



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Fall 1994 NEWSLETTER

VOL X, No. 5

"GOOD NEWS FOR M.G.S."

Family Search Project

Our Board of Directors on April 9, 1994, approved an offer to the Darien Library requesting their acquisition of the Family Search Data Base available by The Church of Latter Day Saints. Description of this Data Base is included with this news letter.

We expect to help pay for this investment and we offered to help the Library defray a portion of the expense.

Our Board of Directors proposed that on the understanding that the total first year expenditure for both software and hardware would be approximately \$4500, we would be prepared to contribute \$1000 up front, with a further target of \$1000 to contribute from our efforts at fund raising. This money to be put towards the purchase of a set of 42 compact disks and caddies. Additionally, we would, subject to approval of the MGS Board, provide \$200 each year towards the annual re-licensing fee which we understand would cover the annual update of the Ancestral File, but not the less frequently updated I.G.I.

We have been informed that the Darien Library Board has approved our offer and some of the material has already been ordered and received.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to the Director, Mrs. Louise Berry and her assistant Valerie Fredericks. Their whole hearted cooperation with our society is most gratifying.

We hope the Workstation will be available in the Library Research Room where our M.G.S. resource files are located within weeks for use by the general public.

The Family Search Project was spearheaded by two of our members; Richard Saar and David Bowley to whom we wish to thank for their diligence.

THE M.G.S. GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 24TH WILL PRESENT
THIS EXCITING ADDITION TO OUR RESOURCES. COME SEE!

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGY SOCIETY
1994-1995
Officers

Ray Bartlett	President
Robert Kenyon	Vice President
Karen Polett	Secretary
Fred Farwell	Treasurer
Janet Jainschigg	Past President
Robert Fatherley	President Emeritus

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David Bowley
Charles Cotter
Raymond Gross
Lynn Hanks
Walter Jerige
David Polett
Marianne Sheldon
Charles Scribner
Florence Wyland
Phillip Morehouse

Newsletter Publisher
Richard Sarr

Trustees
Mary Freedman
Henry Hoff
Thomas Kemp
Grant Radmall

NEXT GENERAL MEETING !!!

**DON'T MISS OUR FIRST
GENERAL MEETING OF THE FALL.
COME TO THE DARIEN LIBRARY
ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 24TH,
2 TO 4 AND MEET THE "FAMILY
SEARCH" COMPUTER SYSTEM TO
BE INSTALLED IN THE LIBRARY
REFERENCE ROOM.**

REFRESHMENTS SERVED

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Over the weekend of May 12th I did some real live genealogical research. I attended my wife's family reunion in Gloucester, Mass. One of the purposes of the CRISPIN reunion was to visit the old homestead and photograph the grave stones in three cemeteries. Perhaps now we can determine the life spans for two very large (11 to 13 offspring) families; the CRISPINS and VOLKMANNNS, for those who may be tracing some ancestors with those names.

I do wish to personally thank all of the MGS Board members for carrying out all the functions of the Annual Meeting. It is a great compliment to our society to have such dedicated people.

I understand that a nucleus of our society are interested in organizing a Computer Club for those who are already using or are planning to use computer programs to aid their family research. That is a great idea and should help us to encourage new people to join the MGS. "OK folks, let's get cracking!"

At the general meeting May 21st, the membership elected Walter Jerige, Charles Cotter & Phillip Morehouse to the MGS Board of Directors. A new position on the board was established with the election of David Bowley as "Director of Computer Services."

We have submitted a request to the Darien Library to use the auditorium from 1 to 4pm for 5 Saturdays in the 1994-1995 season for our General Meetings:

September 24, 1994
November 19 "

January 17, 1995 Workshop
March 28, "
May 30 "

We also requested appropriate Board Meeting dates.

We welcome responses from our membership to send us articles describing their research activities; humorous, historical, shocking, mysterious, baffling, hysterical or whatever.

OUR MGS NOW HAS A NEW MAILING ADDRESS: BOX #1111 AT THE MAIN DARIEN POST OFFICE, THANKS TO THE PERSISTENCE OF OUR TREASURER, FRED FARWELL.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien, CT 06820-1111

Ray Bartlett, President

COMPUTER CORNER by David Bowley

Every day the world of genealogical data access is expanding. Dick Saar gave me a piece from the Clark County Gen. Society WA which contained an article on an Electronic Bulletin Board which has just been started by the American Gen. Lending Library (AGGL) in Bountiful Utah. I dialled up their number (801)299-0087 on my computer & was able to watch a free 5 minute demo on the services that they offer. These include the ability to search for names in the Social Security Index, the Canadian Census Catalog, Deaths & Marriages, etc.

Files can also be downloaded. A number of forums have been set up for electronic discussions

on genealogy in specific areas such as New England. The service is relatively expensive at \$15 per month, but I will try it and report back if it seems to be worth while.

For those interested in joining the Internet, which is a loosely knit network of Computers on a world wide basis, the best thing to do is get one of the coupons which appear in the Science section of the Tuesday New York Times advertising DELPHI. The coupons gives you 5 free hours on the DELPHI system through which you can get FULL access to the Internet, as opposed to electronic messaging only which several of the competing services, such as PRODIGY offer.

I also use COMPUSERVE which is worldwide; and last week saw a message from a Patrick Black in Barrow-in-Furness Cumbria U.K. This was on the Compuserve Gen. Bulletin Board & talking about getting U.K. telephone numbers for someone in this country. As my primary area of research is Cumbria (The English Lake District) I asked him to look up Harrison (my paternal Grand-mother's maiden name in the Cocker-mouth area telephone book. He came back with a message indicating that there were 16 Harrison for that area & this week I got a copy of 3 pages of Harrisons from the whole North-West section of England by mail, which is typical of how helpful people are on the electronic Bulletin Boards!

In case you are wondering how I can afford all these services... I got a new Compaq Presario 633 computer in November and along with it came

a bunch of freebies. I tried to cancel CompuServe & found that they have a special rate of \$2.50 per month where you just pay for the time you use. Incidentally if anyone is considering CompuServe & has windows, I can highly recommend an inexpensive program called WinCIM which is a CompuServe Information Manager for Windows which makes access to & navigation around CompuServe so much easier. See you in Cyperspace! DB

DON'T MISS THE M.G.S. GENERAL MEETING IN
THE DARIEN LIBRARY AUDITORIUM ON SEPTEMBER
24TH FROM 2 TO 4 PM TO MEET THE "FAMILY
SEARCH COMPUTER PROGRAM TO BE INSTALLED IN
THE LIBRARY GENEALOGICAL REFERENCE ROOM !

LIBRARY NEWS
By C.Scribner.

Among the many fine books in our section of the Darien Library are the yearly volumes of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society Register and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society record. The wide range of genealogical and related subjects contained in these collections make them a must for genealogical libraries.

The NEHG Register books in our possession are complete to Oct 1993, volume 147. Each yearly volume consists of 4 quarterly issues (Jan.-Apr.-Jul.-Oct.). All issues have a table of contents. The fourth issue (Oct.) includes indexes of contents and name for yearly volumes. Volume 1 thru 80 are on micro-film in the newspaper reference room complete with indexes. We have a cumulative subject index for volumes 51 to 142 located on shelf 2.4 in our section of the library. A new subject index for volumes 51 to 145 is being published and should be in print by mid 1994.

The NYG&B Record books are also printed in yearly volumes with 4 quarterly issues, same months. Like the Register, indexes of subjects and names are also found in the fourth (Oct.) issue of each yearly volume. We have complete volumes and indexes through Volume 122 (1991). Volumes 123 (1992) and 124 (1993) are incomplete. There are 3 issues missing from each volume. We hope to bring these volumes up to date in the near future. The NYG&B Record does not have a Master Index in print; however, they are in the process of publishing one which should be in print within the next year or so. A Master Index, compiled by Jean Worden of New York State Research Books, is in our possession and covers up to Volume 113 (1982).

Recently Purchased Books.

The History and Genealogy of Old fairfield, By Donald Lines Jacobus. Three volumes.

A Genealogical Dictionary for the First Settlers of New England, by James Savage. Four volumes. These books are on shelf 4.1
Supplement to New England Marriages prior to 1700, by Torrey.

FAMILY CALENDAR

By Lynn E.Hanks.

Are you looking for another way to use the information that has been so diligently amassed? The information on births & marriages for your family, especially the living members, is filed away in your records. This information is exclusively for your use as other family members know nothing of it. Even if they do have knowledge of its availability, they do not have ready access to it throughout the year. It doesn't have to be that way and I think that many of us would like to share the information. That is, without going to the BIG process of a publication and all the problems that would entail.

This can be done by creating a Family Calendar. The family calendar does many things for the owner besides having another place to determine the day of the week or month of the year. As the present day passes over a birthday or an anniversary date the family calendar may prompt one to send a card making another person feel less forgotten. Obviously it will take away the biggest excuse of all..I forgot! A card may may not be sent but the recollection of a distant cousin or an elderly aunt will make the family seem a little closer. Perhaps memories of a childhood reunion or a Christmas party may come to mind when a long forgotten name is recalled. It can serve as a point of reference when someones age is questioned or when a marriage took place and who was their spouse. The calendar will not be obsolete when the present year is history, and can be used to chronicle future events as they happen.

The proces of making the calendar is quite easy. The first obvious point is collecting the information. The names to be include depend on who will receive the finished calendar if siblings are included with you and your family you would probably want their children to be included also. The calendar makes a nice gift and the year can start whenever you choose. To collect the information required may take some time but get started NOW with mail, phone or perhaps a visit!

The second step is formatting the calendar which can

be done either by hand or by computer; in either case it can be personalized to your own style and made attractive to the viewer.

Handmade calendars are easier to personalize than those made on a computer. Start with a simple ready-made calendar that allows writing space for each day. Pull the calendar apart so that each month is on a separate page. Insert it, one page at a time, into the typewriter and begin adding the information. The overflow days can be added above or below the main calendar or on adjacent days. Those few people who are calligraphers can use freehand and really make a masterpiece for posterity!

If you choose to use a computer, you will find software which has calendar programs which allow many variations in font, style, graphics along with shading, boxing, scrolls and banners to customize each event or date. The various holidays, moon-phases, and items such as days of the year gone/to go can also be added. The problem of having too many events falling on any particular date can be solved by putting them on the preceeding day, with a n indicating, for instance that "tomorrow is the birthday of" A local copying company can provide many choices of colored paper on which the finished calendar can be printed and collated for a reasonable price. The final step will be for you to staple, bind or punch holes for twine with which the calendars can be hung.

The finished calendar is your way of making fuller use of the information which you have collected and letting more of your family benefit from it. It will surely generate feedback and give you more information on future family happenings. It might even become a conversation piece and generate a family gathering. Try it I am sure that you will find that the effort expended will be rewarding!

**Following is an inventory list of Van Hoosear's work located
in the Wilton Library History Room:**

Books:

The Fallow, Philo and Philleo Genealogy. A Record of the Descendants of John Fallow, a Huguenot Refugee from France. Compiled by D.H. Van Hoosear of Wilton, Conn., 1888.

A Complete Copy of the Inscriptions found on the Monuments, Headstone's, etc. in the Oldest Cemetery in Norwalk, Conn., 1895.

A Complete Genealogy of the Van Hoosear Family. Embracing all descendants of Rinear Van Hoosear, an officer in the Revolutionary Army and a resident of Norwalk, Weston, Conn.; Ballston, NY; and Wilton, Conn., by David Hermon Van Hoosear of Wilton, CT, 1902

A History of Wilton by David H. Van Hoosear, 1895. Typed and assembled by Lester Card of South Norwalk, Conn., 1931.

Wilton Localities by David Hermon Van Hoosear, transcribed by Lester Card. Published by the Wilton Historical Society, 1940.

Newspaper articles & columns:

Newspaper articles on Wilton activities written by David H. Van Hoosear, 8/22/1878-8/22/1891.

"Genealogical & Historical Information" columns from the Norwalk Hour, written by David H. Van Hoosear. Volumes I, II, III, IV, V, 9/26/1906-11/24/1921.

Family genealogy "books" and notes:

Abbott	Bush	Randle
Andrews	Comstock	Ryder
Barber	Dunning	Squire
Bedient	Grumman	Sturges
Benedit	Hurlbutt	Van Horn
Bixby	Knapp	Von Beck
Bradley	Olmstead	Wilson

Family genealogy misc. notes:

Belden	Fallow notes - in	Kellogg
Calvin Hill family	Giles Gilmore book	Lockwood
Canfield	Gershom Morehouse book	Lyon
Cole	Grannis	Rockwell
Coley	Gray	Seymour
Couch	Gregory	Squire
Crawford	Hanford	St. John
Field family chart and notes	Hickock	Stuart
	Hubbell	Van Hoosear family
	Keeler	Wood

Church records:

Darien	Norfield (Weston)	St. Matthews
Fairfield	Redding	Stamford St.
Greenfield	Ridgebury	John Episc.
Greens Farms	Ridgefield	Stamford
New Canaan	South Salem Presby	Congregat.
Stratford	Wilton Methodist churches	

Cemetery records:

Bedford, NY
Chatham, NY
Fairfield
New Canaan
Newtown
Norwalk - Witch Lane
Norwalk - St. Pauls
Norwalk - Silvermine Upper

Norwalk - Mill Hill
Pound Ridge
South Salem, NY
Westport - Evergreen
Westport - Willowbrook
Westport - Platt Cemetery
Westport - Old cemeteries
Westport - Poplar Plains

Wilton Cemetery records and notes:

Bald Hill
Comstock
Davis
DeForest
Georgetown
Hoyt
Joe's Hill/Hillside

Morgan
private cemeteries
Ruscoe
Sharp Hill
Spruce Bank
St. Matthews
Zion's Hill

Town vital records:

Colchester misc. records
Fairfield family book
Fairfield probate records 1639-1802, 20 boxes of index cards
w/partial index
Fairfield vital records
Index to sources of probate and other records in CT and NY
Index to Norwalk land records through part of book 8
Misc wills from White Plains
New Canaan vital statistics & death index (two books)
Norwalk land records - partial index (two books)
Norwalk - index to Hall's Norwalk
Norwalk - omissions from Hall, by J.H. Bailey
Norwalk - corrections to Hall's Norwalk
Norwalk land records: genealogy in volume 19
Pound Ridge - marriages by Squire Fancher
Wallingford vital statistics
Wallingford and Cheshire vital records and church records
Weston vital records
Windham death records
Woodbury Probate records of Fairfield

Miscellaneous:

Accounts of John Gregory of Cranbury
Dr. Abraham Chichester's records
Milestones

Statue of King George III
Sterling account book index
Tories of Fairfield Co.

WILTON HISTORY ROOM
at the Wilton Library
Wilton History Room materials are available
during regular library hours

Mon., Tues, Wed., Fri.	10-6
Thurs.	10-9
Sat.	10-5
Sun. (October-May)	1-5

Wilton Library
137 Old Ridgefield Road
Wilton, Connecticut
762-3950 or 762-3112

To use the historical records in the Wilton History Room, ask for the history room register (a list of all the history room materials) at the reference desk. Patrons are not permitted to browse in the Wilton History Room. A staff member will retrieve desired items for the patron. Documents cannot be checked out but may be copied.

● FAMILY GENEALOGY RESEARCH RESOURCES

- Family genealogy information organized alphabetically by family last name, in file folders in GEN boxes.
- Genealogical & Historical Information columns, Hour, by David H. Van Hoosear 1906-21, Notebooks #90-#94.
- Family genealogy books:
 - Wilton Families, five volumes, G. Evans Hubbard, 1935-1950.
 - Wilton Families, one volume, compiled by Doris Soldner, 1992.
 - Bound volumes on families of ADAMS, BELDEN, BETTS, BUCKINGHAM, BULKELEY, COMSTOCK, EATON, FILLow, GREGORY, HANFORD, HERTZ/HART, HUBBARD, HUBBELL, KEELER, MERWIN, OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD, PATRICK/PARTRICK, ROCKWELL, ROHRBACH, SEWARD, STERLING, STREET, and VAN HOOSEAR.
- Typed manuscripts on families of ALLEN, BEDIENT, BEERS, BELDEN, and FITCH.
- Donald L. Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* including index to the periodicals.
- Manuscripts organized alphabetically by family last name, in file folders in MAN boxes.
- Cemetery information & indexes for 11 Wilton cemeteries.
- Census information:
 - Town of Wilton census, on microfilm, 1790-1920. A partial index to the censuses in Notebook #83.
 - Barbour index to Wilton vital records, on microfilm. Partial listing of births, marriages and deaths - 1802 - 1850.
 - Index to and genealogical summary of Wilton Congregational Church original records, 1739-1802- Notebook #88.
- Index to Wilton Bulletin obituaries from 1937.

NOTE: *Wilton was established as a separate parish from Norwalk in 1726 and incorporated as a town in 1802. All Wilton records before 1802 are in the Norwalk Land Records.*

Books on general Connecticut history are located on the Connecticut shelf outside the Wilton History Room and may be used in the library.

In addition to the reference staff, the volunteer curator is available for assistance in the use of the history room materials, usually on Thursdays, 10-3 or by appointment. April 1, 1993

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - PUBLICATION # 5
STATE VETERANS CEMETERY AT SPRING GROVE CEMETERY
DARIEN CONNECTICUT/ Compiled by Doris W. Hollander

Spring Grove Cemetery - Family Plots
June 1990

Section	Name	Died	Branch of Service	Rank	War
H	Dooley, Allan Edward	12/3/87	Army	Major	WWI
H	Doughman, Ferman C.	6/17/61	Army	Cpl	WWII
H	Downey, Thomas E., Jr.	1986	Army	PFC	WWII
H	Ely, Meredith Allen	1969	Army		WWII
H	Ely, William M.	1967	Navy	ARM2	WWII
H	Ericsson, Emil Howard	1979	Army	PFC	Sp. Amer.
G	Fairbanks, Russell J.	7/11/69	Sig. Corps	1st Lt	WWII
G	Fawcett, Harrison E.	1976	Army	PFC	WWII
B	Fitch, Gilbert L.	8/4/54		Major	WWII
UN	Flynn, Gerald F.	1982	Army		WWII
T	Franklin, Charles	1985	Army	PFC	WWII
H	Galard, Alexander	1978	Army	S/Sgt	WWII
UN	Galaro, Alexander	1978	Army	S/Sgt	
UN	Ganley, William P.	1984	Navy	GM3	WWII
T	Gardner, Walter, Sr.	1985	Navy		WWI
H	Garnett, Verdelle		Navy	LtJG	WWII
H	Gartrell, James	1971	Army	Cpl	WWI
H	Goddard, Gilbert T.	1954	Army	Sgt	Vietnam
H	Golden, Edward A.	1986	Army	Pvt	WWII
UN	Gordon, Peter	1976	Army	Pvt	WWII
UN	Gorski, Joseph J.	1982	Army	SP4	
UN	Gorski, Joseph Z.	1976	Army	T Sgt	WWII
UN	Goyne, Edward C.	1976	Army	Sgt	WWII
A	Graighead, Owen W.	3/8/24		Sgt Co	WWI
H	Groat, Everett Linwood	1988	Army	Tec 5	Korea
B	Gullett, Raymond C.	12/30/51	Navy	EM-3	WWII
H	Hayward, Helen D.	1970	Navy	Nurse	WWI
UN	Herman, Joseph M.	1976	Army	Cpl	WWII
G	Hollander, Frederick R.	11/9/54	Coast Arty	1st Sgt	
B	Holmber, Theodore A.	1961	Army	Pvt	WWI
B	Houston, Frederick J.	1989	Army	Pvt	WWII
B	Hoyt, Raymond	1883		Capt	Korea
A	Hubert, Henry Lord	1948			WWII
T	Hull, William B.	1987	Army	Cpl	WWII
UA	Karagianes, Donald R.	1987/81	Army	SP3	
V	Keeler, Edward	1988	Navy	SC3	
UN	Keeler, John H.	1984	Army	Tec 5	WWII
A	Kelsey, Melville			Sgt	WWI

Spring Grove Cemetery - Family Plots
June 1990
(continued)

B	Kelsey, Melville	2/19/11		Sgt	WWII
V	King, Thomas	1989	Army	Pvt	WWII
H	Knobel, Herbert N.	1974	Army	Chief Mech	WWI
H	Kofalk, Henry S.	1966	Army		WWI
UA	Lechak, James J.	1981	Coast Guard	S1	
B	Leonard, James H.	10/21/18	Corp		WWII
			Co. B 56	Inf.	
H	Lewis, Clarence Hodard	1984	Army	2nd Lt	Korea
A	Lilliendahl		USWV		WWII
T	Lobuglio, Dominick	2/5/88	Army	Tec 5	WWI
UA	Lombardo, Augustus C.	1979	Army	Sgt	WWII
T	Mack, James E.	1985	Army	Tec 5	WWII
H	Mason, Fred T.	3/10/49	Army	Capt	WWII
H	Mattis, Arthur M.	1984	Army	S/Sgt	
UA	Matysuyk, Peter P.	1981	Army	Tec 4	WWI
T	McCords, James E., Sr.	1/19/88	Army		WWII
H	McElrath, George	1989	Navy	S-1	WWII
H	McIlwaine, William	9/10/65	Army	Cpl	WWI
H	Mehl, Cortland A.	1952	Army	1st Lt	WWII
H	Metzgar, Robert B.	1975	Army	Cpl	Korea
H	Mishou, William E.	1967	Army	Pvt	WWII
UA	Moore, William H.	7/14/83	Navy	AMM1	WWII
H	Morehouse, William H.	1984	Army	Pvt	WWI
H	Morgan, William H.	1962	Army	S/Sgt	WWII
H	Mueller, Herman J.	1954	Army		WWI
H	Murphy, Sherman, Sr.	1961	Army	PFC	Korea
UN	Nagy, Zolton	1988	Army		WWII
B	Newald, Baroylsen	1929	Army	Sgt	WWII
V	Novak, William	2/29/89	Army	Pvt	WWI
B	Olden, John	1985	Army	Major	
T	Olsen, Raymond H.	1987	Army	Pvt	WWI
H	O'Gorman, Purcell	4/20/77	Army	Sgt	WWI
V	Pace, Leonard A., Sr.	1988	Navy	S1	WWI
B	Palk, Howard O.	1933			WWI
UN	Palumberi, Frank	1978	Army	Pvt	
UN	Patience, William A.	1978	Army	PFC	Sp. Amer.
H	Persich, Gregory S.	1958	Army	PFC	WWII

(to be continued)

Because Florence Wyland is always so knowledgeable and helpful at our Genealogy Board Meetings, interviewing her for a member profile seemed a natural progression.

Toward this goal, I traveled to her home in Wilton one night last week. Off the road, nestled on a hillside, complete with an ancient bank barn/cold storage cellar (currently used for storage,) is Florence's new modern home. Immediately inside the front door is Florence and husband Al's Family Tree Wall Hanging. What an intriguing pedigree! Florence traces herself back to John Alden and Priscilla Mullins and belongs to the Mayflower Society, while Al's family, the Chambers, were founders of Chambersburg, Penn.

Florence explained how she got started in her genealogical quest twenty years ago, researching in both Pennsylvania and New England. Her son Clifford wanted some information about the Bates family of Scarsdale, New York. He got out a large piece of poster board and drew a little box and wrote her name in it. "That box got me interested and challenged." She started adding boxes and putting names of the parents, grandparents and this led

to the search for all the ancestors. Florence's original box has grown to an astonishing well organized collection of maps, Bibles, primary sources, land and court records, wills and deeds - which now fill eight file drawers.

Florence's second "cousin," Delhia Wheeler of North Stonington, Ct, now deceased, had previously proven the Alden connection. The old Bates Family Bible went back to 1781 with names like Cornell, Valentine, Pinckney, Mott, families of Eastchester and Scarsdale, New York and are all interrelated with Florence's Bates ancestors. Florence discovered pictures of her early Bates relatives when she made a research trip to the basement of the Scarsdale Public Library. The family owned a 200 acre farm there, with a marble quarry on the property. Some of this marble was used to build the New York City Hall in part, and the A. T. Stewart building in entirety. The photos show the quarry as well as the 1762 house and the workers living quarters. Alfred S. Bates and wife Lucy Whitney, raised 10 children and were totally self sufficient living off this property. Both were killed together in their 70's, in a horse and buggy accident at the railroad crossing in Scarsdale and are buried in The St. James The Less church cemetery. In 1864, a branch of this Bates family moved to Raymond Street in Darien, Ct. Florence recently returned to the Homestead to visit.

Since Alan's grandmother, who lived to 95 years of age, lived with Florence and Al in her later years, they heard first hand stories about the Civil War. George Wyland served at Chancellorsville, Manassas etc., as an artilleryman. His brother, Lewis Wyland served in Pennsylvania and was wounded near Poplar Grove Church, Virginia, and died January 6, 1863 in Campbell Hospital, Washington DC, of his wounds, at age 20. He is buried in the Soldiers' Home National Cemetery in

Washington, DC, the first cemetery for Civil War soldiers before Arlington Cemetery was created.

Another branch of her family is the Coates of New England. Robert Coates the immigrant, settled in 1638 at Nahant, Essex County, Massachusetts. This family later moved to North Stonington, Connecticut, and Florence found the old Coats Cemetery there, almost buried in bushes and trees. David Coats, who died 1853, aged 87 years, was a prominent citizen, being keeper of the Town's records. His leather bound diary is in the possession of the North Stonington Historical Society, with names, dates, births, marriages, deaths, political happenings, etc, of the Town, all written in a very fine brown ink handwriting from cover to cover. This valuable document is kept for safe keeping in the Town Hall vault.

Florence was born and raised in Darien, Connecticut. She started her education at the Holmes School in Darien, and continued through the Hollow Tree Junior High and the Darien High School, now turned into the Darien Town Hall. She attended Central Connecticut State College. She is married to George Alan Wyland and they have four children and seven grandchildren. Florence is now Executive Secretary for the J. M. Layton & Company Insurance Agency in Norwalk, and was previously secretary at the United Church in Rowayton, Ct for fourteen years. Nicki Hollander, former President of the Middlesex Genealogy Society, lived next door to the church, and would often stop in the office and talk their favorite subject 'genealogy,' joined in by The Rev. Donald Emig. Between encouragement from Nicki and Don and help from Marianne Sheldon in finding records in Rhode Island, her drive and perseverance are paying off in a fascinating info-collection of ancestors.

Florence belongs to the New England Genealogical and Biographical Society; Mayflower Society; The Bates Association in Scituate MA; Pequot Library; Centre County PA Genealogical Society and The Loyalists Gazette.

4/14/94

by Karen Polett





MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1111
DARIEN, CT 06820-1111



Application for Membership

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1111
DARIEN, CT 06820-1111

Single (\$10) _____
Couple (\$15) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____