



Middlesex Genealogical Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume V, Number 1

April 1988

EUREKA!

by Florence Wyland

We never thought we'd be driving six hours to a church service, but in this case it was worth it. We had at last, after years of looking and searching found the Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, PA. This was where my husband's great-great grandfather had been minister for forty years.

And there it was, sitting on a lovely knoll, surrounded by trees, its bell tower and steeple reaching above the beautiful PA countryside. Next to it lay the picturesque graveyard, bordered with a white fence, enclosing its many chalk-white stones standing neatly in rows.

We first saw the church steeple while still a full mile away on the highway, as we raced along in our motor home. We had only 10 more minutes to make it to the 10:30 worship service, even though we had left Connecticut at 4:30 a.m. that morning. By now, the gas tank was on "empty" and the farm traffic of Lancaster County was leisurely putting along, always right in front of us, it seemed. Pulling into the parking lot, we headed straight for the last remaining 3 parking spaces, which was just enough space for us to park our vehicle in.

As we hurriedly changed into our "Sunday best", a smiling couple approached, and we stepped out into the arms of our new-

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MGS GENERAL MEETING

JANUARY 17, 1988

SPEAKER: JUDITH M. PLUMMER
PRESIDENT ELECT of the
SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT
GENEALOGISTS

**SUBJECT: SEEKING GENEALOGY
IN ODD PLACES**

Judith Plummer gave an excellent talk on January 17th. She had so much information for us that I can only hit some of the high points.

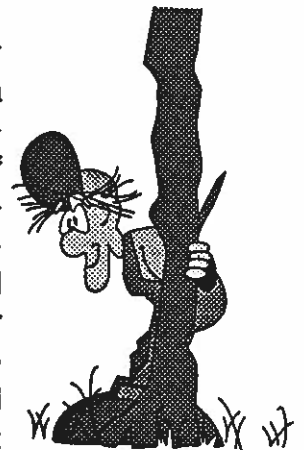
Mrs. Plummer feels that "seeking" is a matter of individual attitude. You must think of your ancestors as individuals and try to imagine where he/she would have left clues to their existence. Some of the places she suggested looking are listed below:

LAND RECORDS - search every clue. If an ancestor owned land there are many possible records kept.

CENSUS RECORDS - not just usual but agricultural and manufacturing censuses.

MORTALITY SCHEDULES - a part of the census. Each state has its own.

DEATH CERTIFICATES - lead to



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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 and publishes a quarterly Newsletter.

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

The Newsletter is published Quarterly. Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed. 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

MGS MEETING TAPES

Tapes of the MGS meetings are now being cared for by Treasurer, George Cushman. As soon as our Genealogy Room in the Darien Public Library is ready, they will have a special place there for your convenience. Until then, George can be reached at 866-3797. We would like to thank Harrison Rowland for doing our taping for us, and also thank Les Waddington who filled in for Harrison at the January meeting.

EUREKA!

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found cousins, relatives my husband, Alan, never knew he had, Tom & Peg Entemann. Peg's great grandfather was the late Rev. Lindley C. Rutter, the same Reverend that was my husband's great-great grandfather. And not only that, but she quickly introduced us to several other cousins, twice and three times removed.

Ushering us into this historic church, founded 274 years ago, we were swept along up near the front, in the side pew. Smiling faces gestured us to look over above our heads, and turning we saw 2 beautiful stain glass windows, fully 12 feet tall and 4 feet across. An anchor and a crown were set in among the triangles of colored glass and at the bottom was printed in lead, "Rev. Lindley C. Rutter, Pastor 1835-1875"!! We caught our breath as we stared at this Memorial Window of our ancestor. Just then it grew quiet and the service was about to begin. For a few seconds it seemed as though we had jumped back in time and were occupying the very same space our ancestors had. The old Presbyterian hymns touched us deeply, as we thought about the books we had at home, some of Rev. Rutter's old hymn books and sermon journals that he had used in this very church building over 100 years ago. Everything seemed to culminate at that moment and it was almost too much to believe.

Spending the next few days in the area, we were able to return and wander through the cemetery, copying down inscriptions and dates of many long lost ancestors. How proper and good it all seemed and we felt proud and thankful to have found this place and make that special connection with the past. It made our "genealogy" truly come alive.



MGS MEETING - JAN 17, 1988

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obituaries in newspapers, undertaker records, manuscript collections in local historical society.

MARRIAGES - check newspaper account of marriage.

BROTHERS/SISTERS - if unable to find information on ancestors, try siblings.

BACHELORS/SPINSTERS - property left to relatives found in estate records.

CORONER'S INQUEST REPORT - in state library, speak to state archivist.

PROBATE PACKAGES

U.S. DIRECT TAX RECORDS - check 1790-1846 town property lists for houses & barns, also out-of-state or town landowners.

DRAFT REGISTRATION CARDS - located in state archives. 1917 draft registration included skills of value to the war effort, such as the ability to drive an automobile or having a large garden.

CT SCHOOL CENSUS - begun in 1821.

BURIAL BOOKS - in town clerks office lists where buried, where body sent from and where body sent to if applicable.

GRAVE DIGGER'S RECORDS

EACH TOWN'S HISTORICAL HOME PRESERVATION REQUESTS - contain not only information on the house, but records of who lived there.

EACH TOWN'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY - histories of towns.

LOCAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES - keep donated manuscripts, artifacts and histories. Yale and Baker Library at Harvard have large collection. Harvard has the R.G. Dun (Dun & Bradstreet) 2,580 volume credit reports from its inception.

INDIANS - In the West, Native Americans have been completely documented. In the East, however, they are tricky. Check local and state histories, check school records because they were sent to school to "be civi-

lized". Also Indians had to have an "overseer" appointed for them to own land.

EACH TOWN'S MEETING MINUTES - has lists of freemen, warnings out (of community).

CHURCH RECORDS - can sometimes be difficult, but zero in on the individual religion and locate their archives.

LICENSES LISTS - always kept for any type of license.

Other places Mrs. Plummer suggested we look were:

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY in Worcester, Mass. has a large repository of records, manuscript and newspaper collection.

OLD STURBRIDGE VILLAGE, Mass. has an extensive library on history before 1850. They also have a manuscript collection.

CONNECTICUT SOURCES FOR FAMILY HISTORIANS AND GENEALOGISTS by Kip Sperry contains lists of all data which has been microfilmed including private controversies, land disputes, wills contested and crimes of misdemeanor.

ANTIQUE WEEK TRISTATE TRADER - a weekly publication from Indiana contains a great genealogy column and reviews on latest genealogy books.

THE CHEW FAMILY

A family newsletter covering all branches of the Chew surname and its allied lineages is now two years old. They publish quarterly at a cost of \$15 per year which includes unlimited free queries. For more information, contact Frances Brengle, 6619 Pheasant Road, Baltimore, MD 21220

HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS PART 2 - VIDEOTAPE

Continued from Volume IV, Number 4; Page 8

In the January Issue of our newsletter, I outlined the first part of the Mormon videotape entitled USING A BRANCH GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY and HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS. Below, is the continuation of that outline.

HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS

The census is a good place to start looking for information on your ancestors because it is a record of almost everyone who has lived in the United States. A census taker has visited every home every 10 years since 1790. All censuses have been microfilmed. 1790-1910 censuses are available for use, with the exception of the 1890 census which was almost completely destroyed by fire.

1. IDENTIFY WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR ANCESTOR.

2. SELECT THE CENSUS YOU WANT TO SEARCH: 1790-1840 only lists heads of households by name. Therefore, always begin with the most recent census your ancestor might be in and work your way back. The Government collected more data on its citizens in later years.

3. LOOK FOR A CENSUS INDEX: Indexes are important because surnames were not listed in the censuses alphabetically, but instead in the order that the census taker visited the homes. There are indexes for most of the censuses. 1860 and 1870 have only a few states indexed. If there is not an index, you can still search the census, it just takes longer. The librarian will help you determine if there is an index. In the index, you will find the name, county and page #. The **SOUNDEX** is a type of index for part of 1880, 1910 and all of 1900. It is a method of indexing which uses how the name sounds instead of how it is spelled. It sounds complicated, but really isn't.

There are clear directions and the ever present librarians to help you if needed. The "soundex" name will give you a code number which you will use to look in the Soundex Microfilm Listings by state and then by the Code #. That will give you the census microfilm number.

4. FIND YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE INDEX: Take down the state, county, township and page number.

5. FIND CENSUS FILM NUMBER: Look under state, then county.

6. FIND YOUR ANCESTOR IN THE CENSUS: Look under county, enumeration district, then page number.

7. COPY AND EVALUATE: Copy onto census printed forms which are available at the libraries. You can also request a photocopy either at the branch or from SLC. Evaluate info and record onto your pedigree charts and research log.

Valuable information is contained in the United States Census Records. Taking advantage of these records will help you along your way to identifying your ancestors.

VIRGINIA N. WOOD, PhD
11621 Village Place Drive
Houston, TX 77077

Wrote an article entitled "The Family of Rev. Richard Mather: A Genealogical Database for the New England Historic Genealogical Society NEXUS, Vol V, No. 1, Feb-Mar 1988.

She would like to hear from anyone with additional Mather data or who is also interested in genealogical databases. Check the Darien Public Library if you would like to read the article.

THE PEQUOT LIBRARY RECEIVES MAJOR GIFT OF 10 SHELVES OF SOUTHERN GENEALOGICAL BOOKS

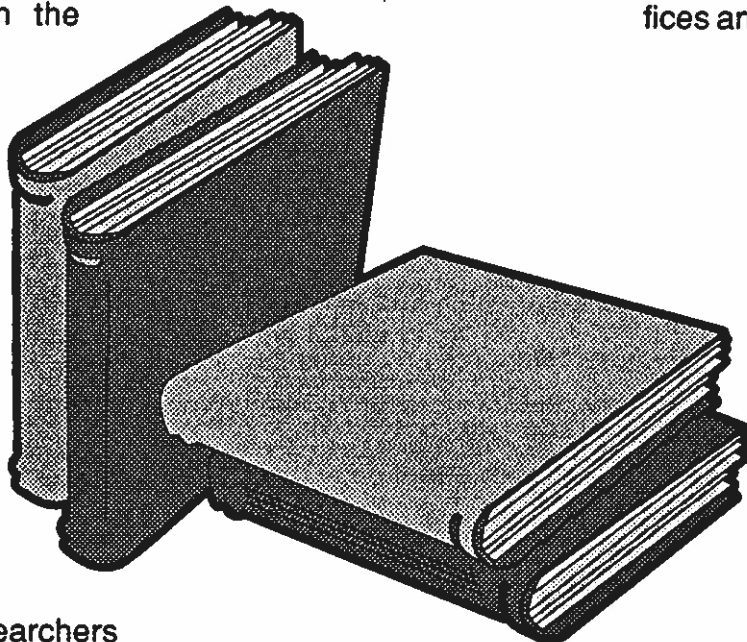
by Thomas Jay Kemp

MGS Director and Assistant Director of the Pequot Library

The Pequot Library in Southport has received a major gift of 10 shelves of genealogy books. The reference books are 80% Virginia material, but also cover Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. This gift, added to the Pequot Library's already strong collection gives the Library the best collection of Southern genealogical material in the area. The donor, from Stamford, wishes to remain anonymous.

Genealogical research is the most popular adult hobby in America today and area residents have been doing much of their research at the Pequot Library. This new collection has caused much excitement as researchers are anxious to find their Southern connections. The Library already has a good collection of Southern historical books and periodicals and the IGI, which indexes sources from across the country and the world.

The Pequot Library is open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5:30, Monday and Wednesday evenings until 8:30, Saturday from 9-5 and Sundays from 2-6. It is also open many holidays. Call 259-0346 for further information.



TOM KEMP DOES IT AGAIN!!!

Our congratulations go to Thomas Jay Kemp, one of MGS's Directors and the Assistant Director of the Pequot Library in Southport, who has just written another genealogy book and it looks like a winner. The book is entitled: **VITAL RECORDS HANDBOOK.**

The Vital Records Handbook offers a complete collection of vital records application forms for each of the fifty states as well as for U.S. trust territories, the provinces and territories of Canada, and the United Kingdom and Ireland. The application forms are the very same forms used by the different record of-

fices and they can be copied and re-copied as often as the need arises. In addition, each group of state, province, or country forms is preceded by a data page which provides the following essential information: The correct name and address of the vital records office, the phone number, the fees involved in applying for copies of

vital records, an explanation of the method of payment, and special notes on the records themselves, such as starting dates of each of the record classes, gaps and omissions in the records, and alternate locations.

The handbook is an 8 1/2" x 11" paperback and cost \$19.95 plus \$2 postage and handling fee. It can be ordered from the Genealogical publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-3897

**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
AND
DARIEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
have planned a Spring Trip
to
**WINTERTHUR MUSEUM AND GARDENS
LONGWOOD GARDENS
THE BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM**

May 11 and 12, 1988

You should have received your registration sheet. If not, call 655-9233. Reservations must be received by April 15th

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

1988 PROGRAM

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC
Mon, July 11 - Sat, July 16**

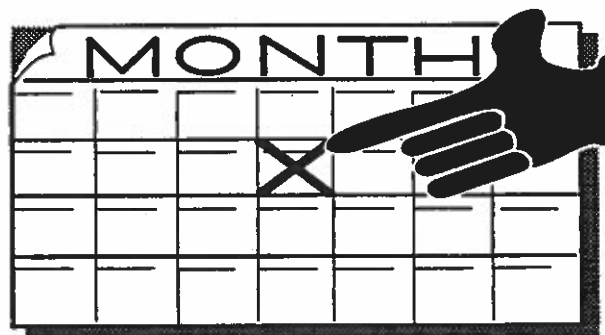
The Program includes a full list of speakers as well as research time in the National Archives. The program focuses on the records of the Federal Government at the National Archives and is designed for experienced researchers.

The newly redecorated Hotel Washington at Pennsylvania Ave. and 15th Street, a short walk from the National Archives, is offering attractive rates (\$65 single, \$75 double) to members for the dates July 9 - 17. The Institute tuition is \$195 if booked before May 1, \$225 afterwards.

For more information, write:

**The National Institute on Genealogical
Research
P. O. Box 14274
Washington, DC 20044-4274**

MARK YOUR DIARY !!!



**NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC AND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
will host its annual
"COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND"
JUNE 19 - 26, 1988

This seminar's most attractive feature is extended use of the remarkable NEHGS Library resources coupled with the personal attention of our professional genealogists and skilled library reference staff. Five days of morning lectures provide detailed information about New England topics, while afternoons and evenings are free for following new leads in the library. This year's themes will include New England migrations, New England gravestones and military history of the colonial period. Field trips to nearby repositories have been arranged.

The accommodations this year will be at the Tara Newton Hotel (formerly the Howard Johnson). The seminar fee of \$795 includes a shared room at the hotel. (It is an extra \$280 for a single.) If you have another place to stay in Boston, the cost for the seminar alone is \$550.

Enrollment is limited to 40 participants, so register early. For a registration form, write the:

**Education Department
New England Historic Genealogical
Society
101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116**

**FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETIES CONFERENCE**

will be held

AUGUST 24 - 27, 1988

at the New England Historical Genealogical
Society in Boston

"NEW ENGLAND IN YOUR BLOOD"

will be the four-day conference theme. From the basics of getting started to advanced strategies and professional research, there will be something for everyone. 120 sessions offered include everything from new publications and indexing projects to the latest developments in computer genealogy. The conference also offers unique sessions designed to help those interested in the administration of genealogical societies, genealogical library collections, publishing, and professional research.

The Boston Park Plaza Hotel will be the center of activities. There is also a sunset cruise on Boston Harbor, whale watch cruises, trips to Lexington and Concord to name a few of the planned excursions. For more information write to:

**"NEW ENGLAND IN YOUR BLOOD" c/o
NEHGS, 101 Newbury St.
Boston, MA 02116**

**NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116**

**SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TOUR
OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 6**

Spend a week with other genealogy enthusiasts as NEHGS staff members guide you through the world's largest collection of microfilm resources, housed at the Family History Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints!

The Tour includes accommodations for seven nights at the Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel, four group dinners, a sight-seeing tour, and lectures by the Family History Library staff tailored to meet your needs.

COST: \$775 Single, \$600 Double per person, transportation not included.

CORRECTION!!!

In our last newsletter, Jane Merchant was reported to have moved to North Carolina. She, in fact, moved to Georgetown, South Carolina. Our condolences to NC for their loss!!!

**THE 1988 CONFERENCE IN THE STATES OF THE
NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

hosted by the L. W. Anderson Genealogical Library

held at the

Mississippi Coast Convention Center Biloxi, Mississippi

APRIL 27 - 30, 1988

Conference Fees are \$90, hotel rates run from \$38 - \$58, Northwest is offering discounts flights, research is available at the L. W. Anderson Library, recreational opportunities include tours of Louisiana River Road, Mobile Bay Area, Historic and Scenic Biloxi, and Historic New Orleans to name a few. For more information write:

**NGS Conference Committee
4527 Seventeenth Street
Arlington, VA 22207-2362**

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN NORTH CAROLINA

The **GENEALOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH** of the North Carolina State Library is located on the West Mezzanine in the Archives and History-State Library Building at 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh. The Branch is open from 8 - 5:30 Monday through Friday and 8:30 - 5:30 on Saturdays.

The North Carolina State **ARCHIVES SEARCH ROOM** is located in the same building on the 2nd Floor. It is open the same hours with the exception that it is closed on both Sundays and Mondays. There is convenient parking half a block away in a visitor's parking lot for \$.50 per hour.

The **GENEALOGICAL SERVICES BRANCH** maintains an extensive collection of published (secondary) materials. These include family histories, census records and indexes, abstracts of state and county records, cemetery records, indexes, bibliographies, and general reference works. Some of the Branch's most valuable resources are its large collection of materials on the colonial period in North Carolina and the other original colonies and information on the areas from which North Carolinians came and to which they migrated.

The most rewarding records, genealogically speaking, are the county records. Therefore, **YOU MUST KNOW IN WHICH COUNTY** your ancestor resided. If you do not know, the **BRANCH** has the NC census records plus those of about 30 states. Once the county is determined, search the county records for wills, inventories of estates, records of guardianships, marriages, deeds, tax records, court minutes, etc.

The **ARCHIVES SEARCH ROOM** has the largest single collection of **PRIMARY** North Carolina materials, either in the original form or on microfilm. The types of records available are:

COUNTY RECORDS: Almost all of the 100 counties have retired their pre-1868 records, except deed and will books, to the **ARCHIVES**. Each county's records are sorted into nine categories. The card catalog contains descriptions reporting precisely what records exist in the **ARCHIVES** for each county. The nine categories of county records are:

1. **BONDS:** Apprentice, bastardy and officials' bonds - usually arranged by date.
2. **CENSUS RECORDS:** County copy - there is no indication that this was kept by the county.
3. **COURT RECORDS:** Minute and other dockets of the county courts as well as surviving loose original documents in law suits. Precise dates need to be known to use these.
4. **LAND RECORDS:** consists of the few original deeds left in the county register's office by the grantee, some records created through disputes and divisions, and entry books. The complete series of deed books remain in the office of the county register of deeds, although the **ARCHIVES** has microfilm copies of the deed books available.
5. **ESTATE RECORDS:** Includes the records of estates of both testators and intestates, alphabetically arranged by surname within each county. Included may be inventories, accounts of sales, financial reports, divisions among heirs, guardians' records, documents concerning law suits, etc.
6. **MARRIAGE RECORDS:** Prior to 1868, there is no records for most marriages. There is a master state-wide bride and groom index to bonds which was executed by the groom in the county in which the bride resided and some of these may exist for about half the counties. Names of parents, age or other personal information usually **DO NOT** appear on the bonds. Certification that a marriage had actually been performed was not required until 1851. Marriage bonds were in use from 1741 to 1868. Write to the Register of Deeds

in the county concerned for information on marriages after 1868.

7. **TAX RECORDS:** There are some lists of taxables for varying years within a county, but they are seldom alphabetically arranged.

8. **WILLS:** Will books remain in the office of the county clerk of court, but the loose, original wills are in the Archives where they are alphabetically arranged.

9. **MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS:** Include road, bridge, mill and ferry records as well as those concerning slaves, county financial accounts.

Other records include:
State Agency Records and Military Records

SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

LAND GRANTS are kept by the Land Grant Office, Office of the Secretary of State, Admin. Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

VITAL STATISTICS: Neither Birth nor death records were not kept in NC before October, 1913. For birth certificates after 1913 and death certificates after 1929, send SASE and \$5 to Division of Health Services, Vital Records Branch, Box 2091, Raleigh 27602. For death certificates from 1913 through 1929, write the NC State Archives. Enclose a \$5 search and handling fee and SASE.

PARISH REGISTERS: Contrary to rumor, there are no known surviving Church of England parish registers for colonial NC.

PASSENGER LISTS: Only brief lists of Scot families sailing for NC in 1774 and 1775.

BIBLE RECORDS: Some copies of family data copied from Bibles. They are arranged alphabetically.

CEMETERY RECORDS: Card file grave inscriptions for persons buried in many NC cemeteries prior to 1914 are available in an index arranged by name.

INFORMATION BY MAIL: A \$5 fee is required for each request from out-of-state plus a SASE. They request that simple questions be asked. Of the nine categories of county records, only three are alphabetically arranged and can be checked by the staff. The others are not indexed. With each query, the staff automatically checks the indexed military records. Again, you **MUST** know the county - it is the **ONLY** way to find anything in North Carolina.

**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGY
SOCIETY IS PLEASED TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT
OF THE FOLLOWING DONATED
BOOKS**

**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL
COLLECTIONS**

by John Warner Barber, publishers Durrie &
Peck and J. Barber, New Haven.

Donated by Nancy LaFrance

MAXSON FAMILY RECORDS

by Walter Leroy Brown
and

**BROWN, HAKES
& ALLIED FAMILIES**

by Walter Leroy Brown and
Florence Brown Swain.

Donated by
M. Theda Hakes Brown.

Many thanks. We are thrilled at
how our library is growing.

Middlesex Genealogy Society members are encouraged (if not begged!) to send the editor articles, experiences, queries, "blips" and anything you feel might be of interest to our membership to be used in our newsletters. Please send any and all of the above to the editor, Sherrill Yates

