



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XIV, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September 1998

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In his books *Psychic Roots* and *More Psychic Roots*, Henry Z. Jones discusses serendipity in genealogical research. Two recent examples from my own experience suggest that besides diligence we all need a little serendipity.

My sister-in-law wanted a record of the 1908 Boston arrival of her Swedish father. The National Archives searched and found nothing.

Hoping to help, I turned to the immigration records (indexed) and ships' passenger lists at the Boston Public Library. The index did not list my sister-in-law's father, so I began to read 1908 passenger lists and found the record of his arrival on a Cunard liner in February 1908. Eureka! The record was actually there, but had been omitted from the index. Did I feel lucky!

Here is a second example. A Kansas magazine asked for a photograph of my great-uncle Harry, who had been the magazine's editor more than 50 years ago. I had some poor snapshots, but nothing suitable for the magazine.

Uncle Harry's only son had died with no descendants, so the prospect of finding a good photograph was dismal. From an obituary of the son's wife, however, I learned the name of her niece. I called the niece, who had no pictures but was nice enough to contact a cousin. This was definitely a long shot, but in August a New Haven, CT, relative of his daughter-in-law sent me a wonderful portrait of Great-Uncle Harry, complete with his signature at the bottom. This person never knew Harry and knew nothing about him. Perhaps fate led her to save the photograph.

Good hunting and serendipity to you all.

David L. Mordy

□

## MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by C. Scribner

The library staff has had the microfiche machine removed from the Business Reference Room. Several boxes of microfiches, belonging to MGS, have been saved and are temporarily stored in the archives. The fiches contain much valuable information and should be preserved. Disposition will be discussed by the Board of Directors.

The book *Genealogical Sources in the New York Metropolitan Area*, reported missing in the May issue of the *Newsletter*, has been returned. Members are reminded that books in our collection are *reference books only* and must be on the shelf and available to all researchers who may visit the library.



We recently received a FAX from a Mr. Michael Papacoda of the Connecticut Department of Veterans' Affairs requesting a listing of the veterans buried in the State Veterans' Cemetery at Spring Grove in Darien. These lists can be found in MGS Publications #1 and #5, and, since we have extra copies, we were able to comply with his request.

Saturday Morning Workshop sessions resumed September 5 and will continue through our active season, until late spring 1999. For the benefit of our many new members, the workshops provide guidance and research assistance to those interested in genealogy and family heritage. Volunteers report on a rotating basis to the library Saturday mornings at 10 am and remain until noon to aid any researcher who needs help. Anyone interested in helping with this worthwhile project should contact Charles Scribner (655-4830) or any member of the Board of Directors. □

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Thomas Kemp  
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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 Darien Library and publishes a quarterly newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per couple or family.

Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the *Newsletter*.

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

**Homepage:**  
**<http://www.darien.lib.ct.us/mgs>**

**E-mail: [dbowley@concentric.net](mailto:dbowley@concentric.net)**

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**17 OCTOBER 1998:** JOAN KOSTER MORALES's talk is entitled "A TALE OF THREE COUNTIES: MIGRATION ALONG THE SUSQUEHANNA TURNPIKE" and will cover GREEN, DELAWARE and SCHOHARIE COUNTIES in NEW YORK STATE.

A speaker at various genealogical societies, libraries, schools and Elderhostel sessions, JOAN KOSTER MORALES has also accompanied small groups to New York City, lecturing en route, and assisting with on-site research. Her lectures are enthusiastic and informative, often intertwined with personal experience and history.

**14 NOVEMBER 1998:** Our speaker will be ROGER JOSLYN, who is a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists and of the Utah Genealogical Association and has received an Award of Merit from the Association of Professional Genealogists and a Certificate of Appreciation from the Federation of Genealogical Societies. His talk is entitled "THREE FEMALES 10 TO 16; MAKING SENSE OF THE PRE-1850 CENSUSES."

**6 FEBRUARY 1999: ANNUAL WORKSHOP and INTERNET WORKSHOP,** jointly sponsored by MGS and Darien Library.

**10 APRIL 1999: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.** Speaker to be announced.

**15 MAY 1999:** Speaker to be announced.

**ALL MEETINGS: SATURDAY, 2:00 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND!** □



## THANK YOU FLORENCE WYLAND

by David L. Mordy

Because of travel and other commitments, Florence Wyland has resigned from the MGS Board of Directors. I want to take this opportunity to thank Florence for her many contributions to our society over the years. She is an active genealogist and a member of the Mayflower Society. Among other things, she has helped us with our annual workshops, Internet information, publicity for meetings, and editing and contributing stories for our *Newsletter*. We thank Florence for her past efforts and look forward to her continuing participation to whatever extent she can. □

## THE KAHL KLAN

by Valentine J. Wolfe Jr.

My mother, Rose (Walter) Wolfe, died on 19 December 1978 in New Milford, Litchfield County, CT. At the time of her burial in the large Kahl family plot in Lutheran Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens County, NY, my youngest son, James Morrow Wolfe, became interested in the plot's central monument. Not only did it contain information about the birthplaces of his great-great-grandparents Louis Kahl and Katherina (Wagner) Kahl, but it also listed the names of relatives who had been interred in the plot since Louis Kahl purchased it in 1889.



James asked if I recognized the names inscribed on the central monument and on individual headstones within the plot. Some I knew, but many I did not know. Intrigued by my son's question, I decided to try to identify and locate all descendants of Louis Kahl and Katherina (Wagner) Kahl. Little did I know what I was what I was getting into!

Louis Kahl was born on 7 March 1832 in Mealstadt, Saarbrucken, Germany. I know nothing yet about his parents or his early life in Germany, but I knew that he had emigrated to the United States about 1852 at the age of 20. Five years later he married Katherina Wagner who had been born 29 April 1835 in Bonn, Kaiserslauten, Germany. Their first child was born the following year in New York City. Eventually, they had nine children:

- Elizabeth Kahl, b 23 January 1858; m Frederick Schaffer 1879.
- Louis Kahl, b 1859; m Pauline Wengler date unknown.
- George Wagner Kahl, b 21 January 1862; m Minnie B. Page 19 November 1884, then Ellen Theresa McDonnell 12 September 1894.
- Henry Louis Kahl, b 1864; m Clara Clogger 9 July 1890.
- Amelia Kahl, b 2 May 1866; m Daniel Christopher Furst date unknown.
- Gustav Kahl (twin), b 12 January 1869; d unmarried 5 May 1892.
- William W. Kahl (twin), b 12 January 1869; m Rosa Tallowitz date unknown.
- Catherine Kahl, b 12 January 1872, m Valentine Wolfe 1891(?); then (after Valentine Wolfe's

death 10 October 1908) m John Christian Bruyn 1910(?).

- Joseph Kahl, b January 1875, d unmarried January 1900.

Louis Kahl's name appears in the *1861 New York City Directory*, where he is described as a saloon owner at 151 Ludlow Street on the lower east side of Manhattan. He became a dealer in imported and domestic wines and liquors. (According to Edna [Furst] Derrick, daughter of Amelia Kahl and Daniel Furst, all of the children were born in living quarters above the business, but Louis Kahl is not listed in the 1858, 1859, or 1860 city directories.)

Katherina (Wagner) Kahl predeceased Louis, and according to a family story, the couple had done some "cemetery shopping" before Katherina's death. Katherina rejected another cemetery because the water table was extremely high and she "did not want her relatives buried in water." Thus, when Katherina passed away 11 December 1889, Louis respected her wishes and purchased a plot with space for 40 interments in drier Lutheran Cemetery at a cost of \$600. The first three burials were of Katherina in 1889, son Gustav in May 1892, and Louis in August 1892. Many other family members now rest there with them.

In May 1982 I had to provide Lutheran Cemetery with the names and addresses of the current heirs to the plot. The deed to the Kahl plot had been sent to me by a cousin who lived in Florida and thought custodianship should be in the hands of someone who lived closer to the plot. He had received the deed from his 90-year-old mother who had received it from the widow of her brother George Harry Kahl (died in November 1981), but was no longer able to handle the duties connected with its possession. There are five branches of the Kahl family who share in the maintenance of the plot, and those names gave me the starting point for my search. I wrote to relatives I knew, which produced other names and addresses, and my correspondence mushroomed.

One name given to me in 1982 was that of Catherine Carolyn "Carrie" Stoll, a cousin of my Dad's, who was living in St. Petersburg, FL, and was then 94 years old. She gave me a great deal of

data about other relatives and was the best source for my research at that time. She helped me to reach cousins in Arkansas, California, Oklahoma and many other states, and my correspondence continues to grow as responses provide new contacts and information.

I've had an Apple computer since 1996, but do not have a genealogical program, so all data entered must be individually manipulated. I now have 50 files on disk, 475 names on a master list, 61 family group records, 57 personal profiles, and have manually prepared 40 diagrams for all family groups. I am organizing my data into book form and am now working on Chapter 8 of the draft.

In spite of the difficulties, progress continues. Last year I sent out about 12 anniversary cards, over 300 birthday cards, and 104 letters to descendants of Louis Kahl and Katherina (Wagner) Kahl. It's a good way to keep in touch.

In her book *Know Your Ancestors*, Ethel W. Williams describes tracing the descendants of immigrant ancestors as: "...An arduous, complicated task involving many individuals, which requires widespread research and voluminous correspondence but, when completed, it is a great achievement if well done." I am striving to do it well. □

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## NEHGS RECEIVES GRANT FROM BRODERBUND

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has received an \$18,000 grant from Broderbund for acquisition of the 486 microfilms of the *Hamburg Passenger Lists*.

The *Hamburg Passenger Lists* contain the names of passengers who sailed from Hamburg, Germany from 1850 to 1934. The lists are in two indexed sections: (1) Direct Passenger Lists, which show passengers who left Hamburg and went directly to their destinations; and (2) Indirect Passenger Lists, which show passengers who stopped at other European ports before sailing to their final destination. In addition to the regular indexes, a special card index of the Direct Passenger Lists was made for the period 1856-1871.

This is a significant acquisition and will certainly make a trip to Boston more worthwhile than ever. □

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## THOMAS KEMP JOINS NEHGS

MGS trustee Thomas J. Kemp has joined New England Historic Genealogical Society as Library Director. The society's library, located at 101 Newberry Street in Boston's Back Bay, features the region's most extensive collection of family history materials and the nation's largest collection of genealogical manuscripts.

Tom Kemp is a nationally known librarian and genealogist. Prior to joining NEHGS, he was Head of the Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida and has served as the Chair of the Council of National Library and Information Associations, Chair of the History Section of the American Library Association, President of the American Society of Indexers, and Vice President of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He is currently Program Chair for the American Library Association History Section, Editor of "For the Record," and Chair of the Association's Genealogy and Local History Discussion Group.

He is also the author of many books and articles, including *The International Vital Records Handbook*; *The Connecticut Researcher's Handbook*; and *Genealogy Annual: A Guide to Published Sources* (1995 on). The current focus of much of his work is the availability of genealogical resources on the Internet. His publication *Virtual Roots: A Guide to Genealogy and Local History on the World Wide Web* is in its third printing and has sold 10,000 copies. Six of his books are at Darien Library.

MGS warmly welcomes Tom Kemp back to New England and wishes him great success in his new position. □

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## WE ALMOST DIDN'T SPEAK ENGLISH

*From Family Tree, Moultrie, GA, Dec. 1997/Jan. 1998*

During the Revolutionary War there were some Americans who wanted to break all ties with England, including the use of the English language. German, French, Spanish, Greek, or Hebrew were all discussed. As a practical matter, since the majority of Americans spoke English, nothing ever came of the non-English movement. □



## COMPUTER CORNER

by David Bowley

My genealogical searches this summer have been greatly enhanced by having my laptop computer with me. What a marvelous tool it is! One click and I can access my entire database with all its notes and source information; another click and I can read any of my files of e-mail messages sent and received. Every evening I was able to update my records with information on the genealogical "catch of the day."

Our first visit in late May was to the Channel Island of Jersey. Readers of the May 1998 edition of this *Newsletter* may recall that my wife, MaryEllen, had great success in tracing her Carrel ancestors there. We were met at the airport by one of her cousins who showed us to our pension, and, during the next three days on this largely French island, we were looked after most graciously by the newly found relatives.

A lot of our searching was done at the Société Jersiaise, which is a very fine genealogical facility at the Lord Coutanche Library in downtown St. Helier (the capital city of Jersey).

I had been having an extended e-mail "conversation" with a policeman named Mike Dale in Jersey who was researching another branch of the Carrel family on the island, and no sooner had we settled down in the library when a voice said, "Are you David Bowley?" and there was my e-mail correspondent in the flesh! He was a big help as he knew all the parishes and helped us navigate our way through indexes of the parish registers.

I also got lucky as I had an aunt by the name of Piquet who was born in St. Helier and had been traced to a long line of chemists (pharmacists) on the island by Jersey Webpage searchers. I asked if they had anything on that name and amazingly they brought out a hand-written family tree going back into the 1500s with my aunt's father's name on the bottom.

In England we visited the PRO (Public Records Office) at Kew (near the famous Kew Gardens). This is a magnificent modern facility which was designed for the purpose it serves. We were looking for the military records of soldiers who served in the Boer War and also World War I. When you make out a request, you are given a beeper so that you can

go anywhere in the building (even the cafeteria), and when your material comes up from the underground repository on mechanized, computer-controlled trolleys, you are alerted by a beep on your pager. We were able to search through boxes of original service records, including enlistment papers which have quite a bit of personal information. When searching for officers, you start with the Army or Navy lists which will give you quite a good idea of which regiment an officer served in and when he was commissioned, promoted, or discharged.

In London we visited the brand new Family Record Centre at 1 Myddleton Street, which is not far from the Society of Genealogists on Goswell Road. We found that the best access to the Centre is from the Angel tube station on the Northern line. Again, this is a "purpose-designed" building, and it contains the census records and the birth, marriage and death records (since 1837) all under one roof. The birth/marriage/death record area is still the same madhouse as it was at St. Catherine's, with people flying in every direction lugging those large and heavy green, red, or black ledgers. The census area is great with plenty of readers available and good cross-indexing particularly for the 1881 Census.

We also visited one of the CROs (County Record Offices) for West Sussex, located at Chichester. Some of my Rapley ancestors came from the villages around Petworth House, and in 1832 a number of them emigrated to Upper Canada (Western Ontario) under Lord Egremont's Fittleworth Emigration Scheme. Lord Egremont was a patron of the painter Turner, and the Egremont family seat, Petworth House, is full of his paintings. The Petworth archives are voluminous, and I called ahead and got them brought to the CRO so that I could examine those relating to the emigration scheme. They were most interesting with much of the organizational paperwork and copies of letters from those who emigrated.

We were able to use the Scottish GRO (General Register Office) web site (£6 fee) at:

<http://www.open.gov/gros/groshome.htm>  
to obtain records on my wife's Scottish ancestors. You enter the name that you are researching, and within seconds the relevant data appears on the screen. If you want a copy of the original record, you can order it using a credit card (£10 fee). □

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## CHARLES SCRIBNER HONORED

In June of this year, MGS board member Charles (Chick) Scribner received the Silver Beaver Award from the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This is the highest honor a Boy Scout Council can bestow on a volunteer for distinguished service to youth.

Chick's involvement with scouting goes back to his own days as a Cub Scout and Boy Scout here in Darien. After Army service in World War II, Chick returned to Darien and in the 1950s and 1960s served as a troop committee member and on the District Committee. After a hiatus, Chick resumed active service in 1979.

Scouting is a Scribner family affair. Chick's son Donald is an Eagle Scout, and Chick's father, the late Harold B. Scribner Sr., was a founding member of Troop 53 in 1915 and became Darien's first District Commissioner during the 1920s. Harold Scribner, too, received Scouting's Silver Beaver Award, and the large assembly hall in the new Andrew Shaw Memorial Scout Cabin will be named Scribner Hall in his honor. In 1926 he was part of the committee to build the original scout cabin, while Chick is now on the committee to rebuild it.

Congratulations, Chick! □

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## IF YOU THINK YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE...

Thomas Crampton reported in the *International Herald Tribune* that for the first time in three-quarters of a century the 2.5 million citizens of Mongolia will be required to have surnames.

The use of surnames was suppressed by the Soviet-backed Communist government that came to power in 1924 in an effort to eliminate allegiance to any entity other than the state. Currently, Mongolians use first names only, with the occasional inclusion of the first letter of their fathers' first names for formal occasions and on official documents.

Mongolians are being encouraged by their new, freely elected government to consult parents and grandparents in search of their family names. Unfortunately, only the elderly now remember what their surnames actually were.

This may be the start of the biggest genealogical research project ever! □

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## U.S. PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

Although the U.S. Government began issuing passports in 1795, it did not require its citizens to obtain and carry passports abroad until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. At first, applications were usually simply request letters, although they were sometimes accompanied by other documents. As time went on, however, the process became more formal—and therefore more informative for us. A surprising amount of information can be gleaned from examining passport applications, so if you have ancestors that might have traveled abroad, searching for passport applications is a worthwhile enterprise.

Applications from 1795 to 1925 have been indexed by year of application and the first two or three letters of the applicant's surname on 3"x5" cards. Age of the applicant is usually given, and the certificate number is on the right side of the card. The Family History Library has 2,150 rolls of microfilm of these index cards, so your local Family History Center is a good place to begin your search.

Beyond that, for pre-1906 passport applications, contact: Diplomatic Records Branch, National Archives, Room SE, Washington, DC 20524. If it is a post-1906 passport application that you are interested in, contact: Passport Services, Research and Liaison Branch, Room 316, 1425 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20524. Because of privacy considerations, however, expect restrictions on more recent applications. □

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## SEAMAN PROTECTION CERTIFICATES

A 1796 Act of Congress provided that Seaman Protection Certificates would be issued as proof of citizenship to protect U.S. seamen from being impressed into the navy of another nation while in a foreign port. These certificates are on file in Washington and were indexed in the 1930s by the WPA. For further information, contact: Judicial, Fiscal and Social Branch, Civil Archives, Washington, DC 10408. □

## UNPUBLISHED NYC 1880 CENSUS GUIDE

The Family History Library has unpublished finding aids for some cities, which are located in the census area of the library. Among them is "Guide to the Use of the United States Census Office 10<sup>th</sup> Census, 1880, New York City." This was originally compiled by Barbara Hillman in 1963 for use at the New York Public Library, and was revised in 1985 by Raymond G. Matthews. The revised, 41-page guide, now available from the Family History Library on Microfiche No. 6047913, reproduces 1880 Manhattan street maps and assembly and election districts, and converts ward numbers to corresponding Family History Library census microfilm call numbers.

After consulting the relevant *City Directory* to find the address, this fiche could be very helpful in finding the NYC family of interest to you that was excluded from the Soundex index because it had no children under 10—or was accidentally omitted. □

## PROTECTING YOUR COMPUTER

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

A recent lightning strike just outside our house traveled through our telephone line and fried the modem and motherboard on our three-month-old computer. (Our inexpensive telephone instruments were undamaged, of course.)

I share this with you because it is a risk of which we were not previously aware, nor were our computer-owning friends. We had a good surge protector in place, the computer was off, and we anticipated no problems. Nevertheless, service technicians have told us that such an event is not a rare occurrence. Indeed, while we were in the shop, distant thunder sounded, and I overheard one of the technicians telephone his children and tell them to disconnect their computers from the telephone line.

We now routinely unplug the modem at the first sound of thunder and, should we travel, will disconnect the modem before leaving. □



*Submitted by Charles Cotter:*

## MY GRANDMOTHER'S LOVE LETTERS

by Hart Crane

There are no stars tonight  
But those of memory.  
Yet how much room for memory there is  
In the loose girdle of soft rain.

There is even room enough  
For the letters of my mother's mother,  
Elizabeth,  
That have been pressed so long  
Into a corner of the roof  
That they are brown and soft,  
And liable to melt as snow.

Over the greatness of such space  
Steps must be gentle.  
It is all hung by an invisible white hair.  
It trembles as birch limbs webbing the air.

And I ask myself:

"Are your fingers long enough to play  
Old keys that are but echoes:  
Is the silence strong enough  
To carry back the music to its source  
And back to you again  
As though to her?"

Yet I would lead my grandmother by the hand  
Through much of what she would not understand:  
And so I stumble. And the rain continues on the roof  
With such a sound of gently pitying laughter. □

**REMEMBER: EVERY SATURDAY, 10  
AM TO NOON, AN MGS VOLUNTEER IS  
WAITING AT DARIEN LIBRARY TO  
HELP YOU WITH YOUR RESEARCH.**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
20 OCTOBER 1998**

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## SURNAME LIST

by Kim Paterson

Please remember to submit your ancestor records, even if your list contains only one surname. We will be publishing a few names with each *Newsletter*. Our goal is to have 100% participation of the membership. If you have misplaced the form, send it to me on plain paper, using e-mail, fax, etc. My e-mail address is: [kim@edgar-online.com](mailto:kim@edgar-online.com)

ABDEDNEGO, Davies      b ca 1830      Ty'r Llanegryn, Merionethshire>Liverpool, Eng.>New York  
JONES, Thomas          b 1750          Nill Green, Shropshire, England  
PEACOCK                  b 1721          Kirdford, Sussex, England  
*Submitter:*      9203    *BOWLEY, David, 4 LaForge Road, Darien, CT 06820*

ADAMS, Robert          b 1601          England>Newberry, MA  
LONGFELLOW, William    b 1650          England>Nova Scotia, Cape Breton, Canada  
GORMAN, James          a 1850          Ireland>Nova Scotia  
*Submitter:*      9511    *O'DONOHUE, Dorothy, 67 Cove Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06855*

CECH, Joseph            b 1876          Czechoslovakia>NY  
MARUM, James            m ca 1875      Ireland>Brooklyn, NY  
KELEHER, John            b 1814          Co. Cork, Ireland  
*Submitter:*          *SULLIVAN, Jackie, 143 Woodside Drive, Greenwich, CT 06830*

Note: a = arrived; b = born; ca = about; m = married. □

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

**MEETING**  
**17 OCT. 1998, 2 P.M.**  
**DARIEN LIBRARY**

