



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

January 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

On 8 February we hold our Annual Genealogical Workshop, which has become one of the most popular of Middlesex Genealogical Society's meetings. There will be help available for genealogists at all levels, including the rapidly increasing number of genealogists who are finding out what a wonderful tool a computer can be and how much shoe leather it can save! Our own David Mordy, who has recently published a well received family genealogy, will be the keynote speaker.

The Middlesex Genealogical Society has had over 23,000 visitors to its homepage on the Internet, and I have answered a number of searching questions received at the e-mail address advertised on the page. Now, with the help and encouragement of the Darien Library, we have placed our Internet homepage with those of the growing group of community organizations that can be found in the main directory of the Darien Library homepage. These can be accessed easily at any one of the three Internet terminals now available in the library. I urge you to try using this new and wonderful genealogical tool and to read the article on page 4 of this newsletter entitled "Computer Corner."

An event which no genealogist should miss is the ten-part series on Genealogy and Family History which started on 4 January and continues every Saturday at 2:00 pm on Channel 13. If we can get this series on video tape, the library has promised to put it on their shelves for everyone's use. Please call me if you would be prepared to do this. I have the first session taped already, and it was great!

David V. Bowley

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by Charles Scribner

In our Catalog of Genealogical Collections (shelf 3.3), there is a listing of genealogical or related books in sections of the library other than the Business Reference Room where our collection is located. This listing, designated the Darien Library Genealogy Catalog, includes books shelved in the Main Reading Room, on the New Book Shelves, on the Mezzanine, and in the Children's Room, as well as videos on the Video Racks. It is important to point out that these items belong to the library and may be taken out as you would any other library book or video. The only exceptions are books designated "Reference" (Ref.). We are in the process of updating this list from a computer printout supplied by the library staff.

We now have a complete set of MGS Newsletters from the first edition, Volume I, Number 1, March 1984 to the present. There are many interesting articles in the back issues, well worth reading. Also, there is a complete set with extras of most issues in our Archives. ■

A WARNING

by Florence Wyland

Don't be fooled by ads for "original looking" obituaries of your ancestors or for forged marriage certificates. There seems to be no end of ways for questionable marketers to make a fast buck.

And don't you wonder how Beatrice Bayley, aka the Halbertsons, etc. (of Bath, Ohio), manages to remain in business? Make no mistake; Halbertson's is still at it -- peddling *The World Book of (insert your surname here)*. They're out there -- just waiting for your check.

Be careful! ■

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

1996-1997 OFFICERS

David Bowley	President
Geoffrey Blain	Vice-President
Karen Polett	Secretary
Ruth McGrath	Treasurer

MEMBERS at LARGE

Charles Cotter
Emeline Fatherley
David Mordy
Philip Morehouse
Donna Moughty
Kim Paterson
Marianne Sheldon

Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor
Florence Wyland	Newsletter Co-Editor
David Mordy	Computer Services Chairman
Charles Scribner	Librarian

TRUSTEES

Mary Freedman
Henry Hoff
Thomas Kemp
Grant Radmall

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 \$15/individual and \$20/couple or family.

Original articles, notices of genealogical interest, and queries are welcomed for the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1111
Darien, Fairfield Co., CT 06820

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

8 FEBRUARY 1997: Our ANNUAL WORKSHOP MEETING. Board member David Mordy, who recently co-authored *Ancestors and Descendants of Daniel Morgan and Polly Frost* will talk to us about alternative sources of information, such as maps, diaries and legal records. Then, during the workshop portion of the meeting, David will be available to help advanced researchers. Marianne Sheldon will aid intermediate researchers, and Chick Scribner beginners, while Donna Moughty demonstrates computer use. *Come, and bring a friend!*

19 APRIL 1997: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. ANN SMITH LAINHART, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the Genealogical Speakers Guild, whose areas of specialization are researching in Massachusetts, New England town and poor records, and state census records, will speak on "NEW ENGLAND TOWN RECORDS," Ann has been lecturing on the local and national level for 15 years.

17 MAY 1997: Speaker to be announced.

ALL MEETINGS: SATURDAY, 2:00 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY. ■

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please help MGS by returning your membership renewal, along with your check, as quickly as possible. At the same time, complete and return the questionnaire that accompanied your membership renewal notice. This will help your board to address *your* interests and to serve better the entire society. ■

CHARLES COTTER

Society members join in wishing board member Charles Cotter a full and rapid recovery. ■

NEW FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

A new Family History Center is now open on Wednesday evenings at 800 Stillwater Avenue in Stamford. It is small, but expected to grow. Eventually, they hope to be open 20 hours a week. ■

TREES GROW FROM SEEDS

by Dorothy O'Donohue

A few years ago my 45-year-old son asked me why my mother had wanted him to have the middle name of Adams. I was a bit embarrassed as I did *not* know. My mother was reluctant to talk about the past. She did tell me that two uncles were imprisoned during the Civil War and were on their way back to Massachusetts aboard a prison ship when a knife fight broke out and they were killed. Another uncle drowned in a storm at sea. All had the last name of Clark.

I had heard of the Mormon genealogical resources, and so, in 1994, I went to the Family History Center in New Canaan where I was helped to use the *Family Search* computer program and quickly found Sarah Allen Plumer Adams who married Gorham Clark in 1828. No parents were listed, however.

In 1995 I joined the Middlesex Genealogical Society and was helped by David Mordy at a Saturday morning workshop session to find Sarah Adams Clark's father, Steven Adams. Again, no parents were listed.

The next Saturday morning I was helped by Charles Cotter to use the microfiches and came up with hundreds of Clarks and Adamses who had intermarried for many generations and had remained in Essex County, Mass.

As time went on my excitement turned to frustration. It was all there, but I could not figure out how to weave it together.

In June my daughter offered to take me to Gloucester, my birthplace, as a gift for my 82nd birthday. We visited the City Hall and found they were reorganizing their genealogical records in the basement and vault area. The staff was very helpful, and the City Clerk told me she remembered some material on the names I was researching. The next day she gave me a packet of names and an extensive family tree that a woman from Texas had sent her 10 years earlier -- to possibly help others. It included many of my ancestors -- Adamses, Clarks, Lurveys, and Tuckers -- plus a list of 40 names that had been approved by various hereditary societies.

When I recover from being overwhelmed by all the help I have received, I must get down to the

nitty-gritty and start making a tree. I certainly have plenty of seeds!

GLOUCESTER ARCHIVES: Gloucester City Hall on Dale Avenue, Gloucester, Essex County, Mass. Telephone: (508) 281-9720. Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, a full staff is available; only limited staff on other days. Holdings include:

- Vital Records, 1634-date
 - Town Records, 1642-1873
 - Military Records, 1675-1919
 - Selectmen's Records, 1698-1873
 - Commoners' Records, 1701-1820
 - Valuation & Tax Records, 1795-date
 - City Council Records, 1874-date
 - Naturalization Records, 1885-1906
 - Voters Records, 1874-date
 - Studies and Reports
 - Gravestone Inscriptions, 1711-1898
 - Atlas, 1899
 - City Reports, 1874-date
 - Town Reports, 1782-1873
- and much, much more. ■

1890 FEDERAL CENSUS

Although the 1890 Federal Census was almost completely destroyed, there are about 6,100 indexed names on the population schedules that survived -- from Alabama, the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas. The surviving schedules have been microfilmed on three rolls referred to as National Archives Microfilm publication M407, and are indexed on two rolls known as M496. Before disregarding this census, *Prologue*, a quarterly publication of the National Archives, encourages researchers to verify that schedules of interest to them did not survive. ■

HUGUENOT HERITAGE

Huguenot Heritage of New York City will present a slide lecture entitled "The Story of Huguenots: Fighters for Freedom" at Darien Library, 2:00 pm, Saturday, 25 January. ■

COMPUTER CORNER

by David Bowley

In addition to the genealogical links noted in the last newsletter, a number of other interesting sites have been added to the Middlesex Genealogical Society's homepage, which is mentioned on page 1. To visit these sites (listed below) from our homepage, click on the underlined titles.

- The Library of Congress
- The Bodleian Library, Oxford
- Roots Genealogical Software
- The Society of Genealogists, London
- Family Treemaker Software
- AGGL Genealogical Services
- National Archives and Records Administration

Some of these, such as the UK Public Record Office at Kew and the National Library of Wales, allow you to send an e-mail query to which they will respond. I took advantage of this recently.

Kindred Konnections, which I mentioned in our last newsletter, were providing what they described as an 1851 England and Wales Census. I was pretty sure that it was only a sample and challenged them on this. They told me that their data base was around 530,000 and "guessed" that theirs was a 6% figure. Kindred Konnections altered their wording accordingly. I then sent an e-mail to the Public Record Office at Kew asking for the total headcount for the 1851 Census. After an immediate acknowledgment, the PRO came back the following week with a figure that indicated Kindred Konnection's data base actually held a 3% rather than a 6% sample. I passed this information on to Kindred Konnections and, again, they altered their wording.

Kindred Konnections now have over 8 million people in their Ancestral data base, so I have given them a one-month's subscription and will report on their progress.

Mac users! Watch the weekly issues of Richard Eastman's great newsletter for recent genealogical software developments. (Hard copies of these newsletters are in a box to the left of our library computer workstation. A Macintosh version of Family Treemaker is being introduced by Broderbund, and there is another brand new program which Dick Eastman seems to like.

When I upgraded our Internet homepage, Tom Haskell, an HTML wizard helping Maura Ritz at the Darien Library with new homepages, showed me how to scan color images into the page. Now, as a result, you will see on our homepage a copy of our "Charter" and a picture of Alan Wyland using *Family Search*. (He was most surprised when I called him up and told him that I had seen his picture on the Internet.) Lastly, I couldn't resist putting in a copy of an 1892 photograph of my Welsh great-grandfather's family in front of the Parsonage in Wales! ■

CENTRAL LONDON READING ROOM

The PRO's Census, Wills and Probate microfilm services will move from Chancery Lane 10 March 1997 to Myddelton Place, Myddelton Street, London EC1, and will open to the public 1 April 1997. The new, purpose-designed accommodation will be shared with the Office for National Statistics' Public Search Room (births, marriages, deaths) and has the advantage of being located close to the Society of Genealogists and the Greater London Record Office. Facilities for readers with disabilities will be improved, and there will be a refreshment area, shop, exhibition space and a small meeting room.

State Papers on microfilm were transferred from Chancery Lane to Kew, near Richmond, in Surrey, 6 December 1996. ■

LOYALIST RECORDS

Records of all Loyalist claims, wherever lodged, have been assembled in London and are now accessible at the Public Record Office in Kew, Surrey. The principal sources are in collections referred to as AO12, AO13, T77, T79 and WO28. Microfilms of the entire AO12 and AO13 series are also available at the Public Archive, Ottawa, Canada, and at the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. Library of Congress microfilms may be borrowed at libraries outside of the Washington, DC, area through the interlibrary loan system. ■

A FATHERLEY COLLECTION SEARCH

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

News that the Robert Fatherley Memorial CD ROM Collection had gone on line was welcome because I hoped that it would help me locate census records for two of my great-grandfathers, William Riley in New York County (Manhattan) and Daniel Keenan in Morrisania (now part of Bronx County, see article below), Westchester County, New York.

David Mordy showed me how to use the collection at a Saturday morning library workshop. Then, choosing a disk labeled "U.S. Selected States/Countries, 1860," and another labeled "U.S. Selected States/Countries, 1870," I searched for both great-grandfathers. No Daniel Keenan living in Westchester County showed up on either disk, so Westchester was apparently not one of the "selected" counties. Nor did I find William Riley on the 1870 disk as, again, New York County did not appear to have been selected. I did, however, find William Riley on the 1860 disk. As a matter of fact, I found 13 William Rileys on that disk, all living in New York County.

After making a copy of the 13 references, my next step was a visit to the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue at 42nd Street in New York City, where all censuses (both federal and state) covering New York State are available on microfilm. The staff in the Genealogy Room at the south end of the third floor helped me to match ward and district numbers from the CD ROM listings to a library reel number for each reference, and I hopefully began cranking microfilms through a viewer. By the end of the afternoon, however, it was clear that my William Riley was not one of the 13 on the list.

As my grandfather Peter Joseph Riley was born in New York County in 1865 and his sister Ellen was born in New York County in 1851, it seemed likely that a *misspelling* of William Riley's surname might be responsible for the failure. A return trip to Darien Library to recheck the 1860 CD ROM disk for variant spellings of Riley uncovered 17 in New York County with the first name of William. Once more back at the NYC Public Library, cranking microfilm, I found my great-grandfather on the ninth reel examined during that session, along with his wife, Margaret, his daughter Ellen and a daughter

Mary who probably died young as I knew nothing about her.

Admittedly, the search process involved substantial effort, but the Fatherley CD ROM Collection made an all but impossible task manageable and I am very grateful for its existence.

There was a dividend. While in the Genealogy Room at the NYC Public Library, I learned that a Westchester County index for the 1870 Federal Census was right there on one of the shelves, and my great-grandfather Daniel Keenan was in it. The page given in the index was not the right one, but I found Daniel on the microfilm just two pages later; and there was his wife Margaret and his daughter Mary Ann (my grandmother) who had been born in California in 1858 -- along with four younger children, all born in New York, only two of whom I knew about.

Time well spent! ■

DID YOU KNOW?

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

Genealogical research turns up odd historical facts.

Morrisania was one of 21 townships established in Westchester County in compliance with an act of the New York State Legislature 7 March 1788. The 1790 Federal Census listed only 13 heads of families in Morrisania, making it the most sparsely populated township in the county. Nevertheless, on 1 October 1790, Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence and owner of Morrisania, asked that Congress, then in session in New York City, consider the township as the location of the nation's new capitol because:

"The said manor is more advantageously situated for their [Congress's] residence than any other place that has hitherto been proposed to them, and much better accommodated with the necessary requisites of convenience of access, health, and security.

"Vessels from the four Eastern States may arrive at Morrisania through the Sound in the course of a few hours....Ships from the Carolinas and Georgia may perform voyages to Morrisania with much more safety and dispatch than they can to the ports of Philadelphia and Annapolis, not being

incommoded with tedious passages of two hundred miles each up Bays and Rivers which often consume a fortnight or three weeks -- passages rendered hazardous by rocks and shoals, and annually obstructed by ice....Morrisania is so situated that vessels may arrive from, or proceed to sea, sometimes in six hours....This passage, from the quantity and saltness of the water, has never been totally impeded by ice.

"Morrisania has always been noted for this particular [health and salubrity] that the fever and ague is unknown....Persons from other places, emaciated by sickness and disease, there shortly recover and are speedily reinforced in health and vigor.

"Morrisania is perfectly secure from any dangers either from foreign invasion or internal insurrection....Morrisania, being distant only twenty miles from the State of Connecticut, and eight miles from the City of New York...can be amply protected by the hardy sons of New England on the one side and the inhabitants of the populous City of New York on the other....The chief defence of this country in future must be by its militia...[and] there are more fighting men within a sweep of thirty miles around Morrisania than perhaps within the same distance around any other place in America."

It sounds like a wonderful place, but, as we know, Mr. Morris's proposal failed -- and our nation's capitol was established on the Potomac River, rather than on Long Island Sound in what is now the South Bronx. ■

WEST INDIES SURNAME LIST

by Florence Wyland

The West Indies Surname List is intended to aid genealogical researchers with interests in West Indian countries to identify others with interests in the same surnames, and to locate others who are researching genealogy in the same countries.

In colonial times there was a great deal of migration, voluntary and involuntary, among West Indian countries and American colonies, so look at records for all countries.

You may submit surnames for any West Indian country, including: Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Belize, Bermuda,

Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Nevis and St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Maarten, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

You must submit by e-mail. There is no charge for submitting or subscribing. So far, I have 4,000 surnames in my file and more coming.

My ancestor Hector Dickie was sent to Barbados from South Carolina after the Revolutionary War in which he fought on the British side. I found he stayed there with his family for only a few years as "there were too many hurricanes." He then moved to Canada.

If you would like to submit a surname, send a message by e-mail to:

VaughnRoyal,75231.511@compuserve.com including your name, your e-mail address, city, state/province/parish and country in which you are located.

If you have any questions, please write to me, Florence Wyland, at our MGS Newsletter address. ■

CHESTER S. WENDELL GENEALOGY

Middlesex Genealogical Society has a very large file containing the family genealogy of Chester S. Wendell. Mr. Wendell was a judge who lived on Middlesex Road in Darien during the 1930s and 1940s. A list of the indexed surnames found in his Ancestor Charts follows. Anyone interested in these surnames should contact MGS board member Charles Scribner at (203) 655-4830.

Alcock, Alexander of Scotland, Altimes, Austin, Babb, Bambsy, Banfield, Baron, Basselle, Batchelder, Beard, Berkeley, Berry, Bickford, Bland, Bradstreet, Brampton, Brattle, Brown, Caldwell, Clark, Clarke, Clough, Coleman, Comb, Cotton, Cox, Coytmore

DuChesne, Dowse, Dudley, Dutrieux, Edmunds, Eune, Falker, Fettiplace, Filgar (see Falker), Foss, Gee, Giles, Gilmore, Goodwin, Gurdon, Ham, Harderson, Hardy, Hayes, Hieronymus, Hilton, Hobbe, Hoo, Horne, Hudson, Hull, Hundevard, Hussey.

Ive, Jackson, Jaxon, Jeness, Jochemse, Johnson, Kitchen, Knapp, Knowoes, Lamos, Lewkener,

Locke, Malmaynes, Marden, Marston, Miles, Moses, Moulton, Newgate-Newdigate, Nutter, Oliver, Otis.

Page, Parshley, Peavey, Perkins, Philbrick, Pickering, Pierce, Pinkham, Purefoy, Ramsden, Roberts, Robinson, Rollins-Rawlings, Rosewell, Rowland, Russel, Saltonstall, Sanborne-Samborne, Seavey, Sedley, Sexton, Sherburne, Shortridge, Smith, Snell, Staes, Stevens, Stiles, Stoughton, Sutton alias Dudley, Swayne.

Thorne, Tiptoff, Tuck, Tue, Tyng, Wallis, Walton, Ward, Wendell, Wesselee, Willix, Willoughby, Wilmote, Wise, Yorke, Young. ■

GENEALOGY SEMINAR '97

The annual genealogy seminar sponsored by The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, The Stamford Historical Society, and The Connecticut Ancestry Society will take place from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Saturday, 22 February 1997, at Christ Church in Greenwich. This year's seminar is entitled "Where Can I Go Next? Experts Point the Way." Speakers will be:

- Jane Adams Clarke, a professional genealogist and a specialist on the Philadelphia area, who will talk about "Genealogical Repositories in South-eastern Pennsylvania: Promise at the End of the Turnpike."
- Suzanne McVetty, C.G., who will cover two subjects: "That Research Trip to New York City: Plan It Now" and "NEW, The Emigrant Savings Bank Records at the NY Public Library."
- Marie Varrelman Melchiori, C.G.R.S., C.G.L., who will also discuss two subjects: "*The Guide to Federal Records in the National Archives Has Just Been Reprinted: See How It Can Work for You*" and "But Grandma Never Carried a Gun: Locating Women Using Records Created by the Military."

These seminars are consistently good -- chock full of valuable information -- and there is ample opportunity to ask questions of the excellent speakers. The \$45 fee for the seminar includes a box lunch that is usually quite tasty. Registration forms and additional information can be obtained by calling (203) 329-1183. ■

INDEX TO MAINE MARRIAGES 1892-1966

An index to Maine marriages from 1892 to 1966 is now available on the Internet at:

<http://www.state.me.us/sos/arc/archives/genealogy/marriage.htm>

This index was obtained from the Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Data Research and Vital Statistics. While subject to data entry errors, it serves as a reference resource for records held in the Archives (1892-1922) and for general information about marriages through 1966.

One may search in each of the following fields: Bride's Name, Bride's Town/City of Residence; Groom's Name, Groom's Town/City of Residence; Year of Marriage.

Enter names as: Surname[space]Given Name(s). Town/City is included only through 1955; State is entered as a two-letter abbreviation: ME=Maine; MA=Massachusetts, etc.; Marriage Certificate Numbers are not available on records prior to 1956. Due to the size of the data base, it has been broken into ranges based on marriage year: 1892-1899, 1900-1909, 1910-1919, 1920-1929, 1930-1939, 1940-1949, 1950-1959, and 1960-1966.

Request a copy of a specific 1892-1922 marriage record by e-mail. You will receive confirmation of your request, specifying fee to be remitted. The basic fee for searching and copying marriage records is \$6 for a plain copy and \$10 for a certified copy.

For 1923 and later records, contact Maine Department of Human Services, Office of Data Research and Vital Statistics at 11 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333; telephone (207) 287-3181. ■

NEW YORK STATE VITAL RECORDS 1881-1946 INDEXES

Indexes to New York State Vital Records, for births, marriages and deaths 1881-1946, excluding New York City, are now available on microfiche at the National Archives Northeast Regional Branch, 201 Varick Street, New York, NY, 10014; telephone (212) 337-1300. ■

Deadline for next newsletter:
11 March 1997



MEETING 8 FEB. 1997
SATURDAY, 2 PM
DARIEN LIBRARY

Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111



Application for Membership

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1111
Darien, CT 06820

Annual Dues
Individual (\$15) _____
Couple (\$20) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____