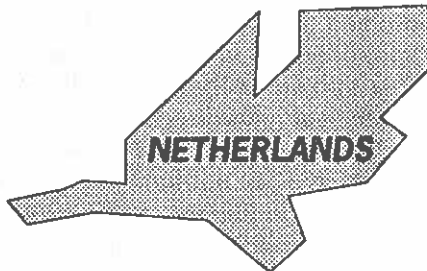




# Middlesex Genealogical Society

SUMMER 1990

Vol VII, No. 2



## Tracing Dutch Ancestry

by Jane C. Merchant

Some years ago I decided to explore some of my "Dutch roots." Researching the ancestry of my great grandfather, the Rev. John James Elmendorf would, I thought, be a piece of cake. Although none of his descendants were available for help, being either dead or long since gone from the area where I once knew them, I was still fairly confident of some success finding out about him because he had been quite prominent at one time in his fields of academe and the Episcopal Church. *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography* did indeed give his birth date as 21 June 1827, New York City, but no mention of his parents. The only other personal note was the name of his wife, Henrianna Green, the daughter of Henry Atkinson Green, also of New York, whom he married in October 1850, and that they had twelve children.

After he was graduated from Columbia College in 1845, Elmendorf studied for the ministry at the General Theological Seminary in New York, while also becoming an instructor of mathematics at Columbia. After he was ordained in 1850, at the Episcopal Church of The Holy Comforter, he would serve as an assistant rector at St. Mary the Virgin, and found a girl's school, St. Mary's, which later located at Poughkeepsie. *Appleton's biography* stated he published three books in a time period of ten years on subjects of the rites of the church and philosophy, and received his Doctorate of Divinity from Columbia in 1866. After which he removed with his family (then eight children, one of whom was my grandmother, born in 1864) to Racine, Wisconsin, where he became a professor of philosophy and belles-lettres at Racine College. Before he died in 1896, he was a professor of theology at Western Theological Seminary (now Seabury Western) outside Chicago. He died in Chicago in 1896.

My hunt for his parents seemed to lead nowhere. I could find no Elmendorf in New York City for the date of his birth. Letters to Columbia, the General Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Archives in Texas only produced some obituary notices and similar citations of his career, such as had appeared in the *Appleton Cyclopaedia*. I did receive a surprise letter I received from a friend of the Dean at Seabury Western telling me that she and her husband now lived in the Elmendorf house in Racine. We corresponded for awhile. She sent me pictures of his house, and I sent her as much information as I could about my grandmother's family: my great aunts and uncle. Finally, I put a query in the *NYG&B Record* and when, after a year and nothing happened, I forgot it.

Four years later, I heard from a woman in Texas in answer to my query. She is an Elmendorf cousin, who has done a great deal of research and most generously she has sent me copies of all her findings.

What had prompted me to place the query in the *Record* was an account I had discovered in the nineteenth volume -- a history of the Elmendorf family, which gave the name of Jacobus Elmendorf as the first of the family to come to America, in 1668, and that he was the ancestor of all the Elmendorf who settled in Ulster and Dutchess County, New York. Because the list of descendants had not proceeded into the 19th century, I had found only possibilities as to which branch my great grandfather was related. Now, my cousin from Texas sent me her findings.

Here I must explain that tracing Dutch ancestry presents a real challenge. Settlers in Ulster County and Dutchess County -- across the Hudson -- who founded Esopus (Kingston) and Rhinebeck -- where Elmendorf settled, created an ingrown society. They had large families and married only within the community, preserving their language, customs and the Dutch Reformed Church. The naming system for children best illustrates the problem: Jacobus named his sons Conrad and Jacobus. Each son in turn named his sons the same, plus each added the names of Cornelius, Petrus and Wilhelm and each of these sons also used these names for their sons. Which brings me to the parents of my great grandfather.

(continued on Page 12)

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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



### **The Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Newsletter The Pennsylvania Correspondent**

Tom Kemp, head librarian, recently conducted the semi-annual meeting of the Council of National Library and International Associations. Kemp was named a voting member of the National Institute of Standards Organization/Z-39 Committee, which approves all the national standards in the publishing, information retrieval, library and archives fields. He also attended the American Library Association Mid-Winter meeting in Chicago, where he chaired the ALA History section discussion.



### Letter to the Editor:

In September of last year, there was some talk of starting a genealogical society here in Georgetown, SC. Dr. James L. Spangenberg, who moved here from Virginia, and who is a member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, had approached some of us who are of like mind. The idea was welcomed with great enthusiasm. However, as Hugo came along about that time, it took awhile to get back on track. Finally, we had our first meeting November 24th. There were 27 at the first meeting which was held at the Georgetown Memorial Library. Dr. L. D. Jordan, president of the South Carolina Genealogical Society addressed us and it was decided to have the Georgetown Genealogical Society become an affiliate of the South Carolina Genealogical Society. At the next meeting, held in January of this year, we were formally adopted, and now have a membership of fifty.

On the 15th of July, a group of us are going to Columbia to a workshop of the SCGS to which member societies from all over the state will come, to be held at South Carolina College. We will also have access to the State Archives at the State House, as well as the South Caroliniana Library, at the University of South Carolina, also in Columbia. We have been asked to bring with us any family name each of us needs help with -- not necessarily of South Carolina. We are assured expert help!

Dr. Spangenberg, who is our first president, insisted at our first meeting that we each hand in our family charts as soon as possible. So far the majority have complied. He is collecting them in a Family Folder which will be available in our special room at the library for reference. He also has asked for a list of all the families each of us is working on, regardless of location. In our membership, there are many of us from other parts of the country, and the idea is -- you never know from whom you may get some help.

At this time, we are still without a newsletter, but hope to start one in the fall, at which time, we hope to exchange with other societies. Meanwhile, I have shown Dr. Spangenberg the Middlesex Genealogical Society's newsletter and can report that he is very impressed.

Jane C. Merchant  
P. O. Box 1273  
Georgetown, SC 29442



## So You've Traced Your Family -- Now What?

by Mary Ann Nicholson

NEHGS NEXUS, Vol. VII, No. 2

You have spent decades ferreting out primary sources and obscure details to fill in the blanks, traipsed through wet graveyards to make gravestone rubbings, collected old photographs, tape-recorded Aunt Minerva's reminiscences and now you are ready to write what you know about the family. You are the expert on the family and your relatives are expecting great things from all this effort: Don't disappoint them by procrastinating any longer.

Whether you type it on an old manual Royal with a carbon copy or have the latest computer, programs and scanner available, begin at once to write your family history. It may be the most appreciated legacy you can leave anyone. And only you can do it. Yes, you could dictate it or hire a professional writer to make sense of your scribbled notes, but most genealogists prefer to do it themselves.

If you haven't mastered *Register* style, aren't sure where to put superscripts, can't decide how to incorporate those precious footnotes of documentation, or don't know what to do about copyrights, there are books to consult. Three easily understood manuals are the Society's latest publication, *Guidelines for Genealogical Writing* by Margaret F. Costello and Jane Fletcher Fiske (NEXUS, 1990), *Cite Your Sources* by Richard S. Lackey (New Orleans, 1980), and *Write It Right* by Donald R. Barnes and Richard S. Lackey (Ocala, Florida, 1983).

Plan to include a complete name index, because the value of your work to others will depend on it.

Have others proofread your text. They can spot typos, data inconsistencies, and ambiguous wording with dispassionate eyes.

Then decide whether you want to spend a few thousand dollars of your children's inheritance to have the genealogy published. With a commercial publisher you sign a contract indicating how many hundred books you want printed and bound, preferably in the standard 6" x 9" size to fit most library shelves. Keep in mind that you will be responsible for the publicity, promotion and sale of the book and how those huge cartons of slow-selling books will crowd your little apartment.

If your work is well-documented and well-formatted and concerns a prominent family not heretofore researched, or presents new corrected data, it is remotely possible that a regional historical society will look favorably upon your work and offer to publish it for you. That society will handle promotion, sales, and copyrighting, and perhaps invite you to an autographing party.

However, if you want only a few copies to give to friends, relatives and appropriate libraries (such as NEXUS), it may be more realistic to consider other methods of going to press. This way you can control the publication from start to finish and limit the number of copies.

Modern computers with laser printers offer such versatility in font, style, superscript, size, ease in setting margins and indexing that the manual typewriter and mimeograph have gone the way of the dinosaurs. You will be able to produce a page the way you want it to look, even to the caption under a photo or chart.

Printing firms listed in the Yellow Pages offer a variety of methods which include photocopying, offset printing, photo-typesetting using your camera-ready copy, or typesetting directly from your computer diskettes. You select the method that suits your needs and purse. You specify the quality of paper, such as 50 lb. weight acid-free, and quantity of copies. They cut, collate, and provide covers and certain types of binding at competitive prices. The best can also produce a decent copy of a good old photograph. And if Christmas giving depletes your stock of genealogies, it is easy to have the photocopier run a few more, for less money per copy than you can buy a remaindered Book-of-the-Month Club bestseller.

It is not enough to do years of research unless you just like to solve puzzles for their own sake. It would be a shame if your family material remained inaccessible to those most interested. You owe it to posterity to disseminate your life's work so others will not have to re-invent your genealogical wheel.

See you in print!



## RECORDS SELECTION TABLE

(taken from the *FHL United States Research Outline*)

The table below can help you decide which records to search. It is most helpful for post-1800 research. In Column 1, find the goal you selected. Then find in Column 2, the types of records that are likely to have the information you need. Additional records that may also be useful are listed in Column 3. The terms used in Columns 2 and 3 are the same as the subject headings used in this outline, and in the locality section of the Family History Library Catalog. Records containing previous research (genealogy, biography, history, periodicals and societies) could provide information for nearly all the goals. These have not been repeatedly listed unless they are especially helpful for the goal.

1. If You Need	2. Look First In	3. Then Search
Age	Census, Vital Records, Cemeteries	Military Records, Taxation
Birth date	Vital Records, Church Records, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Obituaries, Census
Birthplace	Vital Records, Church Records, Census	Newspapers, Obituaries
City or parish of foreign birth	Church Records, Genealogy, Biography, Naturalization and Citizenship	Vital Records, Obituaries, History, Emigration and Immigration
Country of foreign birth	Emigration and Immigration, Census, Naturalization and Citizenship, Church Records	Military Records, Vital Records, Newspapers, Obituaries
Country origins and boundaries	History, Maps	Gazetteers
Death	Vital Records, Cemeteries, Probate Records, Church Records, Obituaries	Newspapers, Bible Records, Military Records
Divorce	Court Records, Vital Records	Newspapers
Ethnicity	Minorities, Native Races, Societies	Church Records, Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship
Historical background	History, Periodicals	Minorities
Immigration date	Emigration and Immigration, Naturalization and Citizenship, Genealogy	Census, Newspapers, Biography
Living relatives (and adoptions)	Genealogy, Directories, Court Records, Obituaries	Census, Biography, Societies, Church Records, Probate Records
Maiden name	Vital Records, Church Records, Newspapers, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Obituaries
Marriage	Vital Records, Church Records, Census, Newspapers, Bible Records	Cemeteries, Military Records, Probate Records, Naturalization and Citizenship, Land and Property
Occupation	Census, Directories, Emigration and Immigration	Newspapers, Court Records
Parents, children, and other family members	Vital Records, Church Records, Census, Probate Records, Obituaries	Bible Records, Newspapers, Emigration and Immigration
Physical description	Military Records, Biography	Naturalization and Citizenship, Vital Records, Emigration and Immigration, Genealogy
Place-finding aids	Gazetteers, Maps	History, Periodicals
Place (town) of residence when you know only the state	Census (indexed), Genealogy, Military Records, Vital Records, and other records with a statewide index	Biography, Probate Records, History
Place family has lived	Census, Land and Property, History	Military Records, Taxation, Obituaries
Previous research (compiled genealogy)	Genealogy, Periodicals, Societies	History, Biography
Record-finding aids	Archives and Libraries, Societies	Periodicals
Religion	Church Records, History, Biography	Bible Records, Cemeteries, Genealogy
Social activities	History, Biography, Newspapers, Societies	Town Records, Court Records, Cemeteries, Directories, Obituaries

(continued from Page 8)

Ezra Heiman Rosa Elmendorf, his father, was born in 1805 at Rhinebeck, NY, the son of Cornelius and Elizabeth (Slegt) Elmendorf. The godparents were Heiman deRosa and Catherine Bogardus. Elizabeth Slegt's mother was a Bogardus, so it is believed Catherine may have been an aunt or a cousin. Heiman deRosa was also a relative of both the Elmendorf and Slegt families. Ezra (the appearance of this choice of name is a puzzle) married in New York City at the Mariner Church, Mary Ann Lowe, who was born in 1806 in New Brunswick, Canada. (This is from their marriage certificate.) More about her in a minute.

There is still a question about the parents of this Cornelius Elmendorf, whether he is the son of a Cornelius Elmendorf or the son of John Elmendorf, because there were two Elizabeth Sleights who married a Cornelius! The sponsorship of Catherine Bogardus at the baptism of Ezra is some help, but the marriage records do not specify her husband's parents.

My knowledgeable cousin is still working on this. Meanwhile, when I was in Nova Scotia last spring, I met a genealogist who is helping me with Mary Anne Lowe. There were two Lowes who came to Nova Scotia in 1783, with the Loyalist Spring Fleet from New York. John Lowe and James Lowe. Both later removed to New Brunswick. She believes that one of them might be Mary Ann Lowe's grandfather. I learned that John Lowe had married in Albany the daughter of a Dutch family, and that the name Lowe was originally Luov (Dutch) which might explain why Mary Ann came back, at some time, to New York.

In 1668, the year Jacobus Elmendorf came to settle in Esopus, Charles II decided that the New Netherland's colonies, established for the benefit of the Dutch West India Company for fur trade with the Indians, should belong to England, so he declared war on Holland in order to seize them. As a result, New Amsterdam became New York, Port Orange was renamed Albany, for his two brothers, the Duke of York and the Duke of Albany. Esopus was renamed Kingston. The war would explain the isolation of these Dutch colonists from the English. Although, according to Samuel Eliot Morison in his *History of the American People*, relations had previously been friendly, it might account for the fact that it was well into the eighteenth century before the marriage records of the Elmendorf and other allied families showed any English names. Tracing one's Dutch ancestors is like slipping into the world of Rip Van Winkle!

**Sources:** *Appleton's Cyclopedia of American Biography*, compiled by Wilson and Fiske, D. Appleton & Co., Vol. 2, p. 237.  
*The New York Genealogical and Biographic Society Record*, vol. 20, July 1889, p. 102-107: "Early Settlers of Ulster County, N.Y., The Elmendorf Family." by Gerrit H. Van Wagenen.

## BIBLE RECORDS The Aaron & Cynthia Lott Family 1851

Copied from  
The Darien Historical Society  
Bible Collection



### MARRIAGES

Aaron Lott to Cynthia Lott  
June 18, 1850

Jeremiah Lott to Rebecca B. Van Brunt  
October 28, 1880

Charles F. Lott to Elizabeth W. Remsen  
January 27, 1881

Abram Lott to Ella Maas(?)  
January 29, 1896

William Remsen Lott to Cornelia Elizabeth de Bevoise  
October 23, 1907

### BIRTHS

Aaron Lott born April 12, 1828

Cynthia Lott born December 4, 1828

James A. Lott born May 15, 1851

Jeremiah Lott born July 16, 1854

Charles Francis Lott born August 26, 1856

Abram Lott born November 5, 1862

James Abram Lott born October 19, 1881

William Remson Lott born January 13, 1882

Daniel Van Brunt Lott born August 15, 1884

Elizabeth W. Remsen born April 1, 1858

### DEATHS

James A. Lott died July 1, 1872  
Aged 21 years, 1 month and 17 days

James Abram Lott died March 22, 1883  
Aged 1 year 5 months & 3 days

Aaron Lott died December 15, 1886  
Aged 58 years, 8 months and 3 days

Cynthia Lott died January 7, 1896  
Aged 67 years, 1 month and 3 days

Elizabeth W. Lott died October 9, 1916

Abram Lott died July 24, 1929





**Genealogical Research  
at the Headquarters Building  
National Society**

**Daughters of the American Revolution**

by Eric G. Grundset, Library Director, NSDAR  
taken from the National Genealogical Society Newsletter,  
Vol. 16, No. 2 (1990)

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) celebrates its centennial in 1990. During this century the "Daughters" have assembled a tremendous collection of valuable material for genealogical research. The DAR Library is the best-known component of the headquarters building at 1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., but there are various other offices about which genealogists should be aware. Virtually all of the collected sources housed in the NSDAR building are available to researchers, and access is not limited to members.

**The DAR Library**

The DAR Library, housed in the former auditorium of Memorial Continental Hall, is usually the first destination in the building for a genealogist. Upon entering the library, the researcher should sign the register and let the staff member at the front desk know if he/she is a member of the NSDAR. Nonmembers pay a daily entrance fee of \$5 to use the library and the Seimes Microfilm Center combined (on Sunday afternoons the fee is \$3 for the library only). Members of the Sons of the American Revolution are exempt from the entrance fee, but only upon presentation of a current membership card. Group visits are always welcome, but it is necessary to inform the library in advance of the arrival date to avoid conflicts with other large groups or special closings.

The library's collection of 100,000 books contains all of the standard genealogical sources one would expect, as well as many that are unique to this collection. The holdings cover all periods of American history, not just the era of the American Revolution.

Family histories and genealogies comprise about one-quarter of the books, and many are typical in that there were few copies printed or prepared, and, consequently, they are difficult to locate. The printed *DAR Library Catalog, Volume One: Families Histories and Genealogies* (1983 and 1984 supplement) provides researchers with listings of the majority of such studies in this library, although several thousand have been added since the *Catalog* was published. The "Family Name" section of the card catalog provides access to the primary surname(s) in the title of each book, as well as to the many other surnames gleaned from the contents and index of a volume during cataloging.

The remaining three-quarters of the collection is presented in the *DAR Library Catalog, Volume Two: State and Local Histories and Records* (1986). Again, the library has added thousands of new titles since this second volume of the *Catalog* was published. Both volumes are available for purchase from the library.

A major portion of the book collection is comprised of the Genealogical Records Committee Reports. These typescript volumes began in the 1920s and are still produced each year by the NSDAR's state societies. Any type of record of genealogical value might appear in the G.R.C. reports. Bible records, cemetery transcriptions, and court record abstracts are among the most common contents. The DAR Library alone houses the G.R.C. reports in their entirety, although each state society maintains sets in libraries in its state. The Family History Library also owns the microfilm version of these books. Several printed indexes to the microfilm enable researchers in both Washington and Salt Lake City to use this valuable material. These indexes are *The Vital Records Compendium*, *The Cemetery Record Compendium*, *An Index to Some of the Family Records of the Southern States*, and *An Index to Some of the Bibles and Family Records of the United States*. Hundreds of G.R.C. reports have been placed in the library since the filming ended in 1972, and the staff is continually working to index these volumes.

The library's 400-drawer "Analytical Index" provides researchers with access to information buried in many books in the collection including the G.R.C. reports. This index has been compiled since the 1920s and is an essential tool when using the library. New cards are added to the index daily.

There are also various special indexes to parts of the library's holdings, including the manuscript collection, selected Revolutionary War pensions, Virginia women in the Revolution, and pioneer families of Michigan.

The library also houses several hundred thousand files of genealogical information, which accompanied

NSDAR membership applications or which individuals have provided to supplement the book collection. The staff will try to locate a file that came with an application, but unfortunately, there are many that have not survived.

The library staff provides photocopying services to researchers both in the library and by mail. Policies and prices are provided on request. The library cannot photocopy entire books.

Telephone reference assistance is available for very specific questions. The staff cannot undertake research but will attempt to give informed advice and referral. All correspondence to the library should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) for a reply. Please be concise, and allow four to six weeks for a reply. There are many requests ahead of yours.

In 1987, the library acquired a collection of 1,100 directories for cities throughout the United States. These volumes are concentrated around the census years of 1910, 1920, and 1930, with a few before and after these dates.

A collection of maps and lineage charts is in the process of being inventoried. Many of them have been cataloged and can be accessed through use of special indexes at the reference desk.

Because of the national scope of the library's holdings and of the NSDAR membership itself, researchers will find records from all parts of the United States in the DAR Library. Records migrated with families, and it is very possible that a DAR member in a distant location might have submitted the Bible or other family records for the ancestors you are researching in your own back yard.

### **NSDAR Membership Applications**

Membership applications are in the custody of the Registrar General. Researchers wishing to order copies of application papers must request the proper form from: Record Copy, Office of the Registrar General, NSDAR. This form provides details of costs and any restrictions that might apply. The application papers themselves are available to researchers on microfilm housed in the Seimes Microfilm Center. They are arranged by the national numbers of NSDAR members. These numbers can be obtained in two ways: (1) by requesting the Registrar General's staff to consult the Patriot Index cards in their custody for names of Revolutionary-era ancestors and their children in a particular lineage, or (2) by requesting the Organizing Secretary General's staff to check their records for the number of a NSDAR member with whom the researcher may share a Patriot ancestor. One must have a specific member's name for the latter search.

While the names of established Revolutionary Patriot Ancestors of NSDAR members have been printed in the multivolume *DAR Patriot Index*, the entire list of these ancestors has not been printed nor

have the names of NSDAR members. *The Patriot Index* is not a comprehensive listing of all participants in the American Revolution.

Many researchers will have had their first contact with NSDAR membership applications in the form of the *DAR Lineage Books*. This 166-volume set and four-volume index ceased publication in 1939 and included members' lineages to 1921. There have been seven decades of additions and corrections to these lineages, and researchers are strongly advised not to accept them just because they are in print. Contact the Registrar General's staff to determine if there have been changes and corrections submitted for any lineage whether in the *Lineage Books* or in subsequent, unpublished application papers.

### **The Seimes Microfilm Center**

Researchers may view the application papers in the Seimes Microfilm Center. This collection contains many other valuable genealogical materials besides the application papers. The published *Seimes Microfilm Center Index* (1985) lists many of the important microfilm holdings which supplement the book holdings of the DAR Library. Among these microfilms, the most significant are the federal censuses for 1850 to 1900; Revolutionary War pension files; the Draper Papers; vital records of Massachusetts towns beyond the printed volumes; the Barbour Index to the Vital Records of Connecticut; New Jersey Tax Ratables, 1778-1832; North Carolina Revolutionary Army Accounts, 1776-1792; and Virginia Revolutionary War Public Service Claim Court Booklets. Many smaller collections and new materials make the Center a very important stop during any visit to the NSDAR.

### **Basic Information**

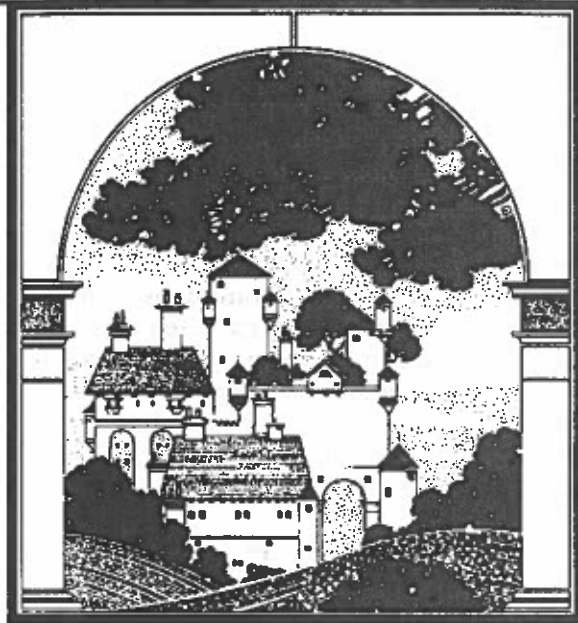
The NSDAR headquarters address is 1776 D Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-5392. The library's telephone number is (202) 879-3229. Hours for the entire building are 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, although the library does not open until 9:00 A.M. The library only is open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holiday weekends. The NSDAR observes all federal holidays and is closed to nonmembers during the month of April for its annual Continental Congress.

The closest Metro station is Farragut West on the blue-orange line. Bus service on the 13 route from the Pentagon down Constitution Avenue is frequent during rush hours, but spotty during midday. On-street parking is very limited.

Additional information and pamphlet on the NSDAR as a research facility can be obtained by writing to the DAR Library and enclosing a SASE. Inquiries about NSDAR publications and information on how to apply for membership must be sent to the Office of the Corresponding Secretary General.

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## **Opulence and Extravagance Revisited (Or the Many Faces of Newport, RI)**

by Ray H.. Bartlett

On May 10, 1990, members of the Middlesex Genealogical Society and the Darien Historical Society set out once again. This time we invaded Newport, Rhode Island. Our first stop was at Bannister's Wharf on America's Cup Avenue. Many of our intrepid explorers roamed the environs shopping and browsing. When hunger soon overcame us, we headed for the Clark Cooke House "Candy Store" restaurant where we overindulged with their many tasty offerings. Newport Clam Chowder was a great reward for riding nearly three hours.

After lunch, our trusty bus brought us to the Newport Historical Society which resides on Touro Street in the oldest 7th Day Baptist Church building (c. 1729) in America. It was made into a museum about 1900.

Burt Lippincott of the Society gave us a brief history from the founding of Newport and its "haydays" (1680 to 1776) when it was one of the most significant seaports in the colonies. He said their society has the best window on colonial commerce from its collection of merchants' business files and account books of famous Newport artisans. Valuable custom house records and proofs of citizenship for Newport and surrounding towns are recorded there.

Mr. Lippincott said 1657 saw the beginning of the quaker religion in Rhode Island for which they have rich genealogical records. These early Quakers were the first organized group to abolish slavery. Their genealogical library is the second largest in the state with an expansive reference facility. They also have good histories of towns from New London, CT to Salem, MA. However, they do not have much data on Connecticut in the 1600's.

Helen Burke, Newport Historical Society Docent, led us next door to the Touro Synagogue where we were welcomed by Rabbi Shapiro. "This," he said, "is the oldest synagogue in America having been dedicated in 1763 and houses artifacts 500 to 700 years old!" The Torah scrolls on display are inscribed on leather and are 500 years old!

Rabbi Shapiro then treated us with a concise discourse on the history of Jews from Germany and Spain to their fleeing to the "New World" to escape persecution over a span of 2000 years! New Amsterdam (now New York City) in 1654 was and is the oldest Jewish congregation in North America where 23 settled with Peter Styversant.

In 1656, in the colony of Rhode Island, 16 families formed the second Jewish congregation in North America. Isaac Touro was the first Rabbi. This very building where we listened spellbound is copied from the "Morano" synagogue of Amsterdam, where they took refuge in 1492 from being forced to convert to Catholicism or leave from Spain.

Next, we toured the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard house on Broadway, the oldest house in Newport, built between 1675 - 1698. This was originally constructed by a Mr. Mumford, son of the 7th Day Baptist minister. But he was a British tax collector and was forcibly evicted by irate colonists during the war for Independence. It is a typical 17th century British style house. After the Revolution, it was occupied by a Mr. Wanton, who married a Hazard lady. Later, it passed to her daughter (a Hazard).

As clouds began to obscure the sky, we went "up the hill" to the Trinity Church (c. 1726). Newport was settled by independently-minded people who initially settled on the waterfront, but later expanded "up the hill." These settlers who ran the town were business people, not churchmen as in many New England towns. This Trinity Church is the second building and is essentially original although has been expanded. It is basically a Christopher Wren style with large windows to admit lots of light. The stained glass windows were added about the turn of the century.

A unique feature of the Trinity Church is its "wine glass" pulpit, a three tiered wooden structure, shaped like a wine glass. It also houses the second installed organ in this country. (The first is in the King's Chapel in Boston where Pachelbel was that church's first organist!)

By late afternoon, the gathering clouds were darkening the skies as we were welcomed to the Viking Hotel, Motor Inn and Conference Center. This Inn, built in 1930, is the oldest hotel in the city of Newport. Wine and cookies served us during the late afternoon, eased our weariness from a busy day.

The New York Yacht Club was our destination for cocktails and dinner. The rich ambience of this formal mansion combined with the nautical memorabilia will linger a long time in our memories. While we con-



sumed a most elegant meal, a severe rainstorm raged outside. The candlelight dinner delightfully distracted us from the real world. As if on schedule, the rain abated as we left the Yacht Club to ride back to the Viking Hotel.

The next day dawned bright and clear as our guide, John Connor, briefed us on Newport's history. He discussed the founding in 1639 by Roger Williams who left the Boston area to escape the stifling religious restraints of the Puritans. Newport, then an island, seemed a safe refuge. Newport, normally with a population of 30,000, swells to 100,000 during summer peak tourist season. The U.S. Government is the largest employer with commercial fishing and tourism following close behind.

We stopped briefly at Fort Adams near Benton Cove which was in use from 1825 to 1955. Then were driven past the Hammersmith farm (home of Jackie Onassis' mother), by "Irish Castle" to Brenton Point State Park. The view of the surf pounding on the rocks was so wonderful that we stopped for a few minutes of picture taking.

Next it was on to "Millionaire's Row" (Bellevue Avenue) catching glimpses of Doris Duke's former home (she of the Lucky Strike fortune), William K. Vanderbilt's 1892 "Marble House", Mrs. Astor's "Beachwood" and Pearl Mesta's "Cottage". The Breakers was our next scheduled stop where we were treated to a fine tour of this incredible mansion. Built by 2,000 workers in 1895 for Cornelius Vanderbilt to resemble 16th century Italian palaces,. The grounds and view of the ocean were absolutely magnificent. Many of these fine old mansions became too costly to maintain and were saved from deterioration by the Preservation Society of Newport.

Our next stop was in Newport Harbor at the 1748 Hunter House on Washington Street. It was built by John Nichols, a ship owner, who served as Deputy Governor of Rhode Island. Later Colonel Walton bought it, but lost it in 1776, because he was a British Loyalist. The French used it as their Naval Headquarters during the American Revolution. After the war, a Mr. Hunter bought the house. It was restored by the Preservation Society and opened in 1949.

We had a delightful lunch at the White Horse Tavern, "America's Oldest Tavern," built in 1673. William Mayes, father of a notorious pirate, was the owner in 1702. During the Revolutionary War, the British troops were quartered there during their occupation of Newport. The Preservation Society acquired the tavern in 1954, restored it and opened it as a restaurant in 1957. It is now privately owned.

Our driver, John Mirto, smoothly cruised us back to Darien while we sipped wine and nibbled cheese crackers, happy after a delightful historic tour. Janet Jainschigg, Nikki Hollander and others from the two societies once again planned a tasteful, well planned tour. Well done! \*

**Application for Membership**

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**Middlesex Genealogical Society**

45 Old Kings Highway North

Darien, CT 06820

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Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

