



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XIII, No. 2

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

March 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was feeling a little guilty about missing our February Annual Workshop Meeting, but understand from Ray Bartlett, David Mordy and Donna Moughty that it went well. Thank you all for pitching in. At least my first ever winter visit to Florida resulted in a total absence of snow in Darien during the month that I was away. Yes, we will be going away again next year!

I would like to give our new newsletter editor, Dorothy Shillinglaw, a much overdue welcome. Her professional expertise as an editor is much appreciated.

Also, we welcome two new board members, Emeline Fatherley, whom so many older members know and love, and a most enthusiastic younger genealogist, Kim Paterson. As you will note at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on 19 April, Ray Bartlett has an excellent slate of talented people nominated to serve our society. Please come to the meeting 19 April, as the business segment will be brief and we have an excellent national speaker, Ann Smith Lainhart, who will be talking to us about New England Town Records (see pages 2 and 5).

Thanks are due to currently retiring members of the board for their generous service, and, in particular, to Karen Polett who has gracefully filled the difficult office of secretary for several years.

As I step down after my two years in office, I would like to thank the board and membership for all the support I have been given. I have enjoyed it all and am confident that our new president, who is really a professional genealogist in amateur clothing, will serve you well.

David Bowley

MGS ANNUAL WORKSHOP MEETING

by Ray Bartlett

In the absence of our president and vice president, I opened the meeting at 2 pm with a short business segment during which I read the list of nominees for consideration and election at the 19 April Annual General Meeting. They are:

- Officers:
 - President: David L. Mordy
 - Vice President: Robert E. (Pete) Kenyon, III
 - Treasurer: Ruth R. McGrath
 - Secretary: Mary Ellen Gleason
- Board of Directors:
 - Charles Cotter
 - R. Geoffrey Blaine
 - Philip R. Morehouse
 - Richard Sarr

Business concluded, David Mordy addressed the audience, using the overhead projector with transparencies illustrating how he found sources for his recently published book, *Ancestors and Descendants of Daniel Morgan and Polly Frost*.

Then, David proctored a table for advanced researchers in the rear of the auditorium, while Marianne Sheldon held forth at a well attended table for intermediate researchers in the conference room and Chick Scribner presided at a beginners table.

Meanwhile, those interested in computers gathered around Donna Moughty who used the overhead projector to display her genealogy program. After this presentation, Donna led her group upstairs for an exhibition of researching on the internet at one of the library's internet workstations.

Generous help from all concerned made this a very successful meeting.

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

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. *Come, and bring a friend!*

17 MAY 1997: JIM BOLLES, past president of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, will give an illustrated talk on "TIPS FOR RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN" and "WHAT'S HIS NAME?"

18 OCTOBER 1997: Tom Peters will speak on TRACING YOUR GERMANIC ANCESTRY.

18 APRIL 1998: Return visit of Suzanne McVetty.

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

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by Chick Scribner

Two new books, recently ordered by the Middlesex Genealogical Society, have arrived:

- *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* by Samuel Lewis, published in 1837, provides descriptions of Irish localities as they existed at that time. It locates civil parishes in relation to other towns, baronies, counties and provinces, and includes principal landowners, diocese and Roman Catholic districts. Its listing of nearly 10,000 original subscribers is, in effect, a list of Irish gentry of 1837. A must for Irish researchers!
- *The Great Migration Begins* by Robert Anderson is a comprehensive study of 900 immigrants to New England 1620-1633. This three-volume set contains accurate and up-to-date information that includes port or country of origin, ship and arrival date, earliest known individual, family records, and much, much more.

Our sincere thanks to MGS board member David Mordy (a Morgan/Frost descendant) for his donation of *Ancestors and Descendants of Daniel Morgan and Polly Frost*, which he co-authored, along with Jean W. Perney and Betty L. Storey. The book has been processed and is located on shelf 4.1 with a call number of 929.2. ■

SCOTTISH STUDIES

by Jean S. Ridley¹

Reprinted, with permission of the author, from
the *Pikes Peak Genealogical Society Newsletter*,
Colorado Springs, Col.; Vol. 17, No. 1; Jan., Feb., March 1997

A family's story: Shillinglaw marries and has a son, Richard. Richard's mother dies. Shillinglaw marries again and has a son and a daughter. Shillinglaw, his second wife, their two children, and Richard leave Scotland for America. Upon arrival in Quebec, Shillinglaw falls off the gangplank and drowns!!! The second wife, with her two children, stays in America (maybe Canada?) and Richard is sent back to Scotland to be raised by relatives. Years later, Richard returns to America, marries in Chicago, has two children, and dies relatively young.

This is the Shillinglaw story that I am researching and trying to either prove or disprove. Unfortunately, there are some brick walls that seem to be insurmountable at this time. I have been able to place Richard in Chicago between 1851 and 1860 (when he died) and have proved that he came from Scotland. However, the Chicago fire of 1871 seems to have destroyed any records of his marriage and of his burial place. In trying to search for Richard's father, I have not yet found any relevant ship records for what I estimate to be the 1820-1840 time period and have not yet found this "unsteady" ancestor in any of Quebec's cemeteries.²

There existed a definite need for a change in direction when I saw an article in *The Scottish Genealogist*, a quarterly of the Scottish Genealogical Society, about a course given by the University of Stirling in Stirling, Scotland. This course, "Certifi-

cate in Scottish Family History Studies," is one year long, but only requires attendance during the first week. After that, all can be done by mail. There is a three-day workshop in the spring, but attendance is not required for those living outside Scotland. The stated purpose of the course is to increase one's skills in Scottish research and to become more knowledgeable about the many resources available. I thought, perhaps, this course would help me to make the jump from America to Scotland and help to locate documentation, so I enrolled for the session that began in August 1996.

The instructors are Rosemary Bigwood, a professional genealogist and lecturer, and Professor Emeritus Arnold Morrison, a past chairman of the Central Scotland Family History Society who also lectures on Scottish family history. There are 15 students of differing skill levels. Two are from the United States, four from England, and nine from Scotland.

Among the topics covered are Old Scots handwriting in the testaments (wills) and sasines (land transactions), family and community life, military duty, and sources in local repositories.

During our time together, there was quite a bit of interaction between the students and the instructors. Conveniently, the instructors had brought their own, personal research books to the classroom, which were available for use by students during breaks and in the evening.

In addition to classroom instruction, there was a trip to Edinburgh to tour the Scottish Record Office, with assigned exercises making use of their resources. Then, we had about three hours in New Register House where we had been assigned a specific family to research. As it was after hours and our class was the only group there, we had the expert help of the supervisors.

¹ *Editor's note:* About three years ago, in an effort to learn more about her ancestors, Jean Shillinglaw Ridley wrote to all 138 Shillinglaws in the national telephone directory, one of whom was my husband. Although we have not yet found a connection between our families, she and I have been corresponding ever since, trading information and sharing our successes and disappointments. I am deeply indebted to Jean for generous help on many occasions. Her persistence in the face of obstacles and her dedication to thorough research should encourage us all.

² Since this article was first published in January, a query placed by Jean in a Canadian genealogical publication has elicited two responses. Both state that an Andrew Shillinglaw drowned and was buried in Quebec 27 July 1837, and cite a book as their source. Jean asked a Canadian internet correspondent to look for the original burial record. There was no record for an Andrew Shillinglaw in 1837, but this diligent researcher looked both beyond and before the date given until he found Andrew's burial record 27 July 1832. The compiler of the cited book either misread the handwritten index card used or missed the error in galley proof, thus reinforcing once again the importance of *always going to the original record* if at all possible.

There are four major assignments; three require a research paper of about 2,500 words, and the fourth requires a paper of about 7,000 words. Topics for the three smaller reports are "Death in the Family," "Living on the Land," and "Town Dwellers." The final project is tailored to one's own family research with part of the paper discussing the genealogy and the greater portion discussing various aspects of one ancestor's life. Research involves some names, dates, and places, but, more importantly, it requires putting people in context with their surroundings. It is a social, cultural and political study of the time periods and locations chosen. This process will uncover new sources which, ultimately, will lead to a greater understanding of the lives of our ancestors.

The University of Stirling is located on the outskirts of Stirling, near the village of Bridge of Allan, and is easy to reach by car, train or bus. I stayed in a dorm on campus, but could have stayed elsewhere and commuted. The campus is beautiful with Airthrey Castle; a loch with swans, ducks and water lilies; many beautiful trees; and (what else!) a nine-hole golf course. The dining area overlooks a magnificent view of lawn, trees and part of the loch. One of my favorite spots on the grounds is a small church ruin with an old cemetery that has numerous interesting symbolic carvings on the stones (many Buchanans). This cemetery walk was especially exciting at dusk when it was quickly getting darker and a light rain was falling (oooooooo).

The course work promises to be very comprehensive. I certainly will know a great deal more about my ancestors when it ends. I expect that just finding the needed reading materials will be a challenge, but with the help of the interlibrary loan system I believe that access to the books is possible. If absolutely necessary -- if resources just cannot be found -- a change in assignments can be negotiated.

Anyone interested in the next session of this course should contact Margery Stirling, Summer School Office, Airthrey Castle Annex, University of Stirling, Stirling, Scotland FK9 4LA. Her e-mail address is: m.f.stirling@stirling.ac.uk

MGS, ELECTRONICALLY

The home page of MGS can be accessed at:
<http://www.darien.lib.ct.us.mgs>

E-mail will reach the society through:
dbowley@concentric.net

THOMAS J. KEMP, MGS TRUSTEE

The text of a 2 February e-mail letter addressed to MGS by Tom Kemp follows.

Good Morning,

I was very pleased to see your website, all the more so, as I am one of the trustees and early members of the society. Please give everyone a big hello from me.

I have recently written a new book which I think will be of interest to society members. I am sending you a copy to add to the library.

Title: *1995 Genealogy Annual: A Bibliography of Published Sources*. Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1996. 397 p.

Arranged in three parts, it is a bibliography of all (1) Family Histories (arranged by the surnames covered by each book); (2) Guides and Handbooks (arranged by country and topic); and (3) Local History and Genealogical Source Materials (arranged by state, then by city or county). Thousands of published books, dissertations, etc. that were issued in 1995 are included. The 1996 volume will be released in late 1997.

One important feature is the list of the "Most Important Books of 1995." Some 13 titles were selected as the best local history and genealogy reference books for that year.

Perhaps you would like to "link" my homepage to the reference to my name as a trustee. [This has been done by David Bowley.] If so, the URL is:

<http://www.lib.usf.edu/spccoll/dept/tkemp.html>

E-mail:

tomkemp@lib.usf.edu

All the best,

Tom

Thomas J. Kemp, Head
Special Collections Department
University of South Florida Library
Tampa, Florida

410 Broxburn Avenue
Temple Terrace, Florida 33617-7822

COMPUTER CORNER

by David Bowley

The January 1996 revision of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Ancestral File has been received at Darien Library and, if the worn-out disk drive on the *FamilySearch* workstation is fixed by the time you read this, it should be loaded and up and running.

During my recent trip to Fort Lauderdale I paid a visit to the excellent LDS Family History Center there and was pleased to find that my ancestral data, which I had uploaded in a GEDCOM file to Salt Lake City, was finally in their data base. I would encourage any of you with a modem to upload your files to LDS.

The Ancestral File has more than doubled to some 29 million entries in this revision, so take a second look; you might get a nice surprise. Version 2.24 of *FamilySearch* has several other improvements in it.

There has been a proliferation of Macintosh genealogy programs in the last few months. Good write-ups on them are available in Dick Eastman's weekly newsletter, which, if you aren't a subscriber, can be found in the filing box on the left-hand side of our *FamilySearch* workstation in the library. Broderbund's *Family Tree Maker* looks particularly interesting and is described in Vol. 2, No. 8 of the Eastman newsletter, published 24 February 1997. ■

VITAL RECORDS AT DARIEN TOWN HALL

by David Bowley

New England Town Records will be the subject of Ann Lainhart's talk at our 19 April meeting. To avoid embarrassment should the question of what town records are available in Darien be asked, I walked over to Town Hall in search of answers.

Darien vital records date back to 1820 (when Darien was incorporated) and are housed in a locked cage at the back of the land records area. When I showed my MGS membership card, I was admitted to this "holiest of holies" by Marilyn M. Van Sciver who kindly showed me what they had:

- Vol. 1, 1820-1851, 32 pp, lists the hand-written record of marriages starting with a 19 November 1820 marriage between Samuel Hoyt of Stamford and Betsy Bates of Darien, solemnized by

Daniel Smith, Pastor, and registered by Joshua Morehouse 1 December 1820.

- Vol. 2, 1847-1861, lists the handwritten records of births, deaths and marriages starting 29 August 1848 and duplicating some of the Vol. 1 records between 25 September 1847 and 20 May 1851.
- Vol. 3 lists births, deaths, marriages 1862-1869.
- Vol. 4 lists births, deaths, marriages 1870-1909.
- Vol. 5 lists births, deaths, marriages 1910-1916.
- Vols. 6, 7 and 8 list births, deaths, marriages for 1917 and subsequent years in three separate volumes for births, deaths, marriages.

There are also four big volumes (A-D, E-K, L-R, and S-Z), indexed by name, for births, deaths, marriages that go back to 1820. The most recent entries, to date, are indexed in a small separate volume. Original certificates for births, deaths, marriages are also in indexed files going back to 1820. Certificates for births, deaths, marriages after 1957 are in separate volumes.

The only other significant document that I saw was a copy of State of Connecticut records of marriages in Darien 1820-1851. This alphabetical, 13-page, typewritten list was taken from a set of cards based on a manuscript copy made in 1914 by James Arnold of Providence, R.I. The Arnold manuscript is now in the Connecticut State Library in Hartford. There is a note in the front saying that the records have not been checked with the originals, so errors may exist. Verification of these records against the originals (which are in the same repository) might be a nice little project for an MGS work party. Volunteers please! ■

E-MAIL QUERIES

Bradley/Allen: Louise G. Boulter of Mesa, Ariz., has asked if anyone can help her with the direct ancestral lineage of John Allen (b. 31 Oct. 1860 in Westport, Conn.), son of Chauncy and Delia(?) Allen (b. 9 Dec. 1856, d. 9 Sept. 1887 in Westport), daughter of Jesse and Angeline (Taylor) Bradley. (John married secondly Edna Walsh, b. 23 February 1858, d. 1 November 1924.) Ms. Boulter is willing to pay a "reasonable" fee to a researcher.

Stevens/Ives: Daniel C. Stevens of Garden Grove, Cal., has asked for help with the family of Reuben

(1792-1869) and Rebecca (Ives) (1794-1858) Stevens, who left Middlefield, Conn. about 1838 for Western Star, Medina County, Ohio. Children born in Middlefield would have included Henry, William, Antoinette and Maria Stevens. Reuben Stevens was a carpenter and joiner by trade.

Page: Brenda Hare of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has a great deal of information on the Page family that lived in New Fairfield, Conn., in the late 1700s, and was descended from Dr. John Page and Susanna (Leland) Page (m. 1712, Sherborn, Mass.). She would like to exchange information with others descended from this line.

If you have information to share or are interested in researching, please contact a board member. ■

UPCOMING SEMINARS

New England Historic Genealogical Society offers three programs with Dr. George Redmonds:

- English Family History for Americans, Plymouth, Mass., 3-13 April 1997, including a Saturday only program (12 April 1997).
- Heritage Tour of the Heart of England, 9-19 May 1997.
- A Walking Tour of England's Yorkshire Dales, 16-26 September 1997.

NEHGS is also offering:

- A Research Tour to Prince Edward Island, Canada, with George F. Sanborn Jr., F.A.S.G., 20-29 July 1997.

For more information call NEHGS at (617) 536-5740, ext. 202.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and New England Historic Genealogical Society have scheduled their third Joint Conference, featuring speakers on a variety of New York and New England topics, for 25-26 July 1997 in Tarrytown, N.Y. (The Westchester County Archives and Westchester Historical Society Library will be open to interested conference attendees Thursday, 24 July.) For more information, contact NYG&BS and NEHGS Joint Conference, 122 East 58th St., New York, NY 10022-1939.

National Genealogical Society 1997 Conference in the States will take place 7-10 May 1997 at Valley Forge, Penn. During four days packed with

genealogy, choose lectures from a wide range of topics, meet local and national experts, discover ways to achieve research goals, try new genealogical software, and learn how to travel the information superhighway. For more information, contact 1997 NGS Conference, 4527 17th St. North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399; telephone (703) 525-0050; FAX (703) 525-0052.

National Genealogical Society seminars usually convene at a considerable distance from Darien, so this is a rare opportunity to attend one that is relatively close to home.

CWCW, A Conference on Women and the Civil War, will take place 27-29 June 1997 at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. For more information, contact Conference on Women and the Civil War, Conklin & Estilow, 12728 Martin Road, Smithsburg, MD 21783; e-mail: roslin@nfis.com

National Institute on Genealogical Research invites *experienced* researchers (genealogists, historians, librarians, archivists) to take an in-depth look at federal records of genealogical value located primarily in the Washington, D.C., area during its 21-26 July 1997 program. If interested, contact National Institute on Genealogical Research, P.O. Box 14274, Washington, DC 20044-4274.

3rd Irish Genealogical Congress will take place 22-28 September 1997 at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland. A free research advisory service for attendees wishing to pursue research while in Ireland will be provided by the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland. For more information, contact Irish Genealogical Congress, c/o National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

Should you be interested but unable to attend, proceedings of these congresses are published. Currently available from IGC, c/o Floraville Ave., Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Ireland, are *Aspects of Irish Genealogy I* (in short supply) and *Aspects of Irish Genealogy II*. These are the proceedings of the first and second Irish Genealogical Congresses, which took place in 1991 and 1994, respectively. Cost for each is 9-50 Irish punts + 5-50 Irish punts overseas postage and handling. Unfortunately, credit cards are *not* accepted and checks must be in Irish punts. ■

GENEALOGY SEMINAR '97

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

It's not possible here to cover all the information offered to those who on 22 February attended the annual genealogy seminar organized by the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, the Stamford Historical Society and the Connecticut Ancestry Society. Nevertheless, some highlights might prove useful to our readers.

Using Records at the National Archives

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities hold 21.5 million cubic feet of original textual materials -- more than 4 billion pieces of paper from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government.

A revised edition of the *Guide to the National Archives of the United States* was published last year and can be very helpful in navigating their somewhat arcane storage system -- a hierarchical arrangement from the smallest element (record) to the largest (repository). (1) A Record is a piece of information or an item in any physical form (e.g., a letter in a pension application file). (2) A File Unit holds the records concerning a transaction, person, case, date, or subject. For example, a pension File Unit, in addition to the pension application, will usually contain supporting documentation. (3) A Series consists of related File Units. For instance, pension applications that were *not* approved constitute one Series, while pension applications that were approved constitute another. (4) A Subgroup contains two or more Series that are related by subject, activity and source. (5) A Record Group contains two or more Subgroups according to the origin of the Subgroup material, e.g., an administrative body or executive department. (6) A Repository is the institution and city in which the cited record is kept. E.g., National Archive repositories in the Washington, DC area (including Suitland, MD, and Alexandria, VA), should be cited as "National Archives, Washington, DC," but a regional archive should be cited as "National Archives, [name of region]."

National Archives' On-line Electronic Services can be accessed through the World Wide Web at:

<http://www.nara.gov>

CLIO, the National Archives gopher, is at:

<gopher://gopher.nara.gov>

Reference inquiries (e-mail) can be made at:
inquire@nara.gov

Locating Women Using Military Records

In addition to records about women who actually served as "male" combat troops in, for instance, the Civil War, and records concerning hospital attendants, matrons and nurses in military hospitals, there is substantial information about women in pension and land bounty records related to the military service of their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. Women can also be found in records of military post marriages, births, deaths and medical histories; provost marshal files; contracts with female employees (e.g., laundresses); letters to officers, etc.

Among other record groups, see National Archives Record Group 15 (Veterans Administration), Record Group 94 (Adjutant General's Office 1780-1917), and Record Group 109 (War Department Collection of Confederate Records).

Research Trip to New York City

New York City is rich in record resources, but the records are not concentrated in one location. They are scattered all over the city, and sometimes duplicated in more than one repository, so it is important to plan ahead. First, decide what items you are looking for and where they are most likely to be found; then design your route to eliminate "backtracking." Repositories include:

- NY Public Library, 5th Ave. & 42nd St., NYC 10018. Holdings are vast. Best source for newspapers and city directories. Soundex indexes, federal and state censuses for New York State, 1890 NYC Police Census, and NYC vital record indexes starting in 1888, are available on microfilm. Map room has maps for *Griffith's Valuation*. (Also see Emigrant Savings Bank, page 8.)
- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 122 E. 58th St., NYC 10022, (212) 755-8532. Closed Mondays. Best source for Dutch and colonial New York. For a \$15/day donation you may read hardcover books in the reference room, but only members have complete access to open shelves, manuscripts, and microfilms. Membership is \$60/year for New York State residents, \$50/year for out-of-state residents.
- NYC Municipal Archives, 3rd Floor, 31 Chambers St., NYC 10007. If you have accurate and specific information about an individual, you can

get copies of vital records by mail within about three weeks. If, however, you need to do some "fishing," there are indexes here for vital records back to 1866, and for a \$5 fee you can spend the day. They also have the Register of Voters, Assessed Valuation of Real Estate, City Register (NYC employees' job locations and salaries), 1890 Police Census, Coroner's Inquests, and Court, District Attorney's and Almshouse (Blackwell's Island) records.

- National Archives, Northeast Region, 12th Floor, 201 Varick St., NYC 10014. Covers New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. World War I draft records and WPA-produced naturalization index for NYC (1792-1906) are here. NY State vital records indexes (1881-1946) are a recent addition.
- County Clerk's Office, State Supreme Court, New York County, Division Records, 7th Floor, 31 Chambers St., NYC 10007.
- New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park West, NYC 10024.
- Bronx Historical Society, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467.

- Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepoint St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.
- Queensborough Public Library, Long Island Div., 89-11 Merrick Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432.
- Staten Island Historical Society, 302 Center St., Staten Island, NY 10306.

Emigrant Savings Bank Records

Recently added to the holdings of the NY Public Library are microfilms of Emigrant Savings Bank records dating back to 1850. The Emigrant was a creation of the Irish Emigrant Society (microfilm records back to 1841), and 80 percent of early depositors were Irish immigrants who often needed a way to send money to relatives back in Ireland.

Of particular interest are the "Test Books," which contain "verification" answers to questions. These were used to identify holders of accounts in the event of lost passbooks, and often contain information available nowhere else, such as village or townland of birth, mother's maiden name, etc. ■

**Deadline for next newsletter
22 April 1997**



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

**MEETING 19 APRIL 1997
SATURDAY, 2 PM
DARIEN LIBRARY**

