



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

April 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Just checking in on those New Year's Resolutions. How are you doing? While I'm still trying to lose those 10 pounds, I have done better on the genealogy front. There is just so much to learn that I'm finding it easy to keep on track.

I just completed a six-week, online course in Genetics and Genealogy. While I'm clearly not ready to create a huge medical pedigree (I'm not even sure that is something a genealogist should contemplate), I did learn a great deal about types of inheritance, how to draw a medical pedigree, and, most importantly, the ethics surrounding the creation and dissemination of this information.

As genealogists and family historians, we have an obligation to future generations to make sure that the work we produce is as accurate and complete as the records available allow us to be. That's why learning must be a part of our genealogical quest. There are many opportunities to learn at programs offered by local and national organizations, as well as on the Web. The program that I'm involved in is offered through the University of Toronto <www.genealogicalstudies.com> and offers the ability to take a single course or to complete a series of courses in order to receive a certificate. Other online courses are offered by the National Genealogical Society, Ancestry, and Genealogy.com, to name a few (check out Cyndi's List as well). Conferences are also an excellent way to obtain a great deal of information in a few days and I highly recommend them. (See the list of upcoming conferences on page 6.)

The Constitution and Bylaws of MGS state that the purpose of the society (and I'm paraphrasing here) shall be to promote interest, disseminate genealogical information and educate members. I think we do an

excellent job of offering educational and informative content at our meetings and in our newsletter.

Learning is a lifelong endeavor and I hope you will take advantage of the offerings of our society. We're always looking for feedback and input, so don't hesitate to let us know if there is a particular topic of interest to you. Now's the time, as we're working on the 2003/2004 program right now. Let us hear from you.

Donna Moughty

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by C. Scribner

The inventory of MGS books is well underway, but it is taking longer than expected.

We recently received in our mail two New England Historic Genealogical Society CDs from MGS members Mr. & Mrs. Eben W. Graves of Norwalk. I believe they are a gift, and a thank-you note has been sent.

The CDs are: *The Records of the Churches of Boston* by Robert Dunkle and Ann S. Lainhart; and *Inhabitants and Estates of the Town of Boston, 1630-1822* by Annie Haven Thwing.

The disks have been put in the filing cabinet, top drawer, rear. They are in a large, tan, bubble-lined mailing envelope. I tried them on my own computer without success. If they work on the library computer, they should prove helpful to anyone interested in researching the early years of Boston.

NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH? Make an appointment through the Information Desk at Darien Library for a personalized consultation with an MGS volunteer.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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: mgs2@optonline.net

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

10 MAY 2003: HELEN SCHATVET ULLMANN, CG, will present "HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU HAVE THE RIGHT PERSON?" Is your ancestor John Smith the same John Smith who is the son of Frank and Mary (Jones) Smith? Real-life examples illustrate how various sources, from vital records through land and probate to compiled genealogies and manuscripts, can be combined to confirm the connection between generations.

Helen is Associate Editor of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and specializes in Southern New England and Norwegian research. Her book *Descendants of Peter Mills of Windsor, Connecticut* won the 1999 Donald Lines Jacobus award. She is a librarian at the Nashua, NH, Family History Center.

This is also our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. Prior to Helen's presentation, a few moments will be taken to elect officers and directors of the society. Nominated are Robert E. Kenyon III for Vice President; Nancy Malling for Secretary; and as Directors at Large: William H. Atkinson, Laverne Burzynski, Philip Morehouse, Kenneth Reiss, Charles Scribner, and Lloyd Sturgis.

FALL 2003 meeting dates and programs will be announced in our next issue in September.

ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, AT DARIEN LIBRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND! ■



NO WONDER GREAT-GRANDPA WAS SO HARD TO FIND!

"I should think one third of the Population of this District are in the Habit of moving from once to four times a year Rendering it Imposabell for the Marshal to Render an Ackret account of the Deaths that has taken plase In the District for the last year, the friends of Desist having moved to sum other Part of the city. — I can find only the mariag of one cuppell in the District & they cleared out the next morning & haven't been heard from since."

1855 New York State Census, New York City, New York County, 7th Ward, 6th Election District, Marriages and Deaths Schedule, Remarks.

THE ORDEAL OF EBEN SCRIBNER

by C. Scribner

The following history has been gleaned from the Civil War Military Service and Pension Records of my great-grandfather Eben Scribner. I was able to obtain these records by writing to: General Reference Branch, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

At the age of 21 in September of 1861, Eben left Wilton, Conn., to serve in the Civil War. He enlisted at Norwalk, Conn., and was mustered into G Company, Fifth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. The Fifth was originally organized by Samuel Colt, inventor of Colt's Revolving Rifles. It was disbanded because the men refused to become regulars, but was immediately reorganized as the Fifth Volunteers. Eben joined the regiment in Sandy Hook, Md., opposite Harpers Ferry, Va., where it was at that time engaged in picketing and guarding along the Potomac River.

Enlisting with Eben on the same day was his cousin Charles B. Scribner, also of Wilton. Both were assigned to Company G. Charles became ill, and company medical records show that he was in the Brigade Hospital at Hancock, Md., on 19 February 1862. He died of typhoid fever on 2 March 1862 at the age of 18. Company history tells of two men being buried at Williamsport, Md., on this date. It also tells of the severe winter conditions causing "suffering and depletion of the ranks, with the men breaking down from cold and exposure."

On 3 March the regiment crossed the Potomac River to make an advance on Winchester, Va., and participated in its capture and occupation by Union forces. After participating in the early skirmishes and engagements in Virginia, Eben became quite sick and was sent to a hospital in Winchester. His illness was diagnosed as Debilita Typhoid. This type of typhoid is known to be a very confining disease, requiring hospitalization and expert nursing care. Because of the typhoid epidemic and the many wounded, the hospital was full and hotels were utilized to handle the overflow. In fact, Eben was in one such hotel, the Union Hotel, 3rd story, room 38. Winchester changed hands many times during the Civil War, and it wasn't long before it was captured by the Confederates under General Stonewall Jackson. All patients became pris-

oners of war, but were paroled by Jackson soon thereafter. Eben was listed on a prisoner-of-war memorandum dated 22 June 1862. This document states that he was sent to a General Hospital in Frederick, Md., on 28 June. General Jackson and the Confederates probably had a problem with sick and wounded overcrowding hospitals, too, which would explain the reason for the paroles. Company muster roles show Eben sick in the hospital from late June to October. From 31 October until the end of December 1862, he was in a convalescent camp near Alexandria, Va. Here he was well enough to be detailed to guard duty.

Eben was with the regiment while it was encamped near Stafford Court House, Va., and during the engagements at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and in pursuit of General Lee into Virginia. The Fifth stopped at Warrenton, Va., where they received orders to move out under General Hooker and join the Department of the Cumberland in Cowan, Tenn.

While in Tennessee, when they were not guarding the railroad, they were kept busy building log shanties and generally improving their campsites. Or they would be out chasing rebel cavalry and guerillas. In the meantime they were being encouraged to reenlist and each man was offered a two-month furlough and a \$300 State Bounty. The men reenlisted in "goodly numbers" in early January 1864. Eben took the offer, furloughed with his unit, returned to Connecticut and married Lucy Jane Cogswell of Pound Ridge, N.Y.

He returned to duty, and the regiment was soon involved in the engagements in Georgia that led to the historic siege of Atlanta. Eben was wounded at Peach Tree Creek on 20 July 1864. He was hit by a gunshot (minié ball) that "entered close to the right ear, lodged near the top of his head and worked down and out his neck." Almost simultaneously he was wounded in the left foot by shell fragments causing fractures of the metatarsal bones. An indication of how severely he was wounded is the fact that he was listed as "Killed in Action" on a Casualty Sheet dated that same day. After getting his wounds dressed in the field, Eben was sent to a hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn., where his wounds were again attended. After about three weeks he was moved to a hospital in Nashville, Tenn., where he stayed another few weeks before being transferred to the Brown U.S.A. General Hospital in Louisville, Ky. He stayed in Louisville until late March 1865. His next stop was the Knight

U.S.A. General Hospital in New Haven, Conn. From here he received a Disability Discharge 23 June 1865. After his discharge Eben returned to Wilton and his bride, Lucy Jane. His wounds were to trouble him for the rest of his life and were the cause of his early demise. The head wounds caused violent headaches and left him partially deaf in the right ear. The foot wounds left him with a permanent limp.

Seven days after being discharged, Eben applied for an Invalid Pension. He appeared before Probate Judge James Nichols in Hartford, where he submitted a Form of Declaration for an Invalid Army Pension. Because Eben was without a formal education and had to sign all documents with a "+," he authorized Charles J. Preston of Hartford to procure the pension to which he was entitled under an Act of Congress approved 14 July 1862. Mr. Preston was further authorized to receive any certificate in favor of the application. Eben submitted another application on 7 March 1868, indicating that no action was taken on the original. Here again, he personally appeared before a judge of probate, the Honorable Hiram K. Scott of the Ridgefield District, and authorized Danbury attorney William T. Barnum to "prosecute his claim" for pension. On this application his occupation was listed as "not anything" because his condition was becoming considerably worse. He was unable to do manual labor of any kind except for a few small gardening chores. It is unknown what medication was available then, but family lore says he rubbed on horse liniment to help relieve the headache pain. On 2 June 1869 the Federal Commissioner of Pensions received a letter of confirmation from the Adjutant General in Washington, D.C. Even then, the pension was not approved until 1870, and then only after Eben had produced letters from two Company G corporals who had been with him when he was wounded. One corporal stated he "was near him at the moment he was shot and removed him from the line of battle."

Sometime in 1870 the family moved to Lewisboro, N.Y. In 1873, while still in Lewisboro, Eben submitted a Soldier's Claim for an increase in pension. His headaches were becoming more frequent and his overall health was deteriorating to the point where "he was unfit for labor of the lightest kind." It is not known if the increase was approved. The family moved back to Wilton sometime before 1877, and on

4 June 1878 Eben passed away after 13 years of suffering. He is buried at the Zion Hill Methodist Church Cemetery in Wilton.

Lucy Jane applied for a Widow's Pension in December of 1878. She was required to show proof of the birth of her children and of her marriage to Eben in order to be eligible for the pension, which was approved at \$18 per month. All children were covered until 16 years of age. The pension increased as the years passed because she was receiving \$50 per month at the time of her death 14 November 1929. In the later years of her life she lived with her son Arthur and his wife on Olmstead Hill Road in Wilton. Arthur was appointed Executor of her last Will and Testament, admitted to Probate in the Probate Court in Norwalk. She is buried with her husband at Zion Hill in Wilton. ■

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Membership in The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society has always offered substantial benefits to those researching in New York. Now, however, it has even broader appeal. The NYG&B has made available to its members remote, online access from their home computers to the HeritageQuest databases and the ProQuest Historical Newspapers' *New York Times* Database 1851-1998. The society has announced:

"Included in the HeritageQuest Online Genealogy and Local History collection are over 25,000 genealogies, family and local histories, city directories, and compiled vital records.

"The U.S. Census collection contains every census from 1790 to 1930 with the exception of 1900, which is expected to be available shortly. Records for 1790-1810, 1870, 1890, and 1910 are presently fully indexed and searchable. [Indexing of other Federal Censuses continues.]

"Additional databases due to be added to the collection include ProQuest's Newspaper Obituaries; Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files; and Freedman's Bank Records; among others."

Your editor has made some use of this material, and it is certainly impressive. Census schedules have been digitally enhanced and are cleaner, crisper, and

easier to manipulate than those used elsewhere. (Do not expect miracles; some schedules are still unreadable.) Book and magazine references were sought for one individual, resulting in 290 "hits." In each case the complete text of the book or magazine article was available and searchable. One particular *New York Times* story was sought, and there it was, tenth among 72 listings that met the search criteria. When I went to the story, it was complete and already "clipped."

The NYG&B is located at 122 East 58th Street, New York, NY 10022-1939. You can also obtain information by visiting their Website at <http://www.nygbs.org> or calling (212) 755-8532. ■

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

by Carolyn Barfuss

Anyone interested in the DAR? The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is an organization dedicated to service to the nation. It was founded in 1890 and has chapters in the 50 states, the District of Columbia and many overseas locations. The society's motto is "God, Home and Country," and its objectives are historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavor.

NSDAR Headquarters is in Washington, D.C., a few blocks from the White House, facing the Ellipse, and its three connecting buildings occupy an entire city block. Of great interest to genealogists is the DAR Library, established in 1896, which is one of the nation's premier genealogical research centers. The complete catalog of the library is available on the Internet at <http://dar.library.net>. The catalog provides the titles of books and microforms in the library and the Seimes Microfilm Center. A service for research and mail order photocopying is provided for a fee. The public is invited to use the library for a small daily fee.

People from all over the world visit the DAR Museum, which was designed to protect historic relics relating to the American Revolution and the period of the early Republic. Educational programs for children focus on life in colonial America. As part of its efforts toward historic preservation, the National Society contributed to the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, the construction of the World War II memorial, and numerous other historic monuments.

Promotion of education to disadvantaged young people is one of the primary objectives of the NS DAR. Two schools founded by DAR state societies are Tamasee DAR School (1919) in South Carolina and Kate Duncan Smith DAR School (1924) in Alabama.

Tamasee is a coeducational boarding school for up to 80 needy, dependent students and opportunities for 430 day students. Kate Duncan Smith, a day school, has over 1100 students. DAR gives support to Barry College in Georgia, Crossnore School in North Carolina, Hillside School in Massachusetts and Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky.

Bacone College near Muskogee, Okla., was selected by the National Society as a college to receive support. Native American students from all over the country attend. NSDAR also contributes to the Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Or., which is the oldest boarding school in continuous operation for native Americans.

Connecticut has 50 DAR chapters throughout the state. The Connecticut Society owns and maintains the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead built in 1740 in Windsor. Oliver Ellsworth was Connecticut's first senator and was author of the Judiciary Act, which forms the basis of our federal judicial system. He was a framers of the United States Constitution. In his Windsor home he was host to both George Washington and John Adams. The Ellsworth Homestead remained in the family until 1903 when it was deeded to the DAR. It has been said that the museum is one of Connecticut's best kept secrets and that it is like Williamsburg but better since it is all original.

Governor Jonathan Trumbull House in Lebanon is also owned by Connecticut DAR. It was the home of Connecticut's Revolutionary War governor, the only colonial governor to support the War for Independence. Washington, Franklin, the Adamses, Rochambeau and Lafayette attended conferences there. The house was built between 1735 and 1740 and is furnished with period antiques.

Membership in the NSDAR is open to women 18 years or older who are descended from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. For further information you may contact Carolyn Barfuss, member of the Hannah Benedict Carter Chapter, New Canaan, cbarfuss@optonline.net ■

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Huntington Historical Society (Long Island, N.Y.) will host an all-day (8:30-4 PM) genealogy workshop, **Roots XIX—The Quest for Your Past**, on **Saturday, 3 May**. Call (631) 427-7045 for more information.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 122 East 58th Street, NYC.

- **Thursday, 24 April at 6 PM**, there will be a talk by **Henry Bedingfeld**, York Herald of the College of Arms. Mr. Bedingfeld will give an illustrated presentation on **Recent Grants of Arms by the College of Arms**. This event is co-sponsored by the College of Arms Foundation.
- **Wednesday, 14 May at 5:30 PM**, “**Discovering London’s Genealogical Treasures**,” will be presented by **John Konvalinka** to introduce audiences in the U.S. to the wealth of genealogical information available in London. The nature and holdings of 16 principal repositories, as well as the holdings of many other important, specialized London libraries and archives, will be discussed. Also covered will be the type of information that might be available online (and what is not).

For more information, visit <https://www.nygbs.org> or call (212) 755-8532, ext. 36.

The following were covered more fully in our last issue. They are included here in abbreviated form as a convenience.

- **National Genealogical Society Conference in the States, 28-31 May 2003, Pittsburgh, PA.** Visit their Website at: <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/>
- **Federation of Genealogical Societies 2003 Conference, 3-6 September, Orlando, FL.** For more information, telephone FGS at (888) FGS-1500, or visit the conference Website at: <http://www.fgs.org/2003conf/FGS-2003.htm>
- **New England Regional Genealogical Conference, 6-9 November 2003, North Falmouth, Cape Cod, MA.** For more information, visit the conference Website at: http://www.rootsweb.com/~manergc/conference_information.ht ■

MYFAMILY.COM BUYS GENEALOGY.COM

On 8 April 2003 MyFamily.com, owner of Ancestry.com, announced that it has acquired Genealogy.com, producer of best-selling Family Tree Maker software. MyFamily.com will run Genealogy.com as a separate division, but Genealogy.com will move from its Fremont, Cal., offices to MyFamily.com’s location in Provo, Utah. As RootsWeb.com is also under the MyFamily umbrella, MyFamily has become a huge entity and few of us will be unaffected. An important question: What happens to competition? ■

HERITAGE SCRAPBOOK WORKSHOP 1 February 2003

A goodly crowd gathered in St. Luke’s Parish Hall for our Heritage Scrapbook Workshop. Refreshments were available in the back of the hall, and tables and chairs had been set up for our working session. Materials to be used were already at each place. Donna Moughty welcomed new members and introduced board members, then she introduced Susannah Benson who was conducting the workshop.

Susannah began her remarks by reminiscing about those magnetic holder album pages that we probably all have—and advised us to get rid of them as they are quite unhealthy for anything you wish to preserve. Only use acid-free, buffered paper. (“Buffered” protects against acid in the environment.) A product called Archival Mist, which is available at art supply stores, protects photos and documents against acid in the environment. (Barbara says that it is very expensive, so try to find it on sale.)

If you are handling old documents, always wear gloves. They should not be touched with bare hands.

Susannah led us in an exercise to produce a character sketch of someone whose photo was going into our scrapbook/album. The character sketch, written with a pigma pen on archival paper, could be placed on a page alongside the photo. Make some notes to get started: Describe the person’s relationship to you and list five descriptive words about that person. List what that person loved, needed, gave, felt, feared, and shared. Add three descriptive lines, and be sure to include first and last name and home location. When you have all this written down, the character sketch will flow easily.

Experiment with page layout until you find one that pleases you. Then, use double-sided tape to affix your character sketch to the page, and use adhesive corners to hold your photos in place. (Again, all materials must be archival.) And be careful about what you use to encapsulate pages, documents, and photos. Mylar D and polypropylene are safe.

Susannah values flexibility and recommends using pages whose order can be changed to fit changing circumstances (e.g., the finding of a previously unknown photo or document).

Finished pages were proudly displayed at the end of the session. ■

NOT QUITE RIGHT: RECOGNIZING ERRORS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY DOCUMENTATION 5 April 2003

Barbara Mathews began her coverage of this subject by emphasizing the necessity to evaluate each piece of relevant information found. Is the source original or derivative? Which bits of information are primary, and which are secondary? Is the evidence direct or indirect?

Barbara gave examples of sources that could create confusion, e.g.: bible records covering a hundred years or so, all written in the same neat hand; records created from transcriptions, such as the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records Index; birth certificates created for adoptees, which list adoptive rather than natural parents; obituaries that were not verified before publication; etc.

Changing styles of language can cause problems. Three hundred years ago "son-in-law" did not mean the same thing it does today. Then, it might have meant an adopted son.

Barbara recommended some print material that can help in sorting fact from fiction.

Analyzing Evidence:

- Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG, *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case* (San Jose, CA: self-pub., 2001).
- Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG, FNGS, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997).
- Richard S. Lackey, *Cite Your Sources: A Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records* (University Press of Mississippi, Jackson, 1980).
- Noel C. Stevenson, J.D., *Genealogical Evidence: A Guide to the Standard of Proof Relating to Pedigrees, Ancestry, Heirship and Family History* (Aegean Park Press, Laguna Hills, CA, 1989).
- Eugene Aubrey Stratton, *Applied Genealogy* (Ancestry Inc., Utah, 1988).

Analysis Examples:

- Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, "The Children of Calvin Snell: Primary versus Secondary Evidence," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 83, No. 1 (March 1995), pp. 17-31.
- Joy Reisinger, CGRS, "When Original Evidence Disagrees: Is Mother Genevieve a Greslon or a Fontaine?", *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*,

Vol. 83, No. 1 (March 1995), pp. 32-38.

- Helen Schatvet Ullmann, "Richard Mills, Seventeenth Century Schoolmaster in Connecticut and New York," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 154 (April 2000), pp. 189-210.

Editor's note: Civil registrations may be flawed, too. I had the 1859 civil registration of my husband's paternal grandfather's birth in Edinburgh, Scotland. The civil registration for his grandfather's sister, born four years later, showed a different mother, and I initially thought great-grandmother must have died and great-grandfather remarried within those four years. Fortunately, both registrations contained the marriage date of the parents, and it was the same on both registrations, 1 August 1848. (A clue!) Further investigation showed that both children had the same mother and that she did not die until 1895. ■

DEATHS OF CALIFORNIANS WITH CONNECTICUT CONNECTIONS

Eleanor Borkenhagen of Huntington Beach, Cal., has again provided us with death notices (from her local newspapers) of some people who lived and died in California, but had Connecticut connections.

- Margaret Korman passed away in Van Nuys, Cal., 5 July 2002. She was born 14 November 1917 in Stamford, and was a singer for 10 years with the Paul Whiteman Band.
- Francis "Frank" Prior of Yorba Linda, Cal., passed away 11 October 2002. He was a member of the first graduating class of Fairfield University in 1951.
- Benjamin Sussman of Sherman Oaks, Cal., passed away January 2003. He was born 8 October 1921 in Botsford Station, Conn., and was a gifted illustrator and writer.
- Nathan J. "Nate" Weiss, a San Fernando Valley resident for 50 years, passed away 22 June 2002. He was born 26 May 1912 in Bridgeport.
- Nahum Zimmer of Los Angeles and London passed away 12 September 2002. He was born in Bridgeport and is survived by two brothers still living there. He was a graduate of the University of Connecticut.

The full notices will be posted on our bulletin board at Darien Library. ■

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2003**

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

2003 MEMBERSHIP

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Please consider adding a contribution toward our genealogical resource maintenance and expansion, e.g., FamilySearch, subscriptions, books, CDs, etc. _____



Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111

MEETING
SATURDAY, 10 MAY.2003, 2 PM
DARIEN LIBRARY

