



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

WINTER 1991

Vol VII, No. 4



## OPEN HOUSE

presented by  
Middlesex Genealogical Society  
and  
Connecticut Ancestry Society  
Saturday, January 26  
Darien Public Library  
1 - 3 p.m.

Featuring  
*ABCs of Genealogy*  
by Mary Ann Stewart, Pres., CT Ancestry Society  
and  
Marian Otis, Queries Editor of CT Ancestry Newsletter

*Advanced Genealogy*  
by Henry Hoff, Co-Editor of the NY Gen. & Bio. Record

*On-Line Genealogy with Computers*  
led by Jack Sanders and his son, Ben  
Creators of the "Source of Magic"  
Genealogy Bulletin Board

*Reference Resources*  
by Meriwether Schmid, V.P. of CT Ancestry Society  
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**COME TO THE END OF THE OREGON TRAIL**  
1991 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States  
to be held in Portland, Oregon  
29 May through 1 June, 1991  
For Conference Brochures, write  
NGS Conference  
4527 17th Street  
North Arlington, VA 22207-2399  
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## GENEALOGY SEMINAR '91

Professional Strategies for Problem Solving  
February 23, 1991  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Christ Church Parish Hall, Greenwich, CT

### SPEAKERS

Helen F.M. Leary  
*Real People Versus Paper People: Using Life Patterns  
in Genealogical Problem Solving*  
and  
*What Now Coach? How to Gather and Manage Large  
Quantities of Information for Genealogical Analysis*

Marsha H. Rising  
*Consider the Collateral Kin: Genealogical Data  
in the Full Family Context*  
and

*Proving Identity: Distinguishing Individuals of the Same Name*

Sponsored by The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich,  
The Stamford Historical and The Connecticut Ancestry Society  
Early registration fee of \$35 includes lunch; late fee is \$40  
More info call (203) 329-1183  
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**COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND 1991**  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
99 - 101 Newbury Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116  
6 - 12 May 1991  
and  
8 - 14 July 1991  
Call (617) 536-5740 for more info.  
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**A TOUR TO GEORGE REDMONDS'  
YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND**  
Sponsored by NEHGS  
15 - 26 May 1991  
Call (617) 536-5740 for more info.  
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**NATIONAL GRAVESTONE STUDIES CONFERENCE**  
Northfield Mt. Hermon School  
Northfield, Massachusetts  
27 - 30 June 1991

Program features the many ways to appreciate and preserve the  
nation's burying grounds. Includes a hands-on workshop on  
resetting and restoring gravestones, a workshop for educators on  
using the graveyard as a classroom to introduce history, art and  
literature, and an introductory session for those new to grave-  
stone studies. Bus tours will visit historic graveyards in south-  
ern Vermont and New Hampshire as well as the smaller  
graveyards in towns near Northfield.

Call (617) 455-8180 for more information.  
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## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS

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### TRUSTEES

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Henry Hoff  
Thomas Kemp

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 Public Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10-12) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$10/ Individual and \$15/Couple or Family.

Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to the Editor:

Sherrill S. Yates  
9 Wagon Rd  
Bethel, CT 06801.

Correspondence to the Society :

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



## Tracing Patriot Ancestors

by Myra Vanderpool Gormley, C.G.

Colonial Homes, February 1991

If your ancestors lived in America in 1775, you may descend from a Revolutionary War veteran. About 250,000 men, out of a population of about 2.7 million in the Colonies, fought on the American side.

The Revolution generated volumes of records, many of which included detailed genealogical information on the veterans, their wives, and their dependents. Most of them are in the National Archives, in Washington, D.C.; the archives of states that composed the original 13 Colonies; and university and private archives in those states. There are also records in the archives of a few other states, in city and county agencies, and in French archives.

One kind of records that may provide detailed information on your Revolutionary War ancestor is the pension application. To deter desertion and resignation during the war, the government promised to provide pensions after the war. (The states also awarded pensions.)

There were three types: Disability, or invalid, pensions went to servicemen for injuries sustained in the line of duty; service pensions, to veterans who served specified time periods; and widows' pensions, to women whose husbands were killed in the war.

The Continental Congress enacted the first pension legislation on August 26, 1776. The resolution provided half-pay for officers and enlisted men, including those on warships and armed vessels, who became disabled in the service and incapable of earning a living. It specified that half-pay would continue for the duration of the disability.

(Continued on Page 29)



## MGS ANNUAL GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, February 16th

at the  
Silvermine Tavern  
12 Noon

Watch your mail for further info.

## LDS Family History Library Compact Discs

Federation of Genealogical Societies, *Forum*,  
Volume 2, Number 3, Fall 1990

Perhaps the two most consulted research aids found in the Family History Library and its centers throughout the world are the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and the Family History Library Catalog. In the latest innovation from the Family History Library, both of these remarkable tools will now be available for use in a compact disc version.

The compact disc versions have been designed so that those who have no experience with computers can easily use them. Although not available for purchase, the compact disc versions are rapidly appearing at Family History Centers throughout the country. While these versions contain essentially the same information found in the microfiche editions, the powerful compact disc versions provide many features not available on microfiche.

The IGI compact disc, for example, lists all names alphabetically within an entire country or region. You need not know the county, state, or province your ancestors came from to see if their names are in the disc file. Twenty million names are arranged in one alphabetical list for all U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Sixty million names are available in a combined index for England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Other features of the IGI disc edition include a Help key that explains each screen; searches by similar spellings of names that sound or look alike; and the inclusion of the Family History Library call number of the microfilm of the original source document. In addition there is a special index, called the Parent Index, which brings together the information about brothers and sisters when the parents' names are listed in the same way.

The Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) compact disc version also offers more search options than does the microfiche version, which is similar to a standard card catalog. The compact

disc enables the user to search by location, family names, or key words that appear in the notes and titles of catalog records. A researcher may also conduct film/fiche number searches when the catalog number is known.

A search can also be carefully defined by the user of the compact disc version. An example given is the seeking of a family history for the surname "Roberts." If you request "Roberts" in the surname search, you will discover there are 372 family histories that mention the name. If you combine "Clark" and "Ohio" with "Roberts" you will narrow your search to three family histories.

The applications for compact disc versions of old and new research aids are remarkable. For example, the researcher using the IGI compact disc version may print out what appears on the screen or copy the data onto a floppy disk for use on a home computer. This convenient "take home" feature applies also to the Ancestral File, a collection of family-linked records that have been contributed to the Family History Library over a several year period. The Ancestral File on compact disc should be at most Family History Centers before the end of 1990.

These programs are all part of a massive undertaking by the Family History Library to simplify genealogical research by making information readily accessible to the largest number of users possible. This growing system of personal computer-based programs and databases is called FamilySearch. This is truly genealogy for a new decade.

(Adapted from *News of the Family History Library*, 2:3, May/June 1990. For more information, write the Family History Library, 35 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150.)

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### DUES ARE DUE!!!

*It's not time again, and Fred Farwell, our treasurer, has sent out the notices. Those of you who joined after June 30, 1990 are not liable for dues in 1991, however, if you wish to make a contribution, it would certainly be appreciated. If you did not pay your 1990 dues, you will not be reading this as you did not receive this newsletter!!!*

*Prompt response to the dues notices would also be appreciated.*



Another resolution, passed May 15, 1778, provided half-pay for seven years after the war to officers who remained in service until the war ended. Enlisted men who served for the duration received a gratuity of \$80.

A Continental Congress resolution of August 24, 1780, comprised the first national pension legislation for widows. It offered half-pay for seven years to widows and orphans of officers.

Over the years, the government passed many other pension acts, and application procedures varied with the act under which a serviceman, widow, or dependent sought benefits. Generally, however, the process (called a "declaration") required the applicant to appear before a court of record in the state of his or her residence and to describe under oath the service for which he or she claimed a pension. Applicants often had to prove eligibility by providing supporting documents such as property schedules, marriage records, or affidavits as witnesses.

Once applicants established eligibility, their names went on the pension lists. They usually received payments semiannually through a pension agent of the federal government in their state. Applicants rejected under earlier acts often reapplied under later, more liberal laws.

As an example of the information a pension application might contain, consider the application of Michael Treece, obtained from the National Archives. Treece filed his application in 1840, in Jefferson County, Tenn. In the application, he tells of his service in the war, detailing his participation in the Battle of Brandywine, on September 11, 1777.

He also gives information on his place and year of birth (Northampton County, Pa., about 1759) and notes other counties in which he resided (Rowan County, in North Carolina, and Claiborne, Grainger, and Jefferson counties, in Tennessee). From these clues, a genealogist could reconstruct his migration and find additional sources of information in the places he lived.

Like many men of German and Swiss descent who fought in the Revolution, Treece explains in his application that "during the whole time I was in the service of the United States and for some time after, I could not talk or understand one word of the English language."

Another example of the details pension applications can reveal appears in the application of Wilson Henderson. He filed for a pension in 1838, at age 76. He not only lists places to which he was posted but notes that the army drafted him at age 15. He says he served under Capt. Robert Frost and fought in the Battle of Eutaw Springs on

September 8, 1781, about 30 miles east of Orangeburg, S.C.

Henderson cites all his residences after the war, noting the date of each move. He also includes a copy of his "indent book" (a log that lists payments to a soldier) from records in the Comptroller General Offices, in Columbia, S.C. It shows payments made in 1778, 1780, and 1781.

Other papers in his file indicate he was a Baptist minister and provide his approximate date of death. (The latter fact led to his probate records in Illinois.) Ironically, he died before his pension was approved.

One caveat about pension records: You probably won't find an application for your ancestor if he filed soon after the war. Unfortunately, most of the applications received by the Secretary of War before November 8, 1800, were destroyed in a fire on that date. More applications were lost when the British burned Washington, in 1814.

But you can glean much historical data from later Revolutionary War files. The pension applications of veterans or the affidavits of their witnesses may describe the organization of military units, movement of troops, and plans for campaigns. Some files contain enlistment papers, pay receipts, furlough papers, passes, commissions, warrants, discharges and other original records. A few files have letters to or by servicemen that give firsthand accounts of military and civil events.

During the war, American forces included many types of military organizations, created by the Continental Congress as well as by states, counties, and towns. So if you do not find your ancestor in the Continental Army, you may locate him in a state or local group.

Military terms can be baffling to those researching their family trees. A typical infantry regiment in the Continental Army might contain eight to ten companies. It had field officers, such as a colonel, lieutenant colonel, and major, as well as a regimental staff, with an adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon, surgeon's mate, paymaster, and chaplain.

There were also cavalry and artillery regiments, similarly arranged. In the cavalry, companies were often called "troops." Artillery companies had special soldiers, including bombardiers, gunners, and matrosses (gunners' mates who helped load, fire, and sponge the guns).

Then, too, there were artificer companies composed of civilian or military mechanics and artisans. These companies often included carpenters, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, harness makers, and coopers.

In addition to a veteran's rank, unit, and period of service, his pension application usually gives his residence, age or date of birth, and sometimes, place of birth. A widow's application often provides her age, residence, maiden name, date and place of marriage, and date and place of her husband's death. There may be a copy of her marriage record in the file. (Sometimes applicants submitted a page from their family Bible that contained information on their marriage.)

Applications submitted by children and other heirs or dependents generally mention their ages and residences. Family records from Bibles and other books submitted with applications may show dates of birth, marriage, and death. In a few pension files, you will find final payment vouchers, which sometimes contain the date and place of a pensioner's death and the names of his or her heirs.

Another record to investigate is the bounty-land warrant. Granted under acts of the Continental Congress and, later, the federal and state governments, the warrants gave veterans and their heirs the rights to free land in the public domain. Like pensions, the warrants served as inducements to get and keep men in the service. Note, however, that while some recipients settled on bounty land, other chose to remain in their homes and sell their warrants.

If you know the name of your ancestor and the state or states in which he resided during the Revolution, you can have the National Archives search for copies of his military, pension, and bounty-land records. First, write to Reference Services Branch (NNIR), National Archives and Records Service, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20408, and request several copies of NATF Form 80. You must request searches for military, pension and bounty-land files on separate forms. Keep in mind that the searches may take several months because of the many requests the archives receives.

If you live near a regional branch of the National Archives or have access to a Family History Center (a branch of the Family History Library of the Mormon church, in Salt Lake City, Utah), you can check the "General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers." The index is on microfilm; there are 58 rolls, divided alphabetically by surname.

Your ancestor may have been established as a "patriot" by a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In that case, you will find him listed in the DAR's *Patriot Index* books. Most libraries have them. The indexes are arranged alphabetically by surname and then by given name.

In 1976, the National Genealogical Society published the *Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications in the National Archives*. Many libraries have this book. Arranged alphabetically by surname, it contains the names of those who applied for pensions, along with their application numbers.

Once you have some information on your Revolutionary War ancestor, you can visit archives, libraries, and other repositories to gain more details about his life. To learn about the battles in which his regiment participated, consult the *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, by M.M. Boatner III. Check local public and university libraries for additional information on battles and campaigns. You may also find military details in the histories of states that were once Colonies; university presses have published many of these accounts.

In addition to general listings of Americans in the Revolution, there are numerous compilations of special groups, both American patriots and British sympathizers. Notable among the patriot listings are those of prisoners, women, chaplains, blacks, medics, the Irish, and the French. The major groups that sided with the British were the American Loyalists and the German mercenaries hired by the British, and you can find listings of them, as well.

Checking libraries and archives under such subtopics as "Revolutionary War—history of" can lead to sources that will help fill in the historical background of your family and trace its role in the war for independence. \*

## WHY IS IT?

*The Connecticut Nutmegger*, Vol. No. 23, No. 3, Dec. 1990

The only overturned, face-down gravestone in the cemetery in grandpa's.

The blot on the page of the census covers grandmother's birth date.

Your ancestor's will leaves his estate to his beloved wife and children, but doesn't name them.

The person next to you in a library has all the luck and you can't find a thing.

The information you so desperately need could be found only on the 1890 census. (burned)

Just as you are hot on the trail of a lost ancestor, it's always time for the library to close.

The Census Enumerator missed the entire section where ALL of your family lived.

You receive that long-awaited death certificate, and under Mother and Father it says: UNKNOWN.

**FERGUSON LIBRARY**  
**BRIEF GUIDE TO THE GENEALOGY COLLECTION**

taken from *Connecticut Ancestry*  
Whole Number 173, November 1990, Vol. 33, No. 2

The Ferguson Library, corner of Broad and Atlantic Streets, Stamford, CT.  
Hours: Mon-Thu 10-9, Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5 and Sun 1-5, Sept. 16 - May 12.

**I. STAMFORD ROOM (2nd floor mezzanine)**

**Bibliographies:**

Genealogies in the Library of Congress	RL q016.9291/U58g
Genealogical Books in Print	RL 016.9191/Y24g
DAR Library Catalog	RL q016.9292/D2381
US Local Histories in the Lib. of Congress	RL q016.973.U58u
Connecticut: A Bibliography of its History	RL q016.9746/C752

Connecticut Church Records RL 280-285

Connecticut Vital Records (also 929.3746) RL 312.746

Stamford Grand Lists (1714 - ) RL q333.332/S783r

Historical Atlases & Gazetteers RL 912-917

**Periodicals**

American Ancestry	RL 929/A512g
The American Genealogist	RL 929/A
NY Genealogical & Biographical Record	RL 929/N
National Genealogical Society Quarterly	RL 929/N277g
Connecticut Ancestry	RL 929/S783b
New England Historic Genealogical Register	RL 929.1/N44
Uncataloged Periodicals	Right Wall

**Periodical Indexes**

Periodical Source Index (PERSI)	RL 016.9292/P445
Genealogical Periodicals Annual Index	RL 929.1/G326p
Jacobus, Index to Periodicals (3 vols)	RL 929.1/J17i

**Compendia & Manuals, U.S. and Foreign**

Munsell's Index to American Genealogies	RL 929.1/M969i
Savage, Gen. Dictionary - New England	RL 929.374/S264g
Virkus, Compendium of American Genealogies	RL 929.1/V81a
Jacobus, History & Genealogy-Old Fairfield	RL 929.2/J15h
Kemp, Genealogies in the Ferguson Library	RL q929.1/K32g

**Genealogies & Family Histories**

Arranged alphabetically by family surname RL 929.2/A...Z

**Source Materials & Vital Records**

D.A.R. Lineage Books	RL 929.3/D2381
D.A.R. Patriot Index	RL 929.1/D238dp
Ancestor Charts-CT Ancestry Soc. Members	RL q929.3/S783m
Filby, Passenger&Immigration Lists Indexes	RL q929.373/P287

Connecticut Census Indexes	RL q929.3746/C752
Many "How to Do Research" books	RL 929.1
Surnames/Heraldry/Peerage	RL 929.4-929.8
War Records	RL 973.3-973.8
Local Histories	
New England	RL 974.1-974.5
Connecticut	RL 974.6
Stamford	RL 974.69
New York	RL 974.7
City Directories	
Stamford (1881 - )	Right Rear Wall
Darien-New Canaan; Greenwich (1930 - )	Left Rear Wall

## II. REFERENCE ROOM (2nd Floor)

### Genealogical Card Catalog

(RL=Ferguson Library, SH=Stamford Historical Society, NC= New Canaan Historical Society)

Surname Index to Genealogies

Index to Connecticut Ancestry Society Member Ancestor Charts

Microcards (MC)

Genealogy Vertical File

Periodical File (subject, state arrangement)

Microfiche (MFE) cabinet: International Genealogical Index (IGI) for United States, Canada, Europe - 1988 version

Reference Desk: Interlibrary Loan Orders, catalog assistance

Computerized Card Catalog

## III. LOWER LEVEL (MF = Microfilm)

### United States Census Microfilm

(Stamford/all or part of Fairfield County, 1790-1910; all of Connecticut: 1790, 1900, 1910)

Barbour Index of Connecticut Vital Records to 1850

Meade, Abstracts of Probate Records: Stamford, Greenwich

Hale Index: Stamford Cemetery Inscriptions

Torrey, New England Marriages Prior to 1700

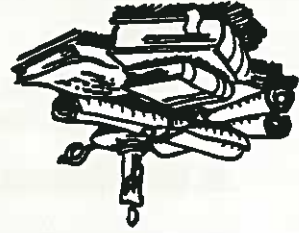
## From The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania Newsletter, *Penn in Hand*, Vol. XI No. 3 - 1990

The following advertisement was found by one of the GSP volunteers in the personal column of *The Philadelphia Ledger* of 24 May 1855:

"PERSONAL - A young Gentlemen, 26 years of age, tall, well formed, and with a fine open countenance, is desirous of hearing from a young lady matrimonially. He possesses a handsome fortune, and is doing a fine business, but having met with disappointments, wishes to go to the Far West, with a Wife who will love him, milk the cows, etc. He is a regular contributor to one of the first Magazines of the country, and the young lady should therefore know how to read and write. Red hair is an indispensable qualification, and \$10,000 will be no objection, but will not be required. Address, postpaid, DUDLEY, Binghamton, New York, giving name, address, appearance and fortune. All communications strictly confidential."

Patricia M. Flowers  
31 Brushy Hill Road  
Darien, CT 06820

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



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

Application for Membership  
Single (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_  
Couple (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_