORIGINAL RECORDS.**

PREVIOUS RECORDS include:

- o **IGI** - listing over 88 million names on microfiche. Look first for location (country, county, town), then alphabetically for surname.

- o **FAMILY GROUP RECORDS** - there are about 8 million group records listed alphabetically by husband's last name. These have been microfilmed and can be ordered for your use in the branch library. Use the branches' catalogue to identify and order the one you need.

- o **FAMILY HISTORIES** - Books must remain in the main library in SLC, however, copies on microfilm or microfiche can be ordered. To determine if there is a Family

History of interest to you, look in the GLC (General Library Catalogue) in the surname section.

- o **FAMILY REGISTRY** - The library has compiled names of people who are interested in sharing information with others. The Family Registry is listed on microfiche alphabetically by the ancestor's name. Next to it, you will find the name and address of people currently doing research on that name. You may contact them personally.

ORIGINAL RECORDS include **BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH, MILITARY, CHURCH, CIVIL, CENSUS, PROBATE, LAND, COURT** - these are microfilmed throughout the world on a regular basis. They are available from the main library on microfilm. Check the Locality Section in the Card Catalogue for the Call Number of the microfilm.

4. OBTAINING A COPY - If the local branch doesn't have what you need, the microfilm or microfiche can be ordered for your use for 3 weeks to 6 months (depending on the record). There will be a small fee for postage and film duplication. The film takes about 4 - 6 weeks to arrive.

5. WHAT TO DO NEXT:

- o Organize and record your finds.
- o Make copies
- o Keep careful notes in your Research Log of all the records you have searched.
- o Evaluate your new info, check other available sources such as local libraries, courthouses, churches, etc.
- o Select another ancestor and start again.
- o Share with your relatives. They are interested and may be able to add information to your finds.
- o You may want to compile your own family history and leave copies in the

library, send a Family Group Sheet to the main library, join the Family Registry to share your information.

- o Begin keeping accurate records on your own personal family.

AND DON'T FORGET, there is always a librarian in the branch libraries to help you in anyway.

Second half of videotape "HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS" to be continued in next newsletter.

BARROWS FAMILIES OF COLONIAL NEW ENGLAND collected by Robert S. Barrows, 151 Glenbrook Rd., Rochester, NY 14616. If anyone has an interest in the Barrows clan, Mr. Barrows would be pleased to share data.

A GENEALOGY WORKSHOP INCLUDING ADVANCED TOPICS

conducted by Tom Kemp

will be presented at the New Canaan Public Library on March 17, 24, & 31. There is no charge for this workshop and it is well worth the effort to get there. Tom starts at the beginning with the usual "Fill out those pedigree charts" and goes on to cover such topics as publishing, using the town hall, how to approach a library, National Archives contents and vital records to name just a few. Along the way, the floor is open to general and specific discussions of individual problems. I attended the one Tom gave at the Danbury Library and plan to attend the one at Bethel Library in April. I always learn something new.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR '88

This seminar is sponsored by The Greenwich Historical Society, The Stamford Genealogical Society, and The Stamford Historical Society. It will be held Saturday, March 12 at Christ Church Parish Hall, 254 East Putnam Ave, Greenwich from 9-3. The fee is \$35 which includes a box lunch.

The program will include:

- **"Unlocking the Secrets in Probate Records"** by Abbott L. Cummings, Charles F. Montgomery Professor of American Decorative Arts, Yale University, New Haven
- **"How to Tap the Resources at the National Archives"** by James D. Walker, former Research Consultant and Supervisor, Military Records, National Archives, Washington, D.C.
- **"Fun and Frustration in 19th Century Records"** by Roger D. Joslyn, F.A.S.G.; Certified Genealogist, New Windsor, NY.
- **"Getting a Handle on the Genealogical Print Explosion at Home and Abroad"** by Thomas J. Kemp, Assistant Director, Pequot Memorial Library, Southport, CT.

For further information and a registration form, call (203) 329-1183.

"The ascendant hand is what I feel most strongly; I am bound in and in with my forbears...We are all nobly born; fortunate those who know it; blessed those who remember."

Robert L. Stevenson
Letters II, p. 230



45 Old Kings Highway North
Darien, CT 06820

