

Middlesex Genealogical Society

VOL. XII NO. 2

Spring, 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A large group of MGS members were able to attend an excellent Genealogical Forum in Greenwich which was hosted by the Stamford Historical Society. Of particular interest was Robert C. Anderson who spoke brilliantly on "The Great Migration Begins" of which the first two volumes have appeared and the third volume is expected in the Spring.

Robert Anderson has produced a definitive work which will clearly rank among the greatest works in American genealogy. His books contain records on 300 New England families in the period 1620 to 1633; they update & correct Savage's great work which has been used as an authority for many years. We hope to get all 3 volumes for our genealogical library.

We are also making plans to start a special collection of Genealogical Compact Disks which will be available at the Library...come to the Annual General Meeting on April 20th to hear more of this project & let me know in the meantime, in writing, of any CD ROM disk titles which you would like your Board to consider for acquisition.

I have an aunt who married an American who was born in Connecticut in November 1874, George William Muller by name

(see "crossing the trans-Atlantic bridge" inside) and I spent last Wednesday finding out what wonderful genealogical assets are in our State Library at Hartford. One of the more modern tools that I used there were CD ROM disks which were powerful when used on the early Federal censuses; one can do a word search for a name & it will locate a person in New York & the New England area. The disks are used on their Family Search work station and the whole set up seems quite simple to operate.

Our Annual General Meeting will feature Henry B. Hoff, C.G., F.A.S.G., a member of many genealogical societies including NYG&B (trustee and fellow) and editor of its journal, *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, and contributing editor to *The American Genealogist*. He is the author of numerous articles in genealogical journals and the compiler or co-author of six books. His special interests include Long Island, Colonial New York, and the West Indies. His talk will be "Using Genealogical periodicals."

The business part of the meeting should only take a few minutes, so make a note in your diaries for APRIL 20th at 2 PM at the Darien Library.....NOW!

David V. Bowley

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Florence Wyland	Newsletter Editor
Richard Sarr	Publications Chairman
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Mary Freedman
Henry Hoff
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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 \$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

LIBRARY NEWS by C. Scribner

Two new books recently ordered from the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Md. have arrived. The books are entitled **Irish Names and Surnames**, by the Rev. Patrick Wolfe and **Genealogical Atlas of Ireland**, by Brian Mitchell. They are a welcome addition to our collection and should prove to be helpful to anyone interested in Irish Genealogy or research.

On shelf 1.3 there are three plastic storing cases labeled M.G.S. Monthly Mail containing (1) Catalogs and Flyers (2) Publications and Newsletters, (3) Conferences, Seminars and Meetings. Purchase order forms, Membership forms, Seminar notice forms which accompany these notices are free for the taking.

For the Civil War Buff or any one seeking information about an ancestor who was involved in that conflict, our Civil War collection on shelf 3.4 is the place to look. I recommend a book called **A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion**, by Frederick H. Dyer. It was compiled from official records of the armies involved, the Adjutant Generals of the several states and other sources. It includes the organization of the Military Divisions, Armies, Army Corps, Brigades and other commands formed during the Civil War. It also contains a complete record of battles, engagements, and other important operations tabulated by the states showing the troops engaged along with a concise history of each unit. Another interesting book is **Record of Service of Connecticut Men During the War of the Rebellion**, which deals strictly with Connecticut Units. It covers basically the same information found in the Compendium, but gives a more complete history of each unit.

ANCESTRY SEARCH IN LONDON

by Florence Bates Wyland

Introduction:

Preparing for a genealogical research trip to London, England, requires one to zero in on just exactly what one is looking for. It means focusing!! It is channeling all the information one has gathered over the many years and pouring it all into one reasonably understandable category. After all, you can't carry all the paper-weight of New England in your backpack across the Atlantic Ocean and around the back streets of Old England.

My genealogy computer data base contains over 800 families, and believe it or not, 160 of my immigrants came to America from England during the 1600's. Here I was thinking I would just search for two lines, Coats and Bates, which I have tracked back to the 1640's. This would be more than enough to keep me busy. But when I asked my husband to print out just the early settlers I had been working on, he handed me five pages of names. Curiosity crept in and I couldn't resist taking the whole list.

The months of planning, packing and unpacking had reduced my luggage to the barest minimum, a suitcase and a carry-on, most of which were research papers!!

The airplane tickets were bought and paid for, the hotel reservations were made, the vacation time from work OK'd, and there was no turning back. The only turning back there would be would be the turning back of time! Back to 1664 when my ancestor, John Bates, was arrested, tried at the Old Bailey Court and thrown into the "nasty holes of Old Newgate Prison." Well, I just had to go see for myself how this came about and if these stories were true. As I understand it, a young English man named George Fox climbed Pendle Hill in Lancashire England and felt an "inner light." It so filled him with the love of God

that he felt compelled to share it and began his journey's, walking all around the British Isles telling the people of his beliefs.

This was the beginning of the Quaker Movement and it grew very rapidly. It was sometimes called the youth movement of the day. They called themselves "Friends." Men, women and children were gathering together at meetings, and after much prayer, they said they would not swear allegiance to the King, but only to God and they would not pay their tithes. This may have been the beginning of the idea of separation of church and state. Well, this caused an uproar among the powers that be and eventually the military were called to start making arrests. Thousands of people by now were following George Fox and the rulers felt threatened, even though the movement was non-violent. King Charles II, was in power at this time, and even though he was friendly with George Fox, it did not stop the harassment. One night my John Bates and sixty others were arrested coming out of a Friends Meeting in London. The soldiers made a red chalk mark on their backs as they left the meeting, and they were arrested and brought to court at the Old Bailey. When the judge asked them to pledge allegiance to the Crown, they said they only pledge allegiance to God. The judge asked them to pay their tithes, and they refused. So all were found guilty and sentenced to die in the "nasty holes of Newgate Prison." This was in August, 1664 the time of the great plague. There was much sickness and suffering in the prison. The next year, 1665, was the year of the "great fire" when London burned, including St. Paul's church, (the predecessor of St. Paul's Cathedral), and the Newgate Prison. Among the thousands that died, was John Bates a Martyr to His Faith. (To be continued: "The Visit")

TRANSATLANTIC GENEALOGICAL SEARCH BY D.BOWLEY

Two years I did not know where my Grandfather, Herbert Bowley, had been born although I had a Family Bible which told me that his ancestors had lived, since the early part of the 18th Century, in the town of Loughborough in the county of Leicestershire England.

I knew that my Father had been born near to the town of Cockermouth in the County of Cumberland, which is the English Lake District, but I had no details of the family's move from Loughborough to Cockermouth.

I remembered that in 1935 I had a first cousin, Mary Müller who had been brought up in Cockermouth Cumberland & had met a young American Gene Abbott, who was travelling on his own in the English Lake District; they had fallen in love & were married in his home town of Birmingham, Alabama. This was 1992 & I hadn't kept in touch, I did however have an old address book dating from the forties & in it was a Birmingham address for Mary I wrote & much to my surprise got a letter back from her by return! ...amazingly although she had travelled all over the world with her husband, they had kept the Birmingham house since 1935!

That Summer my wife MaryEllen & I met Mary Müller (who had just celebrated her 80th birthday on the English Channel Island of Guernsey where she had been spending each Summer for many years with her second husband. We got to know each other again & she mentioned that she had spent two years living in the Kensington area of London & that her Mother had said that she thought that her Father had lived in the Brompton area, which is close to Kensington.

When we got back to London we visited the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane and searched first the Cockermouth Census for 1881 & as it was a relatively small place stumbled over the name Herbert Bowley age 23 & living on Main St, his birthplace was shown as Middlesex in which county Brompton was situated in 1861. With the help of London Directories for Brompton and the 1861 Census we placed him and my Great-Grandfather's family at an address in

Brompton where Herbert showed as a 3 year old. The following year my Brother Michael was going through the attic of his home in Maidenhead Berkshire, looking for a toy for his first grand child, when he came across a copy of my Grandfather Herbert Bowley's Birth Certificate dated Feb 23 1858 in Brompton Middlesex!

The second interesting fact that I had found from my cousin Mary was that her Father, George Müller had been born in the United States & that his Father Daniel had brought George to Cockermouth England when he was still a small boy. She thought that he was born in a place called New London! So having traced my cousin Mary's maternal Grandfather to Brompton I now have to learn how to search for her Paternal Grandfather in New London around 1880.

The Darien Library got the microfilms of the 1880 census of New London for me but they are practically unreadable! I need to get an indexed census & Florence Wyland tells me that the train is a good way to get to New London. So now that the snow has melted I shall repair to New London to see what local record I can find there..so my trans-Atlantic search continues from London to New London!

From your editor ---

I wish to thank our MGS President, David Bowley for his stirring article in this issue, about his recent discoveries of his grandfather, Herbert Bowley, and how this made a connection with other ancestors living in England since the early part of the eighteenth century! Seeing how one discovery leads to another, it seems amazing that the search can lead him right here to Connecticut. What has your recent discovery led to? Perhaps you would like to write about your experiences, searching and searching. Please send to me, Florence Wyland, MGS Newsletter Editor. PO Box 1111, Darien CT 06820. I'd be happy to help you, happy to edit, and happy to type it up. Just pick up your pen and start writing! Its fun. Florence Wyland

COMPUTER CORNER

By CYBERNAUT.

I recently attended an excellent Genealogical meeting in Greenwich at which the New England Historic Society had a very busy booth selling books & things.

My eye caught a book entitled "Your Roots"- Total Genealogy Planning on your Computer by Richard Eastman, who among other things* runs the GENSUP genealogy support forum on Compuserve. The book was rather expensive for my pocket, at \$24.95 but a free CD ROM disk in the cover & also advertised \$15 worth of free time on Compuserve & ZD-Net....anyway like Oscar Wilde said "I can resist anything but temptation", so I bought it!

It has turned out to be a well written book, which answers just about everything you wanted to know about the use of Computers in Genealogy & were afraid to ask!

For a start the CD ROM disk has demos for the following software programs:

Family Origins for Windows (Which I use) & Family Origins for DOS.
The Master Genealogist (Which Dave Mordy & Pete Kenyon use)
Reunion for Windows (A Mac program which Donna Moughty uses)
Family Tree Maker for Windows
Roots IV for DOS
Brothers Keeper & Family Tree for Windows(Both of which are shareware)

The text of the book discusses how a computer can help in organizing &

presenting genealogical records in book form (including photographs), how to choose a suitable software program, how to get help with search methods & sources which are increasingly available from Compuserve (GO ROOTS), Prodigy (GENEALOGY BB) America Online & of course the Internet!

Whilst there is little actual genealogical data yet available, these tools provide a wonderful signpost in terms of helping you find where to go to get data. We hope to get this book for our Library.

As a postscript readers might be interested to know that the Middlesex Genealogical Society has had it's 12,500 th visitor to our Internet HomePage address: <http://pages.prodigy.com/CT/ctgenealogy2/ctgenealogy2.html> I put my Prodigy E-Mail address SFPR48A@prodigy.com on the Home page about 2 months ago & am now getting 2 or 3 search questions a week from genealogists all over the place! Would any members like to help answer them!!! some of them have resulted in a most interesting correspondence!

* Richard Eastman has just started a most useful newsletter for computerized genealogists, it comes out every Monday .To subscribe send a message to roots@cis.compuserve.com with only the word subscribe in the message text & leaving the subject of the message blank. I will put my old copies in the Library next to the Family Search work station.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGY SOCIETY

MGS has grown to 124 members as of March 1, 1996. As we grow we continue to expand our services. Not only more CD ROM disks, but also books. Be sure to read the Presidents Message and the Library News by Chick Scribner for the details. The Board wishes you to continue to pass on your ideas for our future planning and any suggestions on purchases. Donations have helped us move forward and also your membership dues. Your financial support allows us to have the Family Search on CD ROM, our four general meetings a year with speakers and also your receiving your MGS Newsletter four times a year, with up-to-date notices of what's going on in the world of Genealogy. We still have some outstanding membership dues, so please send them in as soon as possible. Thanks.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

Historical and Genealogical Materials in
the Connecticut State Library
231 Capital Ave., Hartford CT 06115
(across from the State Capital)

The Connecticut State Library has an extensive and valuable collection of published, manuscript and archival materials on the history of Connecticut and its people. Nearly all the materials are freely available for consultation in the History Reading Room on the first level of the building, directly below the Main Reading Room. The staff is ready to advise and assist in locating desired materials or information.

Library hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Closed on state holidays.
Tel: 203-566-3690 or 566-3692

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL 20, 1996 ANNUAL MEETING
"Using Genealogical Periodicals" An informative talk given by renown genealogist, Henry B. Hoff.

MAY 18, 1996
"Family Research and Publishing a Book"
Howard Bird, Jr. of New Canaan will be our speaker.

JULY 12-13, 1996
New England Historic Genealogical Society presents the annual **New England Summer Conference** for genealogists, co-sponsored by Connecticut Society of Genealogists at the Hartford Marriott Hotel at Farmington, CT, 15 Farms Springs Road. For more information call NEHGS (617)536-5740.



Queries

PADDLEFORD, Elijah originally from Connecticut and moved to Hartland, Vermont in the early 1800's. Any help in this regard would be appreciated. My name is Terence J. McQueeney & Prodigy Address is (CBMZ93A) or call Dave Bowley.

NEWELL Family. Searching for a biography or a lineage chart of the very early NEWELL families.
Carolyn Rozelle; Internet Address: (erozelle@nsl.koyote.com) or call Dave Bowley.

WELCOME TO THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

DOROTHY SHILLINGLAW has recently begun her family research. Her own ancestors were all Irish, and she is finding it particularly difficult to trace them as they were impoverished immigrants to America. Her husband, Selwyn Shillinglaw's grandparents were German immigrants in the mid 19th century and one grandfather came from Edinburgh, Scotland around 1875. He went almost directly to Iowa where he met and married a young woman whose ancestors were here in Massachusetts in the 1640's. His name is Sebas Jackson.

Dorothy has recently retired as Managing Editor of Junior Achievements, and was an editor of children's books.

DONNA MOUGHTY, is also interested in Irish Research. She has traveled to Ireland on business, and has always managed to find time to do some "on the spot" research. She works for Apple Computer and has her own records on a Mac Genealogical program which includes photos. Donna takes her "laptop" wherever she goes! She and David Mordy presented a program about using the Census for our January General Meeting.

DAVID MORDY, is a meticulous genealogist and has been working several years on his family research. He uses the new computer program, Master Genealogist, which is helping to write a book with a very professional appearance. David has taken on the job of Director of Computer Services for us and is working with the library on the Family Search & CD ROM Program.

A BIG THANKS to Dick Sarr, our "cut and paste" person. Whenever all the articles for our MGS Newsletter are submitted and typed up, they go straight to our dependable Dick Sarr. He drops everything he is doing and

goes right to work, laying out and arranging every page of the Newsletter. Then he promptly takes them to the printer with an ASAP, then back home again with over 1,000 sides printed; calls the "guys" and the three of them collate, fold, put on labels and stamps. Then, with a toss of his head, a smile on his face, off to the US Post Office he goes. Thanks helpers!

MGS WORKSHOP

At our last MGS Annual Workshop held on February 3rd, I was pleased to talk to some folks who were looking for help finding their ancestors. It was particularly interesting, as the help needed was for countries far away. One was searching for relatives in Hungary, one was looking in Lithuania; another was searching for a Grandfather in Germany, and a question about how to search in West Prussia. Since these countries are opening up more and more, it has become possible to write to Town Halls, Parishes's, large cities in Eastern Europe, etc. etc. I understand that the Mormon Church is now filming archives in Russia.

If you are looking for someone over the seas, and don't know where to start, a suggestion might be to call that country's Embassy in New York City, and ask for an address near where you are searching.

A newspaper reporter from the Stamford Advocate was present and wrote a great story about our meeting. Photographs were taken during the workshop and interviews were conducted. A very nice article and photograph was printed the following week.



Here's How To Do It
What Could You Be Looking For?
Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

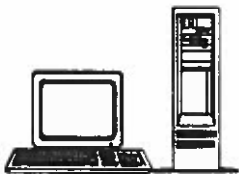
NYG&B

SPEAKER WILL BE HENRY HOFF B. HOFF, C.G., F.A.S.G.

"USING GENEALOGICAL PERIODICALS"

April 20 at 2 PM

Mark Your Calendars



Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111

