



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

WINTER 1993/94 NEWSLETTER

Vol X, No. 4

## MGS WORKSHOP SAT. JAN. 22 1-4PM. AT DARIEN LIBRARY

### PRESIDENTS LETTER.

Summer heat & humidity may have slowed down genealogical research by our members, because I haven't had many communications. We have received a few queries (more on this later) and the usual advertisements from genealogical research publishers. At our Annual Meeting on March 20th 1993 the election of officers and directors was accomplished; see sidebox in this issue. But we do have a vacancy for a director; will a volunteer please come forward!

We have approval from the Library Board to have our Board and General meetings scheduled as follows: The General meetings for the next season will continue to be held on Saturday afternoons at the Darien Library reading room from 1 to 4 pm. The dates are Jan 22, 1994, April 9, 1994, and May 21, 1994. It was decided that the Saturday afternoon meetings would be more convenient for most of our members. Will those needing rides please notify us. The Board of Director meetings will also be held at the Darien Library, but in the Conference room, from 7 to 8.30 pm. The dates are: Jan 12, 1994, March 29, 1994 and May 17, 1994. Please note that the meetings will close at 8.30 pm; this should ensure a shorter meeting allowing some evening time at home for Directors.

We must thank Florence Wyland for arranging our first program of the Season on October 2, 1993. Ms Judy Darby presented a genealogical program illustrating how ancestors could be traced through the

history of their homes. This was a unique and interesting program. Close friend of mine bought a 150+ year old farmhouse in New Hampshire some time ago. While renovating it they discovered a box containing past history, letters and photographs of the original Family through many generations—a fascinating story!

Regarding the Queries (see Lynn Hank's Mailbag in this issue); some of these indicate that our members are searching for ancestors in Middlesex COUNTY, Connecticut. We are aware of the confusion between this and former Middlesex PARISH of Stamford, Fairfield County. At the time of early Connecticut settlers a trip between Stamford and the Connecticut River settlements (Middlesex County) could take four or more days. Very few families from here would have been likely to have taken that trip. If any of our members do have helpful data for these queries please try to help.

We encourage our members to send us anecdotal and search items that would be of interest to our readers. Do send us any amusing incidents, startling surprises, family skeletons discovered -or whatever. This is a fine opportunity to get your writing published!

Best wishes for the New Year and we hope to see you at our General Meeting.

Ray Bartlett.

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### 1993-1994 Officers

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

### Directors

David Bowley  
Charles Cotter  
Raymond Gross  
Lynn Hanks  
Walter Jerige  
David Polett  
Marianne Sheldon  
Charles Scribner  
Florence Wyland  
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### Newsletter Publisher

Richard Sarr

### Trustees

Mary Freedman  
Henry Hoff  
Thomas Kemp  
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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, notices of genealogical interest, and queries are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to:

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

## QUERIES

**WINSHIP** – Would like to hear from anyone with any Winship lines. Am collecting info for eventual publication of a Winship genealogy---Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd. Darien, Ct .06820

**PARSONS< SCORIA< LEEK**---Seek info/parentage on Sarah Scoria (born July 1750, prob. Southampton, N>Y>; d. 24 Feb. 1841, Beekman, NY) who mar. Jeremiah Parsons. Also seek same for Phebe Leek (b. 1779, prob. East Hampton NY; d. 23 Aug. 1842, Beekmantown, NY) who mar. David Robert Parsons 4 Sept. 1856 at Beekmantown. Was Jeremiah Parsons the son of John and Sarah (Sherrill) Parsons who was b/bap. July 1741 at East Hampton, MY?---Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd. Darien, Ct. 06820

**PEASE**---Who were parents of Mary Pease who mar. 22 Oct. 1669, MA. John Sampson of Beverly, MA and Maine?----Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere RD., Darien, CT. 06820.

**Seeley**---Seek parents/lineage of Saraah Ann Seeley (b. 13 Oct. 1801, CT; d. 3 Feb. 1869, Clifton, IL) who mar. John B Sheldon. Her Parents lived in Otsego Co. NY.---Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd. Darien, Ct. 06820.

**ROWLEY/ FULLER/ SPENSER/KIES**---Seek info on any of the above families. Lived in East Haddam, CT. in 1762 with marriages, births and deaths until 1794, maybe later. Rowley family includes Moses d. 1735; Mheitable Rowley Fuller d. 1732. Fuller family, John d 1726. Spencer family, Nathaniel b. 1658 d. before 1722; Lydia Baily Spencer d. 1696; Nathaniel b. 1684; Jonathan b. 1744; Amos b. 1767. Kies, Sophia m. Amos 1794. ( Contact Diane Christensen, 2173 Twin Spring Rd. Decorah, IA. 52101. (319)382 9661 or 382 2091 evenings.

**SAVAGE/BULKLEY/PARKER**---Seek info on the family of Solomon Salvage (b. 1740) and Sarah Seldon, also Solomon Savage Jr. (b. 1762) and Lydia Bulkley b. 1762 and Clarissa Savage (b. 1786) and Truman Parker. Lived in area of Middletown Ct. Granville NY. and Portville NY.---Regina Brannen Adam, 102 Scottie Dr. Boerne, Texas. 78006.

The Following are excerpts from an article entitled "Special Census Schedules for New York State" by Harry Macy, Jr., F.A.S.G published in the Spring 1993 edition of the NYG&B Newsletter. We would like to thank NYG&B for permission to publish this material.

#### SPECIAL CENSUS SCHEDULES FOR NEW YORK STATE.

With funds donated by The Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America, the NYG&BS Library has acquired the Special Schedules for the Federal Censuses of 1850 through 1880, for all of New York State, on rolls of microfilm. The original records are held by the New York State Library. While the Population Schedules of these censuses are probably the most widely used of all genealogical sources, there is little evidence that genealogists are making much use of the SPECIAL Schedules, even though they contain unique information of genealogical and historical value. The Special Schedules fall into four categories: Mortality, Agricultural, Industrial, and Social. They are not indexed. The researcher should first find the family in the Population Schedules, and then search the Special Schedules for the same town or district. (Note: for best results at NYG&B, the researcher may want to read these films on a reader with a mid-range [e.g. X24] lens.)

The MORTALITY SCHEDULES are supposed to list everyone who died during the twelve months prior to the census date (e.g., 1 June 1849 through 31 May 1850, 1 June 1859 through 31 May 1860, etc). In addition to the usual census data, cause of death is listed. These deceased persons are not included in the Population Schedules of the same census, but in 1870 and 1880 each death is keyed to a family in those schedules. Few death records exist for these years for most of the State (outside of New York City), and the Schedules can be very important from a genealogical standpoint. The AGRICULTURAL SCHEDULES can provide interesting detail for a family history, for a head of a household just listed as a farmer in the Population Schedules, the Agricultural Schedules for the same town or district will give valuable data about the farm such as size and value of the

property, number of farmhands employed, numbers of different kinds of livestock and production of certain crops. The schedule for 1880 is particularly detailed. If a family lived on the same property at more than one census, the Agricultural Schedules will illustrate the growth (or decline) of their farm.

The name INDUSTRIAL SCHEDULES may conjure up images of large factories, but in fact most of the entries are for very small businesses, often for a self-employed man such as a carpenter or a blacksmith. To be listed, however, the business did not have to generate a minimum income, so that not all are recorded. If a business was not operated at home it may not be found in the same town or district where the owner appears on the Population Schedules; a city directory might be used to determine the business address. The Industrial Schedule will indicate the type of business, capital invested, numbers of persons employed and their wages, raw materials used and their cost, and the volume and value of end products. (Note: the 1870 Industrial Schedules are missing for Albany through Elye.)

For the 1850-70 censuses there are schedules called SOCIAL STATISTICS, which consist of single summary sheets for each town (or for each county in 1870), giving figures for total assessed value of property, taxes collected, schools and students, libraries, churches (by denomination), paupers, crime, and wages, plus the names of local newspapers serving the area. There are no personal names in these schedules, but the statistics will give the genealogist a better picture of the the community in which the family lived, and the information on newspapers and churches can be used as leads for further research. (Note the 1860 schedules are missing for several counties.)

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*Genealogy begins as an interest,  
Becomes a hobby;  
Continues as an avocation,  
Takes over as an obsession,  
And in its last stages,  
Is an incurable disease.*

## MEMBER PROFILE

### MARIANNE SHELDON

Our own Marianne Sheldon lives in Darien with her husband, Ted, and three daughters, Lisa, Hilary, and Lindsay. She grew up in Rowayton and was a history major at Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin. She began her genealogical research about seventeen years ago when she realized her relatives were getting older and she was afraid they would pass away before their stories could be recorded.

Since her maiden name was Weber (German), and her mother was from Holland, Marianne assumed that most of her research would have to be done overseas-if she ever got that far. To her surprise, she found that her father's maternal line went back to early New England and that she has at least 4 Mayflower lines and over 25 people who served in varying capacities during the Revolutionary War. One of her great-great grandmothers even went West on the Oregon Trail. She has traced her German lines back numerous generations in Baden and Bavaria (now Rhineland /Pfalz) but is still stuck on her Hessian emigrants.

It took Marianne a while to attempt researching her family in Holland. She doesn't speak Dutch so through her mother's requests for information from relatives, they got her uncle in Rotterdam interested. He started to do some research and when they got back to about 1850, Marianne was able to start getting information on her own using the extensive holdings of the LDS (Mormon) Church. Ironically, she could uncover more information here than her uncle could in Holland, since he had to travel to each archive and town hall for records. She also found doing Dutch research very pleasant since the women keep their maiden names in records for their whole lives and people's names almost always include their father's name. She has been able to get back to about 1400 in Holland on some lines.

One of the great frustrations in doing research for Marianne, as well as for others, comes when the man's name is the only one given in a document. "It upsets my feminist side when a birth record only lists the father's name, as if the mother had nothing to do with the birth!" She also has a number of dead ends upon which no amount of work has turned up any information. Marianne also cautions against taking the word of family sources without completely verifying the facts. Early on, she spent over two years researching a line given to her by her aunt. The information turned out to be incorrect. "I just assumed my aunt would know the right information, since the people involved were her grandparents!" explained Marianne.

At one point, when she was at an impasse in her research, Marianne began to collect information on anyone with the name WINSHIP, which is her grandmother's maiden name. There are a few family histories written on various lines, but a comprehensive genealogy of the Winships has never been done. Eventually, Marianne would like to publish one. In the

process, Marianne has met other Winship relatives all over the country, and she continues to trade information with them to this day.

Marianne currently has more than 14,000 names in her database. She prefers using PAF (Personal Ancestral File- which is available for about \$35.00 from the Mormon church), with her IBM-based home computer system. According to Marianne, "If a person is serious about their genealogical research, there is no way they can do it adequately without a computer. The amount of data eventually becomes too cumbersome without one." Her next acquisition will probably be a laptop computer so she can take all her data with her whenever and wherever she goes to do research. Some of the places she has found to be very helpful are the New England Historical Genealogical Society in Boston, the N.Y. Public Library, the Newberry Library in Chicago, the DAR Library and the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and, of course, the LDS Library. As a matter of fact, she was asked to become the first non-Mormon volunteer librarian at the LDS branch library in New Canaan. She has also done research in London at the Society of Genealogists, in the Registry offices in Edinburgh, Scotland and in various locations in Germany. In the course of her research, Marianne has met many, wonderful, helpful people and discovered numerous relatives. In one incident she was researching a line from the Plattsburgh, New York area where one of her grandmother's cousins still lived. This woman had never married, had no other relatives but Marianne's family (none of whom lived close by) and was not well off financially. Through her correspondence, Marianne met some distant cousins who also lived in Plattsburgh. When she told them about this other cousin, they went to meet her, "adopted" her and helped take care of Cousin Anna until she died. This was only one interesting result of Marianne's research. Marianne has been a member of the Middlesex Genealogical Society almost since its inception. The idea for the Newsletter was hers and she was the first editor, a job she held for a number of years. She has also served as Secretary of the Society and now serves as a Board Member. She encourages other members to get involved in genealogical societies so that more information can be made accessible to the public through the work of these organizations. Before going to work full-time at Newman's Own in Westport, she was able to copy most of the gravestones in all the family cemeteries in Darien for a Society project. She looks forward to the day when she "wins the lottery and can spend my life working on genealogy and my dollhouses." Her frustration in the lack of interest in genealogy, shown by her family, can be shared by many of us. She has joined the Mayflower Society and the DAR so that those lines have been verified for interested future generations. Marianne explains, "I only meant to collect and store the information I got from my elderly relatives when I began 17 years ago. I thought it would make a good retirement project, but doing genealogy really got into my blood and I just can't stop doing it!"

**LIBRARY NEWS - BY C.SCRIBNER** Of interest to the serious genealogist is the American Genealogical Lending Library (AGLL) Catalog located in the Middlesex Genealogical Society at the Darien Library on shelf 3.3 This Lending Library is currently the largest supplier of genealogical materials and supplies in the world. Beginners, professionals, libraries and associations are members of this organization. Its collection includes the complete U.S. Federal Census records 1790-1920; U.S. ship passenger lists; military records; state census records; county level records such as probates, deeds, wills and vital records; Afro-American records; foreign materials; city and town directories; and many more all listed in the catalog. Also a current AGLL catalog on microfiche can be found in the microfiche filing cabinet. This updated catalog contains over 150,000 microfilm and microfiche titles.

All items are on microfilm or microfiche and can be rented or purchased. We have order forms and guide lines to assist you in ordering. Further instructions and a sample form are on the reverse side of all order forms. These forms and guide lines can be found in the catalog or in our filing cabinet.

Since the catalog is the property of the Darien Library all ordering must be done through Blanche Parker of the Library Staff.

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As of the March meeting of the Board of Directors it was decided to order the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) to add to our collection at the Library. Thanks to Moira Ritz, our Library representative, we were able to obtain the following prices and information:

The PERSI index comes in 16 volumes. It costs \$900.00 to purchase the first 12 volumes. The next 4 volumes are not complete but cost another \$500.00 for a total of \$1,400.00 Annual supplements (1986 to 1992) cost \$30.00 to \$45.00 each.

Due to the high cost of this purchase and the

availability of PERSI in other area libraries such as Ferguson in Stamford and Pequot in Southport, it was decided to cancel this order.

#### **USEFUL MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN THE LIBRARY.**

From time to time The Middlesex Genealogical Society becomes inundated with booklets, flyers, catalogs, etc. from publishing houses, news letters and the like. These mailings cover an extensive range of subjects of interest to anyone involved in genealogy. They contain publication lists of text books, manuals how-to books, new and republished books and more, complete with prices, order forms and phone numbers.

Some of the subjects include are: Passenger lists Immigration records State and County records Local history Family history Federal, County and Civil Court records Lineages Census records Vital statistics Computer information Military and Pension records Gravestone studies European genealogy including many different ethnic groups.

These catalogs and flyers are available to anyone interested and can be found in our filing cabinet located in the M.G.S. section of the Darien Library.

**NEW BOOKS:** "Henry Sampson of the mayflower and descendants for four generations", has been added to our Mayflower families in Progress Collection"


**STILL MISSING:** "Supplement to New England Marriages prior to 1700" by Torrey "Glovers Marblehead Regiment of the Revolution" by Gardner "Fitch's Home for Soldiers and their Orphans".

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#### **OCUPSYSHUN - Cencus Taker:**

"I am a cencus takers for the city of Bufflow. Our City has groan very fast in resent years & now in 1865, it has become a hard & time consuming job to count all the peephill. There are not many that con do this werk, as it is nessarie to have an ejucashun, wich a lot of pursons still do not have. Another atribute needed for this job is god spelling, for meny of the pephill to be counted can hardle speek inglish, let alon spel there names!"

COMPUTER CORNER. In the Spring edition of The MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS LETTER we reviewed the use of the Computer Terminals available at the New Canaan LDS Church Family History Center & although they only have one terminal available from 6.00 to 9.00 on Thursday evenings, the Center is still a worthwhile visit as a starting point for your Genealogical Search. For those of you who have Home Computers, there is another very powerful way to get information on how to conduct a search in the U.S.A. or internationally. Typical of these electronic information services is PRODIGY, which is a joint IBM -SEARS venture which allows you to connect to the service by telephone using a device called a Modem. The service primarily provides information on News, Weather, the Stock Market & Travel. However it has a messaging system which allows a member to send & receive written messages from any other member. These message systems are called Bulletin Boards and have rapidly become an embarassingly popular feature. For example Charles Cotter recently had reached an impasse in his research into his ancestors in the Poughkeepsie area and wished to know whether a copy of a relevant Family History was available at the Mormon Family Research Library in S.L.C. With my help Charles put a message on the Prodigy Genealogy Bulletin Board & several days later I got a reply from Paul Smart at the Family History Library. (Paul monitors the Bulletin Board daily to provide help wherever he can) & he provided us the reference numbers to microfilms available through the New Canaan F.H.C. which refer to Charles Cotters ancestors in the Poughkeepsie N.Y. area & which may be useful! If you are interested in the PRODIGY service give me a call at 655-2734 or call for information at (914)-962-0310. Those considering buying a computer should note that many new machines are supplied with built in Modems and are "Bundled" with free PRODIGY software & an introductory subscription. POST-SCRIPT: There is a new Computer Bulletin Board in this area. It is called National Genealogy Echo Urban Express and is located in New Canaan CT, The modem phone number 203-966-5662. This is a free phone call for us who live in this area, and messages

are echoed across the US. Greg Mercede is the Sysop (System Operator) and he is happy to have lots of messages. If you like the service, there may be a one time charge of \$30. 

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#### RESEARCH INFO.--

There is a new repository for Scottish research. The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library. They expect to be the major repository for Scottish Clan records in the United States. The Library opened in, March 1990. Contact the Library at P.O. Box 1110, 204 5th. st. S.E., Moultrie, Ga. 31776.

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#### THE PUZZLED CENSUS TAKER

''Got any boys?'' the Marshal said  
To a lady from over the Rhine;  
And the lady shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, ''Nein!''

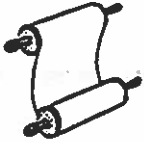
''Got any girls?'' the Marshal said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again the lady shook her head,  
And civilly answered, Nein!''

''But some are dead?'' the Marshal said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again the lady shook her head,  
And civilly answered, ''Nein''

''Husband of course!'' the Marshal said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again she shook her head,  
And civilly answered, ''Nein!''

''The devil you have!'' the Marshal said  
To the lady from over the Rhine;  
And again she shook her flaxen head,  
And civilly answered, ''Nein!''

''Now what do you mean by shaking your head  
And always answering ''Nein?''  
''Ich kann nicht Englisch!'' civilly said  
The lady from over the Rhine.  
by John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)



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

# NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Florence Wyland  
203-762-3993 Work - 203-853-4100

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MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING  
AT THE DARIEN PUBLIC LIBRARY, 24 LEROY AVE  
SATURDAY AFTERNOON 1 TO 4 PM JANUARY 22, 1994

The MGS 5th Annual Work Shop meeting offers assistance and encouragement to neophytes, experienced workers and those using computer programs.

There will be tables with knowledgeable guides to help those active researchers who are tracing their family roots. Demonstrations of various computer programs will be available as well.

Henry Hoff, Certified Genealogist, will be there to offer advice to those who have encountered road blocks in their searches.

Tours of the MGS Source materials at the Library will be conducted. Refreshments will be served.

We encourage members, guests and general public who wish to attend to bring the results of their research and family trees for help. Genealogical forms will be available for those just beginning this intriguing hobby.

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\_\_\_\_\_ name

\_\_\_\_\_ (15)  
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Middlesex Genealogical Society  
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Darien, CT 06820

Application for Membership



Middlesex Genealogical Society  
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