



Middlesex Genealogical Society

VOL. XI

NO. 2

Spring 1995

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Middlesex Genealogical Society extends a great BIG WELCOME to all the new members who have joined this past year. It's been an exciting year for us all, especially seeing all the enthusiasm of the new members. Welcome.

The next general meeting will be Saturday, June 3rd from 2 to 4 pm at the Darien Library. Our speaker is well known locally, and is a member and Director of Middlesex Genealogical Society. Mr. Philip Morehouse will speak on "THE WESTERN RESERVE", the story of New Connecticut in OHIO.

After the Tory raids on the CT towns along the Sound during the Revolutionary War, hundreds of the residents of these towns received compensation in the form of landgrants in OHIO.

These were known as the Firelands and for over ten years these areas in OHIO were part of Connecticut.

The fall General Meeting will be October 21st, at the Darien Library. The speaker will be Robert Green of the Connecticut

Ancestry Society. Bob will be giving a full, Online Computer demonstration with a full size screen to project data for services like Compuserve, as well as Genealogy Compact Disks. More details to follow in next Newsletter. Put this date on your calendar.

The following officers were elected at the General/Annual Meeting on April 8, 1995. Terms are for two years. One vote was cast for this slate of officers and it was passed unanimously:

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

Class of 1998

Board of Directors

Diane Voigt
David Mordy
Lynn Hanks

Some members of the MGS will be attending the Sesquicentennial Conference of the New England Historic Genealogical Society on 13-15 July, 1995 at the Westin Hotel, Copley Place Boston, MA. Call David Bowley if you are interested in going, at 655-2734.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**1995-1996
OFFICERS**

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

MEMBERS at LARGE

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

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

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 \$10/individual and \$15/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

REMINDER: NEWSLETTER DEADLINES
September 12th, October 17th.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As your new President I would first like to thank those who have done such a great job for MGS & are now stepping down. A special word of thanks goes to Founder members Ray Gross & Fred Farwell & to our Immediate Past President & Founder member Ray Bartlett, who of course will stay on the Board. Under Rays direction MGS membership is at an all time high of over 125, partly as the result of initiatives taken during his double term of office. Thank you Ray!

We welcome Geoff Blain as our new Vice-President.

We also welcome Ruth McGrath as our new Treasurer & Membership Chairman.

David Mordy who will take over Computer Services from me; Diane Voigt a most enthusiastic new member & last but not least, Florence Wyland, who has done so much & has agreed to edit our newsletter..please give her all the support she deserves (like lots of articles & typing help)

As Ray reported at the annual meeting we will make our first dues increase ever next year. We need to add to the already generous 44 persons who have contributed to the purchase of FAMILY SEARCH software which the Library bought & we have to finish paying for....The Library has written to MGS a letter of appreciation for the gift, they are very pleased with the program, which is now their most heavily used workstation.

Board member Phillip Morehouse has kindly agreed to repeat his wonderful talk on the "Western Reserve"...

I hope to see all there on June 3rd.

David Bowley

A LOOK BEHIND THE INTERNATIONAL GENEALOGICAL INDEX (IGI)

A report on a talk given to the MGS Annual General Meeting.
by Helen S. Ullmann, C.G.

Helen Ullmann, who grew up in Darien, gave us an interesting insight into the intricacies of the IGI at our 1995 A.G.M. The text from which she spoke was her paper entitled "A Perspective on the 1992-93 IGI," which appeared in the NEHGS NEXUS Vol X, Nos 5 and 6 (Oct-Dec 1993), copies of which are available at the Darien Library (MGS section). The talk addressed mainly the microfiche version of the IGI of which we have parts of the 1984 version!

The IGI, which now contains over 200 million entries of Births, Christenings and Marriages only began in 1969 and was designed originally to keep track of "Temple" work. The Mormons started genealogical work in 1836 and four eras of record keeping were described. Computerized records started in 1969 and LDS have 70% of the pre 1969 records included in the 1993 CD-ROM edition of IGI, which we have in our library. You should first determine the Temple Ordinance Date by looking at the fiche in columns headed "b", "e", or "s"; this will determine in which of the four eras the data was gathered.

The First Era (pre-1942). Until 1969 the Temple Record Index Bureau (TIB) maintained a microfilmed card index and this can lead you to other data.

The Second Era (1942-1969). During this period the Family Group Records Archive (FGRA) contains microfilmed records of Family Group Sheets. If the person is a wife or child, and the spouse or father is unknown, you may need to look at a TIB card first. This can be requested by using a Temple Ordinance Request Form (TOIR) from LDS - cost \$1.00 from LDS.

If you want to see the whole group of family names submitted it will be less expensive to get the appropriate microfilm, whose number will be listed in the column to the left of that which has FILM marked in it (make sure it is not restricted).

The Third Era (1969-1990).

Data is either "extracted from" the church or vital records of a particular place, or "submitted by a member," in which case persons and spouses were on entry forms (3 marriages on each form with the submitter's name and address). If the persons could be only identified by relationship to parents and siblings, a Family Group Sheet would be used. Member submissions from this period can be obtained either by ordering the input source film or by submitting a photo-duplication form for a copy of the entry, which may include other useful data and is easier than searching through a film for a particular Batch Number. Batch and sheet numbers are important in understanding what lies behind a particular entry refer to the referenced article for details.

The Fourth Era (- 1990) on Patrons names and sources are not presently available and the use of The Ancestral File is encouraged. The GEDCOM file protocol was introduced for upload of files to AGF.

Helen Ullmann took us through a number of interesting examples, copies of which are available in her paper. The most important message is that the IGI is a "marvelous finding tool -not as a source in itself but, as its name indicates, an index to records from all over the world". The more you know about how it has been put together over the years, the less likely you will be to be misled by it.

David Bowley

COMPUTER CORNER

By Dave Bowley

We are delighted that David Mordey has joined the MGS Board and has taken over from me as Chairman of Computer Services. He is much better qualified as a "computer genealogist" than his predecessor, particularly in the software area, where he will be reporting on ROOTS 4 and the latest version of THE MASTER GENEALOGIST. He tells me that I know more about accessing cyberspace for genealogical goodies, so I will continue to contribute on that subject.

The actual genealogical data available in cyberspace isn't too useful, such as 10% of the 1851 Census of England and Wales. However one can download, as files, a large number of the guidance documents published by LDS and also many lists of such things as the addresses of the Family Search Centers, worldwide.

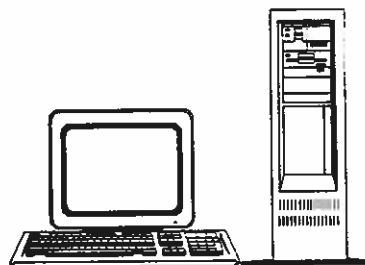
The New England Computer Genealogist, under the direction of our recent speaker Steve Kyner, is an excellent newsletter and the January issue has a nice review of Elizabeth Powell Crowe's book "Genealogy Online, Researching Your Roots," which we have in the Darien Library.

The Genealogy Support Forum (GO GENSUP), in which Steve Kyner is involved, provides all kinds of downloadable files, such as BROTHERS KEEPER 5.2 (which I use) and files to update or correct bugs in ROOTS 3/4 and The Wholgenes program of THE MASTER GENEALOGIST. For discussion on any other topics join their ROOTS Forum (GO ROOTS).

The most excitement (genealogical) that I have had in the past month has been on The World Wide Web, which is

now easily accessible from any Windows version of PRODIGY, at no extra charge. The best "search engine" that I have found is YAHOO from Stanford University; you just type in genealogy into the word search and within seconds you are presented with a list of all subjects which mention the word genealogy, then you click on any underlined subject and hypertext does its work, running around the Internet finding the data and starting to download it into your machine. The text is easily read and can be printed out at will. Graphics are included and companies such as EVERTON'S are really starting to advertise their resources.

A footnote on FAMILY SEARCH ... we paid the penalty of doing our first demo with me struggling to take the CD ROM disks out of the jewel cases, in which they were supplied. The Library's beautiful new CD ROM reader works differently. To avoid wear and tear the disks are loaded into the CD drive INSIDE their so called caddies and NOT taken out, like you do with home audio, or most CD ROM disks.



FAMILY SEARCH is the most popular work-station at the Darien Library, if you haven't tried it enquire at the Reference Desk & one of the Reference Librarians will "show you the ropes"!

FAMILY SEARCH

MGS Board member Phil Morehouse recently invited your new President David Bowley & Vice-President, Geoff Blaine to address the Kiwanis of Darien at one of their weekly luncheon meetings at Howard Johnsons.

I spoke for about 15 minutes on Middlesex Genealogical Society with particular focus on FAMILY SEARCH & much to my surprise the audience, who had just had a large lunch did not go to sleep!

I explained to them that MGS was in the process of paying for the \$2,000 software package (of 42 Compact Disks) which had been given to the Darien Library & that the Library had set up a brand new work-station in the Business Quiet-Room where MGS has for many years had a special Library of Genealogical resources.

The Library staff are most enthusiastic about FAMILY SEARCH which was put in last Thanksgiving and has rapidly proved to be the Library's most heavily used work-station, being used from morn 'til night!

Many people of all ages have tried the program & found it to be "user friendly"... for some of them it was their first experience at a computer keyboard.

I know of two of our members who traced ancestors on the Ancestral File back through the Percys of Northumberland & Charlemagne to, believe it or not the year 65.

I told our luncheon audience that possibly they had ancestors buried in the FAMILY Search indexes less than a hundred yards from where they were sitting!

This really got them going as two Kiwanians asked how they could join MGS & I just happened to have a couple of application forms in my pocket!

QUERY

Is anyone else looking for Fairchild Bouton's parents and his wife's maiden name? He was probably born around 1730. He served in Captain Hanford's Fifth Co., Conn. 4th Reg., in 1755. He married Sarah, probably _____ about 1758, had children christened at New Canaan 1759-62. They went to Ridgefield, probably about 1763, where he died 19 Jan 1808 leaving an interesting will.

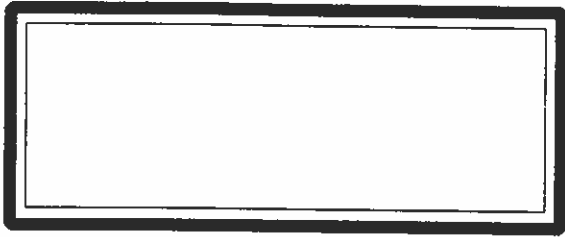
Submitted by: Helen S. Ullmann,
713 Main, Acton, MA 01720
hsu@world.std.com

To order free microfilm at the Darien Library, one has to be a Darien resident or a Friend of the Library. Otherwise there is a reasonable fee.

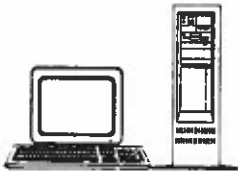
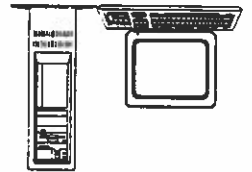
RECOMMENDED READING FOR COMPUTERIZED GENEALOGISTS!

1. Genealogy Online -
Researching your Roots by
Elizabeth Powell Crowe 929.1
2. Guide to Genealogy Software
by Jean Lowry 929.1072

Both these books are on the shelves in the MGS section of the Darien Library & are highly recommended.



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



Application for Membership

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

Single (\$10) _____

Couple (\$15) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____