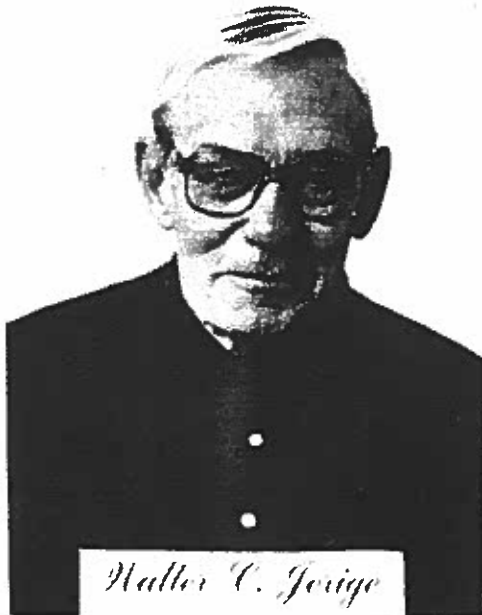




Middlesex Genealogical Society

VOL. XII NO. 1

WINTER 1996



Walter C. Jerige

We would like to recognize the death of Walter C. Jerige one of our MGS Board members, which occurred on Sunday, January 7th, at his home in Darien.

Walter was born July 18, 1912, in Cleveland, and he was the son of the late Carl and Marie Langer Jerige.

He was very active as a volunteer and served on many boards. We know him best for his enthusiastic support on the Board of the MGS where he helped with publicity, putting notices on cable TV of our meetings, and putting ads in the Connecticut Post newspaper. He was also a member of the Darien

Historical Society and volunteered in the Darien Book Aid Plan for many years. He was a member of the Fitch Memorial Committee to rededicate the monument marking the Fitch Home for soldiers in Noroton Heights. In 1990 he received the Humanitarian Award from the Darien Chamber of Commerce.

Walter was always ready to help. A "GOOD" man in every sense of the word. He will be missed.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Geoffrey Blaine our peripatetic Vice President has been working hard at putting together our Program for the rest of the year.

Our resident professional genealogist & Trustee Henry Hoff has graciously agreed to speak at our February 3rd Annual Workshop Meeting and will be available to help people who have encountered "bottle-necks" in their searches.

The Annual Washington's Birthday is 'on' for February 24th and Bill Hart will be the speaker.

We still have to confirm a speaker for our Annual General Meeting on April 20th but for our last meeting of the year on

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**1995-1996
OFFICERS**

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

MEMBERS at LARGE

Charles Cotter
 Lynn Hanks
 Walter Jerige
 David Mordy
 Philip Morehouse
 David Polett
 Charles Scribner
 Marianne Sheldon
 Diane Voigt

David Mordy	Computer Services Chairman
Richard Sarr	Publications Chairman
Florence Wyland	Newsletter Editor

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, CT 06820**

May 18th Howard Bird will be speaking to us.

Please make a note of these dates on your calendar now as lately the local press have let us down in not printing Ray Bartlett's press releases & we would like to get more members attending as well as the general public.

Our recent Census meeting is a case in point where the meeting was outstanding reflecting a great deal of preparatory work by the speakers & professional presentations which contained a lot of useful information. We will place a copy of the data presented in a book in the Library, but it was disappointing to only have some 25 people at the meeting.

Good luck to you in your searches in 1996!

David V. Bowley

A LETTER OF THANKS

November 25, 1995

Dear David Bowley,

In the recent MGS Newsletter, the many fine tributes honoring our Bob's memory, were overwhelming and heartwarming.

All thanks go to you and each MGS member whose reminiscences of Bob's influence and persuasion, led them to investigate their family genealogy.

We much appreciate the loyalty which keeps the Society holding fast to its original goal - to strengthen family ties - of past, present and future.

Most sincerely,
 Emeline W. Fatherley

NANCY HANKS LINCOLN

by Lynn Hanks

The ancestors of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, who was Abraham Lincoln's mother, remains a mystery. What little is known about her seems to come from several books published soon after her son's death. "The Life of Abraham Lincoln by J.G. Holland, 1866 and another by Wm. H. Herndon, Lincoln's law partner, a three volume biography of A. Lincoln in 1888, appears to be the source of most later writers, with each adding to the originals. They all treat Nancy Hanks with loving and tender care as the mother of one of our most beloved presidents.

Nancy was born the illegitimate child of Lucy Hanks who later married Henry Sparrow and raised eight children born to them. Lucy grew up in the vicinity of the Potomac river, with the snuff and silk breeches families, many of whom she may have known, but she herself moved in a world far below theirs. It was said that on the second Sunday of November in 1781 General George Washington attended Christ Church with General La Fayette as a guest. When the locals lined up to shake their hand, Lucy Hanks was waiting. La Fayette, known for his interest in beautiful young women, took special care when he kissed her hand in acknowledgement. Soon afterward she was hired by an unknown aristocrat bachelor as a servant. The reason for this was unknown since he already owned many slaves and really did not need her service. He taught her to read and write, and when she became pregnant, gave her some money and sent her on her way. She was scorned for bringing the child to church and at the age of nineteen left for Kentucky with her father. Years later when Abraham was riding with his law partner to try a case which would touch on the subject of hereditary traits, he spoke to him about his mother. He said she was the illegitimate daughter of Lucy Hanks and a well bred Virginia planter. He said that from this source came his mental powers, analysis, ambition and other qualities that distinguished him from other members of the Hanks family. At this time, he said "God bless my mother; all that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to her."

Nancy Hanks was born February 5, 1784, grew to five feet five inches tall and of a slight build. She was hounded all her life by gossip about her illegitimacy and after her marriage to Thomas Lincoln she lived in poverty and loneliness. In 1816 they moved into the gloom and solitude of the wild and desolate forest of Indiana. Arriving there in early winter they lived in a three sided camp. Imagine if you will, the life of this thirty-two year old mother of a seven year old daughter, Sarah, and four year old son Abraham, dressed in rags and furs to keep warm. They slept on leaves and bear skins, she tried to keep her family clean and fed. Later they would live in a log cabin without windows, a bearskin door and a dirt floor. The nearest neighbor was a mile away.

Later more neighbors moved to the area and Abe's cousin Dennis Hanks moved with his adopted family, the Sparrows and became his lifetime friend. A third son Thomas died in infancy. The family was so poor that Nancy pinned her dresses together with wild thorns. The children had clothes made from skins of animals, and Abe quickly grew out of them and often walked around with bare ankles exposed. Abe's sister Sarah married at the age of fourteen and died a year later; a child bride and an early death. Nancy succumbed to her own death two years later in 1818, of milk sickness, a disease caused by drinking the milk of cows that had eaten white snake root. After attending the death of her half brother, she died seven days later, in 1818, of milk sickness, caused by the cows eating snake root.

Her life was a hard, bitter-sweet life of the times. She knew despair and pain. She gave love, kindness and guidance and her one child who grew to manhood, became one our greatest Presidents.

WISH LIST

Index to Names in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volumes 51 through 148*

Edited by Jane Fletcher Fiske

Since 1847, this quarterly has published in-depth historical and genealogical articles; cemetery, church, Bible, and vital records; diary transcriptions; biographies; and memoirs. This alphabetized, every-name cumulative *Index* provides access to the wealth of information found in *Register* volumes 51-148, covering 1897-1994.

The *Index* features over 1,300,000 entries, including thousands of names overlooked in the (thankfully now superseded) 98 original annual indexes. It is an invaluable resource for genealogists, family historians, and any researcher seeking information about early New England and its people. We already have a \$50 donation.

NEHGS, 1995, 4 vols. over 3,700 pages
\$295.00. Item #S2-64651.

If you would like to make a donation towards purchasing these volumes, please send a check to MGS, PO Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820. Please specify that it is for the *Index*.

NEW PUBLICATION!!!

Articles in The New York Genealogical & Biographical RECORD 1983-1995, INDEXED by Surname or Location

In this useful new finding aid, all of the genealogies and family records published in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* over the past 13 years have been indexed under the principal surnames which they cover. Source records published during the same period have been indexed by location. This is a supplement to the 1870-1982 Index to *The Record*, by Jean D. Worden. Price \$6.00 plus \$1.00

postage. Mail to THE NYG&B SOCIETY, 122 East 58th St. New York NY 10022-1939.

WORDS OF THANKS

We are thankful for all the people who wrote letters and articles to put in our last Newsletter honoring Robert E. Fatherley. The response was overwhelming and Bob's influence on so many people was clearly seen.

Everyone's contribution to the MGS Newsletter is most welcome. Tell us about your latest research find or disappointment. How about that gift for Christmas that delighted you so much because it had to do with genealogy! Mine was the new book, *Lincoln*, by David Herbert Donald, 1995, which tells a bit about Abraham Lincoln's ancestors in Massachusetts as well as some new things about the rest of this man's most fascinating life. What was your interesting Christmas Gift?

A Special thanks to those who lay out, staple, collate, fold, make mailing labels, stamp, and keep the mailing list up to date. We couldn't put this Newsletter out without you. MANY, MANY THANKS.

Simon Crosby the Emigrant: His English Ancestry and Some of His American Descendants by Eleanor Davis Crosby. This volume explores the origins of Simon Crosby of Rowley, Massachusetts and traces his ancestors back another five generations in England to 1440. Biographies of Rev. Thomas Shepard and Rev. Ezekiel Rogers, who influenced the Crosby's emigration, are also included. (1914) reprint, 159 pp., illus., append., indices, paper, \$15.00 #C658.

Order from Heritage Books, 1540-E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 300, Bowie, MD 20716. Add \$3.50 for shipping and handling.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON LUNCHEON
SILVERMINE TAVERN
194 PERRY AVENUE
NORWALK CT
847-4558**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1996 AT NOON, Middlesex Genealogy Society will hold its annual **GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENTS DAY** luncheon.

Our speaker will be the Rev. William C. Hart, a retired Congregational Minister and U.S. Air Force Chaplain, who was for many years a Corporate Public affairs manager for General Electric. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and Andover Newton Theological School, and served in the Air Force during both World War II and the Korean Conflict.

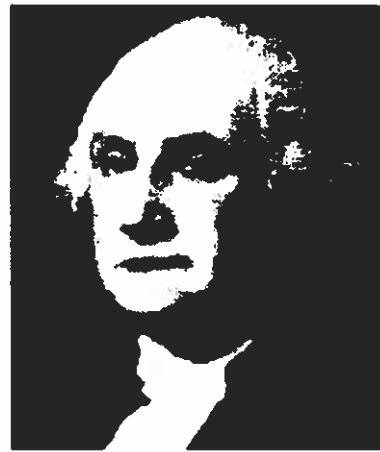
Bill Hart has had a lifelong interest in American History in particular, which has stimulated his interest in New England family genealogy beginning with his and his wife's family, both Mayflower descendants.

He will be speaking on the Rev. Thomas Allen, known as "The Fighting Parson of the Berkshires," whose family had prominent roles through all of New England history. In the Berkshires his reputation is frequently referred to in hushed tones to this day. He was in many ways a prototype of the leaders of the American Colonies, and from these early clergy many of us have antecedents.

And to help tempt you all, here is a sampling of the menu: Broccoli and Cheese Soup, Green Salad, Yankee Pot Roast, or Cold Poached Salmon, and for dessert, their famous Warm Apple Crisp. Of course, there will be served all during lunch, The



Silvermine Tavern's Famous Homemade Honey Buns. How can you resist coming to hear an inspiring speaker, after dining on this scrumptious food. Feel free to bring a friend, dress up in period clothes, and share family research with others. The cost for lunch will be \$17.00. Send check to MGS Treasurer, Ruth McGrath, 53 Rowayton Woods Drive, Norwalk CT 06854. Please note the number of folks in your party.



**HOW TO USE THE U.S. CENSUS,
AND USING VIDEO'S AVAILABLE AT
THE LIBRARY**

The Darien Library has a Videocassette that genealogists will find most helpful in looking up Census records. The tape is 28 minutes long, and very clear and helpful for searching and using the **CENSUS RECORDS**. Ask at the reference desk if you need help in locating it. It is with the other videocassettes in the main room. The call number is: VC Documen 144. **ALSO**, a set of four VCR tapes which are a Research Guide for genealogists.

Places to Go

**New England Historic
Genealogical Society**

**NEW ENGLAND SUMMER
CONFERENCE**

July 12-13, 1996

Hartford Marriott Hotel at Farmington,
CT, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington
CT (203)678-1000

Timothy Beard, F.A.S.G.
Migrations from Connecticut into New
York

Jerome Anderson
Deeds & Mapping in Early New England

David C. Dearborn, F.A.S.G.
Taking the High Road: Genealogical
Research in Scotland

Gary Boyd Roberts
17th Century Hartford & New Haven
Families: Trumbulls, Shermans,
Wolcotts, Huntingtons etc.

GENEALOGY SEMINAR '96

More From The Experts...
Saturday, February 24, 1996
254 East Putnam Ave (Post Rd)
Greenwich, Connecticut

The Great Migration Begins:
Robert Charles Anderson. C.G., F.A.S.G.

The Silent Woman; Bringing a Name to Life
Sharon DeBartolo Carmack. C.G.R.S.

\$45. Mail to: Genealogy Seminar '96
The Stamford Historical Society
1508 High Ridge Road
Stamford CT 06903

HAVE YOU HEARD THAT....

The Shamrock Connection... is a wealth of information on Irish families and the Editor appears to be well-versed in his subject. This fairly new fifteen to twenty page bulletin promises to appear monthly. The annual subscription fee is \$12.00. Write to Matthew J. Barker, Editor, 58 Osborne Ave., South Portland, ME 04106.

A WARM WELCOME to all our new members. Carl and Deborah Anderson, Barbara Boczer, Halsey and Isabel Bullen, Royal Graves, Edmund Morse, Gerard McTigue, Dorothy Ellison O'Donohue, Edward & Charlotte O'Hara, Cheryle Richards, William Tarkel and Jean Etta Winstanley. Please share your research with us. We are happy to put in our MGS Newsletter your finds, your dead ends, and/or your Descendancy Charts, etc. Tell us about that interesting ancestor you never knew about and how you found him or her. Look forward to seeing you at the Workshop on February 3rd.

A BIG WELCOME to our two new Board Members, Donna Moughty and David Mordy. They are bringing their skills of family research as well as their great knowledge of computers, and we look forward to working with them.

LIBRARY NEWS

by C. Scribner

The video entitled **The Genealogist's Video Research Guide**, reported on in the Fall Newsletter, has finally arrived at the Library. Since it was purchased by the Library it will be located on the Video Racks in the Main Reading Room.

We have six extra volumes of the **Encyclopedia of Biography - Representative Citizens of Connecticut** on our shelves. They are an incomplete set consisting of two each of volumes 1, 4, and 5. They will soon be put up for sale. If interested please contact any member of the Board of Directors.

Thanks to Blanche of the Library Staff, we now have a summary of Genealogical Collections found in the Pequot Library of Southport, CT. Our copy will be located in our own Catalog of Genealogical Collections in the pocket pages near the rear of the book. Shelf 3.3

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

BOOKS FOR SALE

THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTIONS:

Coroner's Reports, New York City 1823-1842.
Kenneth Scott. 260p. (1989) \$15.00/21.50

Coroner's Reports, New York City 1843-1849.
Kenneth Scott. 320p. (1991) \$18.00/25.75

Naturalizations in the Marine Court, New York City
1827-1835, Kenneth Scott. 192p. (1990) \$14.00/20.00

Naturalization in the Marine Court, New York City
1834-1840, Kenneth Scott. 192p. (1991) \$14.00/20.00

Where two prices are shown, first price is to Libraries and NYG&BS Members, second price to non-members. Make check payable to The NYG&B Society and mail to 122 East 58th St., New York, NY 10022-1939.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 3, 1996 -

ANNUAL MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP.

On Saturday February 3, 1996 we will host another of the Society's popular Workshops.

The program will be held in the lower level of the Darien Public Library and the General Public are invited.

Come bring your charts, your successes and your problems. HELP tables will be available.

At 1:00 pm a Computer Support Workshop will be available with our new Board Members, David Mordy & Donna Moughty helping with both PC and Mac software for Genealogists, and working programs will be set up on portable machines.

At 2:00 pm, **Henry Hoff**, well known genealogist and editor of the **New York Genealogical and Biographical Society RECORD**, will return to update us on new happenings in the world of genealogy and also to assist the advanced class with their research. Come one, come all. Don't miss it!

FEBRUARY 24, 1996 - WASHINGTON DAY LUNCHEON - see article for details.

APRIL 20, 1996 - ANNUAL MEETING
Speaker to be announced.

MAY 18, 1996 -

Howard Bird, Jr. of New Canaan, will talk about his family research and the incorporation of the results into a published book. More details in future newsletter.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**

New England Historic Genealogical Society at 101 Newbury Street, Boston, presents an afternoon program on African American Genealogical Research with speakers **Kathering Butler Jones, Ed.D., Ann Smith Lainhart & Louis E. Wilson Ph.D.** on Saturday, April 6, 1996. The topics are "New Explorations in African American History; Researching People of Color In Mid Nineteenth Century Massachusetts; and Finding Your African American or Native American Revolutionary War Ancestor."

WATCH your mailbox for your 1996 dues renewal. They will be mailed out soon. Starting this year, the dues have gone up to \$15 for single membership and \$20 for a family. This small increase will help pay our expenses for updates on the Family Search Program. Mail back to MGS, PO Box 1111, Darien CT 06820.



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

