

# Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

May 2001

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In doing genealogical research, one of my objects is to have a little fun. In our last newsletter, I told the story of the potential claim of the heirs of Baron von Sittler to his purported \$350 million estate. That is nothing compared to the \$100 billion claim by the "heirs" of the Lord Baltimore estate. Let me tell a little of the story of the Calvert family and the State of Maryland.

For his service as an advisor to King James I of England, George Calvert was knighted and later received the title Baron of Baltimore—the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Baltimore. Calvert worked to start a colony in America, and he asked for a charter from King Charles I. After Calvert died the charter was eventually granted in 1632 to his son, Cecil Calvert, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Baltimore, making him the proprietor of the State of Maryland.

Frederick Calvert, 6<sup>th</sup> and last Lord Baltimore, was the last proprietor of Maryland. He died in Naples, Italy, in 1771. Before he died he had sold his property in England, but not the property in the United States. Under his will, Frederick made his illegitimate son, Henry Harford, the new proprietor of Maryland. There were lawsuits by others claiming this property. The Revolutionary War came along before the estate could be settled. As a result, the dormant claims to the valuable real estate in the City of Baltimore and State of Maryland have never been settled.

Fairly recently, in 1987, a group of 129 claimants attempted to advance a legal claim asserting that they were heirs of Frederick Calvert whose rights to Lord Baltimore's estate have never been litigated, and that they had a right to the residue of the estate worth \$1 billion. The amount was also stated as \$100 billion, but if you can claim title to an immense amount of

valuable real estate in the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland, why worry about a couple of zeros?

Litigating a 200-year-old estate seems like a pretty silly business to me, but if you have Calvert ancestors perhaps you would like to become a litigant—you might win \$100 billion. I should add that in the process you might automatically become a count or countess. The descendants of Cecil Calvert and his wife, Countess Anne Arundell, are among those who inherit the title "Count of the Holy Roman Empire," granted to Lord Arundell in 1595 by Emperor Rudolph II. This honor is "descendible to all and each of the grantee's children, heirs, posterity, and descendants of either sex, born or to be born, for ever."

David L. Mordy

## SENDING CASH OVERSEAS

Unless a credit card can be used, this has always been an inconvenient and expensive problem. In the 8 April 2001 issue of *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, Dick Eastman reported that a new international service is available from c2it, a division of Citibank, which will allow you to use a U.S. credit card to send money in the form of a check or direct deposit from the U.S. to 30 other countries in local currency. There is a \$10 fee for each check and a \$15 fee for each direct deposit—not insignificant, but less than other providers charge. The service can be accessed at:

<http://www.c2it.com>

**Although MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS were due 1 January 2001, some are still outstanding. If you have not done so already, please renew yours today.**

## 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: [dbowley@concentric.net](mailto:dbowley@concentric.net)**

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**19 MAY 2001: HARLAN R. JESSUP** will present "WHEN SOURCES ARE WRONG—DEALING WITH ERRORS IN PRIMARY RECORDS." Any genealogist beyond the novice level knows that published records are subject to error and that it is always a good idea to check primary sources. But what if primary sources (or those we assume to be primary) are also incorrect? How do we recognize and make allowances for such errors? This presentation will give some interesting examples of errors in primary sources and will suggest strategies to compensate for them in our conclusions.

Harlan Jessup has been a professional genealogist specializing in Connecticut for about six years. Although he covers all areas and all periods in Connecticut research, he is especially fond of Colonial research in western Connecticut towns. He spends much of his time at the State Library in Hartford and is on their list of accredited researchers. He is also president of the Connecticut Ancestry Society and a member of many others.

**13 OCTOBER 2001 (tentative):** Speaker to be announced.

**17 NOVEMBER 2001 (tentative):** Speaker to be announced.

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

### A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Everyone has a story to tell. Over the coming summer months, please write down and send in one of *your* experiences in genealogy for these pages. If you need help, you can reach me (Dorothy Shillinglaw) at 655-8350. In the meantime, thanks are due Bill Atkinson, David Bowley, Charles Cotter, Jane Edmundson, Lyn Hanks, David Mordy, Donna Moughty, and Kim Paterson, for their contributions to recent issues. ■

### 1891 CENSUS PILOT PROJECT NORFOLK COUNTY, ENGLAND

The 1901 Census for Great Britain will be made available online Wednesday, 2 January 2002, by the Public Record Office of the UK on a fee basis. In order to test the facilities and payment mechanisms to be employed, a pilot program using the 1891 Census for Norfolk County, England, has been set up and will be available until 31 July 2001. If you have an interest in this county in 1891, utilizing the pilot program might be worthwhile. The program can be accessed at: <http://census.pro.gov.uk> ■

## FAMILIAL PATHS TRODDEN

by Bill Atkinson

For years I have been preserving an old photograph of a stone house that bears the label "Birthplace of Harry R. Trivett, Sherborne, England." Harry R. Trivett was my mother's father. He was born in Sherborne in 1868, and his family emigrated to the United States in 1872. I have long wondered if the house still stood and what Sherborne was like. This past year I finally had the opportunity to find out. My wife and I had arranged to make a tour of southern England with my wife's brother. We decided to arrive in England a few days early so that we could see London and visit Sherborne.

Sherborne is a town of about 7,500 inhabitants and lies 100 miles west southwest of London. It may be reached by train from Waterloo Station in London, and that is the route we followed.

Immediately after checking into our hotel, we set off to find the Trivett home. I had previously obtained a birth certificate for my grandfather which gave the address of his birthplace as "Cold Harbor" in Sherborne. Sure enough, on the town map we located Cold Harbor, which happened to be the name of a street not three blocks from where we were staying. There were a number of stone houses along the street, and we found one that had the same window and door configuration and a stone wall along the street identical to the one in my photograph. The only problem was that the house in the photo showed a one-story wing on the right-hand side of the house, something totally missing in the house we had located. A closer examination, however, disclosed that the outline of a roof could still be seen on what was now the outside wall of the house. The wing had been removed to make way for construction of a road intersecting Cold Harbor.

The name "Cold Harbor" intrigued us as Sherborne is at least 30 miles from the coast with no substantial bodies of water in sight. We were informed that the area had originally been known by the French term *col d'arbre* or *col des arbres*.

It did not take us long to realize that Sherborne was a unique corner of England. Through preservation and careful architectural planning, the town would appear not to have changed over two hundred years or more. In the center is Sherborne Abbey. The

abbey was begun in 705 AD. The main section of the abbey church was constructed during the 12th and 15th centuries. The church was the cathedral of St. Aldhelm and 26 succeeding Saxon bishops of Sherborne. After the Norman Conquest the bishop's seat was removed, first to Old Sarum, and then to Salisbury. Thus, the church in Sherborne was a predecessor to Salisbury Cathedral. Sherborne Abbey is renowned for its fan vault ceilings which the visitor may illuminate at the cost of 20 p. and view through the use of mobile mirrors. When abbeys were closed at the time of the Reformation, the monks' quarters were converted into a school for boys that is still in operation in the original buildings.

Close by the abbey is the village almshouse constructed in 1400. It is a beautiful stone building with rose arbors and secluded gardens. The building is still in use as a home for elderly citizens of Sherborne who cannot afford to live on their own. Originally, sojourners at the almshouse were required to wear a distinctive garb which identified them as they moved about the town. Fortunately, this custom has been done away with, and I am sure that its present inhabitants consider it almost a privilege to live in such historic and comfortable surroundings.

Just outside Sherborne, but within walking distance, is Sherborne Castle. Actually, there are two castles, one now in ruins. The ruin was once a fortress-type of structure and was given to Sir Walter Raleigh by Queen Elizabeth I. Unfortunately, the gift was made just before Sir Walter's secret marriage. When the queen learned of the marriage, she was so distressed that she consigned bride and groom to the Tower of London. She did not, however, revoke her gift, and, when the couple was released, Sir Walter built a hunting lodge which has been expanded over the years and still stands as "Sherborne Castle." Raleigh was ultimately executed and the property was forfeited to the crown. In 1618 the Digby family acquired the premises and have owned them ever since. The current owner is Sir John Wingfield Digby, the Earl of Bristol.

The fortress castle was destroyed during the English Civil War. The story goes that the general leading the besieging Parliamentary forces was the brother of Lady Digby whose sympathies lay with King Charles I. Having destroyed the castle, leaving the ruins that may still be seen, the general turned his

attentions to the hunting lodge. Lady Digby is said to have dissuaded him, thus preserving Sir Walter Raleigh's home for posterity. Both the ruin and the castle lie in a large park on either side of a lake—truly a storybook setting.

All of this history lies within a small town in which there is a park with a bandstand, a bowling green where ladies and gentlemen dressed in whites compete and enjoy their afternoon tea, small shops, a market, and even a small historical museum. We wondered what might have led my forebears to forsake this quiet niche. Some research disclosed that Dorset, the county in which Sherborne lies, had population increases regularly each decade except for the 1870s. Further, we learned that the tin mines in the adjoining counties of Cornwall and Devon closed at this time. It is not difficult to conclude that it was an era of hard times. My great-grandfather was a journeyman carpenter at the time my grandfather was born, and left England to form a successful contracting business in Newark, New Jersey. Neither he nor his son ever saw Sherborne again. In Sherborn I was able to go back in time and walk the streets and tread the paths that they knew in what was an unforgettable experience. ■

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## A DAY OF GENEALOGY 31 MARCH MEETING

### Morning

The day began at 10 am in our meeting room downstairs at Darien Library with a presentation by MGS Vice President Donna Moughty on "How to Get Started in Genealogy." Meanwhile, in the Business/Genealogy Room upstairs, other MGS volunteers were demonstrating onsite genealogical resources to visitors.

Donna did her usual superb job of clarifying the process of beginning genealogy. She touched on the various reasons that people do family research, e.g., religious, lineage societies, health, to pass on to children and grandchildren. She explained that it is necessary to begin with oneself and organize what is already known before looking for new information. After you write down all that you know, seek out older relatives to interview and sift through papers, photos, newspaper clippings, and memorabilia that have come down through the family. Write a summary

of what you find, carefully recording the source of each item or bit of information.

Donna demonstrated the way to fill in a pedigree chart with names and dates and places of birth, marriage and death. She explained the difference between primary and secondary sources. A primary source is one that was created close to the time of the event by someone with dependable information—e.g., deeds and naturalization papers, birth, baptismal, marriage, and death records. It is important to note that death certificates are primary sources for the death, but only secondary sources for other bits of information found in them. A family bible may be a primary source if entries were made at the time events occurred. If all entries were made in the same handwriting and ink, however, they were probably made long after the events and the bible therefore would be a secondary source.

Secondary sources are sources created after the fact, such as compiled records, interviews, indexes, CD ROMs, and data found on the Internet.

Donna illustrated the creation of a family group sheet and discussed several of the genealogical computer programs that are available. She stressed the importance of setting up and using a research log to define goals and keep track of tasks.

Begin looking for church, vital, government (e.g., naturalization, military), and census records for family members. Check city directories and local histories.

In addition to local public libraries, historical societies and Family History Centers, there are some important archives within a reasonable distance from Darien, e.g., the National Archives in New York City and Waltham and Pittsfield, MA, the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, the New York State Library in Albany, and the New York City Public Library and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, both in Manhattan.

And don't forget to organize the huge amount of paper you are now accumulating in such a way that documents are protected and information is easily accessible.

### Afternoon

At 2 pm a panel composed of David Bowley, Donna Moughty and Marianne Sheldon (all of MGS), Harlan R. Jessup (Connecticut Ancestry Society), Ken Reiss (Darien Historical Society), and Janet Davis (Darien Library) convened in our meeting room. Each gave a presentation on local area resources within his or

her area of expertise.

David Bowley reviewed the history of MGS and the genealogical resources it has placed in Darien Library, which include books and periodicals on shelves and computer programs. He went on to cover the subject of Darien Town Records, both those held in Town Hall and those that have been microfilmed and appear in the LDS catalog. (Town records earlier than 1820 will be found in Stamford.)

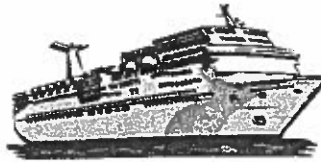
Marianne Sheldon reported on the status of the compilation of Darien cemetery records. This was essentially done by the Darien Historical Society in the 1950s, but during an update by MGS in the 1980s some discrepancies surfaced. Older cemetery records need indexing, but a numbering program is in place that assists in locating graves.

Ken Reiss of the Darien Historical Society talked about genealogical resources available in the society's library. These include published and unpublished genealogies with a focus on local families; histories of nearby towns; Darien city directories 1918-1980; Darien cemetery records; miscellaneous published directories and listings (e.g., military records, 1896 DAR registry); manuscript files on more than 50 local families; old house files, some with owner data; document files (some fully cataloged, most not), including school records, deeds, account books, family records, recollections, etc.; and photo files (well cataloged). Except for the document files, which are very difficult to search, all are readily accessible. The Darien Historical Society Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, but it is wise to call ahead (655-9233) to verify hours and the availability of staff assistance.

Janet Davis, Darien Library, gave an overview of Darien Library holdings that relate to local history and genealogy. They are far too numerous to list here, but they can be found in the library's catalog or by consulting the Information Desk staff. ■

**"You should study the peerage, Gerald. It is the one book a young man should know thoroughly and it is the best thing in fiction the English have ever done."**

Oscar Wilde, *A Woman of No Importance*, Act 3.



## GENEALOGY AFLOAT

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

Offered by *Aha!* Seminars, Inc. (8578 Gunn Highway, #121, Odessa, FL 33556-3206), a listing for "Genealogy Cruise 2001: A Family History Odyssey" caught my eye. It was scheduled to take place aboard the *Regal Empress* as it sailed from Tampa Bay to Key West and back again 1-4 February 2001. As we planned to be on the West Coast of Florida at that time anyway and had never been to Key West, we booked space.

We boarded the *Regal Empress* at Port Manatee on Tampa Bay late Thursday afternoon, 1 February, and found envelopes of seminar materials awaiting us in our cabins. As we left port shortly after 6 pm, a mandatory lifeboat drill was the very first item on the agenda, but as soon as it ended genealogists gathered in one of the onboard lounges to be welcomed by George G. Morgan (President of *Aha!* Seminars) and Drew Smith, the seminar speakers. Both of them have considerable backgrounds in genealogy, but I was most familiar with them as columnists for Ancestry.com. George Morgan produces "Along Those Lines" each week, and Drew Smith has been writing a column entitled "Digital Genealogy" since January 2000. They proved to be excellent speakers, clear and concise, and regularly provided apt examples to illumine and enliven their presentations.

About 110 of the approximately 900 people on board were participants in the genealogy seminar. Dining room seating had been arranged so that genealogists shared tables with one another and, as a consequence, mealtime conversations never flagged.

There were five presentations:

- **Planning a Successful Cemetery Trip.** George Morgan pointed out the benefits of cemetery visits, and then discussed the value of careful advance preparation, what to bring (and not bring) to the cemetery, behavior standards while there, and how to organize at home the data and photographs obtained. A guided visit to the cemetery in Key West was offered to those interested.
- **Effective Internet Research Techniques.** Drew Smith commented on the two very different purposes of the Internet: reference and communications. He reviewed Internet history and some of its specialized vocabulary, then explained such things as online databases, mailing lists and message

boards. He recommended that researchers select their goals, identify the most likely Internet sources, then begin their search with online databases, which are fairly easy to use. Broaden the search as necessary, posting to relevant message boards and using e-mail to communicate with lists and individuals that have similar interests.

- **Bits About Obits: Reading Between the Lines.** George Morgan explained that, while obituaries are secondary sources of information and any information obtained from them must be corroborated elsewhere, they often provide important clues. At the same time, they give insights into the lives of our ancestors that may be available nowhere else. He listed the different types of information that it is possible to find in obituaries and explained how to “read between the lines” of the text. He used four genuine obituaries dating from 1897 to 1999 to illustrate the process.
- **Genealogy Orienteering: Using Maps to Find the Right Place.** George Morgan emphasized that you will never find your ancestor if you are looking in the wrong place. He suggested beginning with a simple road map or atlas to identify the area of interest. He then explained how the right jurisdiction can be located, even if the place name or county has changed over the years, by using reference maps and gazetteers. For U.S. sites he recommended consulting *The Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses 1790-1920* by William Thorndale and William Dallarhide and *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County & Town Sources*, edited by Alice M. Eichholz.
- **After You Find It: Evaluating and Citing Information Sources.** Drew Smith gave an excellent overview of ways to rank the importance of information found, i.e., primary, secondary, etc., and the necessity for careful citation of sources. A citation must give sufficient information to enable another researcher to find expeditiously the source used. He recommended several reference books as guides, most notably: *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., published in 1998); *The Chicago Manual of Style* (14<sup>th</sup> Ed., published in 1993); and Elizabeth Shown Mills's 1997 book, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*.

Presentations were well received by a group with

mixed experience. From beginners to professionals, every participant found something of value.

We were back in Port Manatee early Sunday morning (4 February). The only glitch that surfaced during the cruise was a delay of several hours in our Key West arrival (2 February) because the *Regal Empress* had to wait until another ship left its docking space before entering the harbor.

Genealogy Cruise 2002 is already being planned. As these plans mature, information will become available at *Aha! Seminars' Website*: <http://ahaseminars.com> ■

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## AN EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON GENEALOGY

An article entitled “The Tree of Me” by John Seabrook appeared on page 58 of *The New Yorker* 26 March 2001. The author described himself as a “casual family historian,” until becoming a parent a few years ago, at which time he began a serious effort to sort fact from fiction within the family stories he had heard. He became interested in DNA testing and offers a satisfying explanation of how both Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and Y-chromosome DNA work. The author was able to collect DNA samples from three males with his surname living near where his 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grandfather had lived in England before emigrating to the U.S. between 1855 and 1860. In addition to his own DNA sample, he had two samples from men who shared his surname in the United States. There was no *known* relationship between any of these six individuals before the samples were sent off to be tested at Dr. Brian Sykes's laboratory at Oxford University in England. Two individuals in England had perfect matches to each other at nine out of nine Y-chromosome sites. The third English sample matched eight of the nine sites of the first two. Of the three U.S. samples, one matched the author's at all nine sites, while the third matched none of the others. The two U.S. matches were only one mutation from one of the Englishmen and two mutations from the other two, indicating that between 500 and 1500 years ago these five men shared an ancestor.

DNA testing was an important part of the article, but by no means the only part. There is much, much more—interviews with George Redmonds and Briar Sykes, Websites, LDS Church resources, etc. Read and enjoy. ■

## QUERIES

### Instructions:

Genealogical queries will be published in the *MGS Newsletter*, space permitting, and at the editor's discretion, giving preference to Fairfield County, other Connecticut counties and nearby Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties in New York. Queries that are too vague or general will not be used. Make queries brief, but include known dates, places and other identifying information. Don't abbreviate, as we will do that.

Query Fee: Member queries under 50 words, free. Over 50 words, or nonmembers, \$5.

Address: Query Editor, MGS, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820-1111. Please include your name, address, and e-mail address, if any.

*Please note:* All locations are in Connecticut unless otherwise specified. Queries are also posted on the MGS Website.

**124. WATERBURY—NEWKIRK.** Need maiden name and parents of Sarah \_\_\_\_\_, wife of Silvanus WATERBURY (b 1730-35) of Stamford, Fairfield Co. Maiden name may have been COOKE because two of their children had Cooke as a middle name; however, Peter NEWKIRKE, sailmaker of Greenwich, has also been suggested as Sarah's father. Sylvanus, a Loyalist, and Sarah went to New Brunswick with the evacuation in 1783/4.

Also need parents of Silvanus's mother, Susannah Newkirk (1681-1787). Her husband, Sylvanus's father, was John WATERBURY (1681/82-1710) who built Buttonwood Farm in what is now Darien. *Jane Edmundson, 35 Bridge St., #302, Westport, CT 06880.*

**125. BOOTH—BURROUGHS.** William BOOTH (1664-1753) married Hannah BURROUGHS (?-1729) on 30 Aug. 1693 in Enfield, Hartford Co. Their children were Caleb (1695-1779), Joshua (1697-1755), Rebecca (1799-?), and Dinah (1703-?), all born in Enfield. Information on Hannah conflicts. Was she the daughter of John BURROUGHS of Enfield, or was she the widow of another BURROUGHS? Need birth date for Hannah and, if a widow, information on parents. *Dorothy Shillinglaw, 27 DuBois St., Darien, CT 06820; sdshillinglaw@prodigy.net* ■

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

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

**Huntington Historical Society, "Family History in the U.S.," 24-29 June 2001:** The Huntington Historical Society, 209 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743-6993, is giving a six-day seminar for beginning and intermediate genealogists at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Lloyd Harbor, Huntington, NY. Fees are \$574 for those staying at the seminary and \$374 for commuters (no housing). Fees include 15 full meals for each participant, all syllabus material, textbook, and field trip to archival repositories. For more information visit the Huntington Historical Society's Website at:

<http://www.huntingtonli.org/hunthistorical/genealogy/>

**New England Genealogical Summer Conference, 13 and 14 July 2001,** sponsored jointly by New England Historic Genealogical Society and Connecticut Society of Genealogists, will take place at the **Hartford Marriott Farmington:** Two full days of lectures on classic subjects, including several lectures that examine exciting new developments, such as DNA. For more information call NEHGS toll-free at 1-888-286-3447, or visit the NEHGS Website at:

[www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org)

**Fourth Irish Genealogical Congress, 17-23 September 2001, Trinity College, Dublin, Republic of Ireland:** This international conference deals with family history and related subjects of interest to the Irish worldwide. Speakers include Eileen O'Duill, Helen Kelly, and Tony McCarthy of Ireland and Americans Dwight Radford, Kyle Betit, Marie V. Melchiori, Elizabeth Kerstens, and R. Andrew Pierce, all of whom are specialists in Irish genealogy. All lectures will be held at Trinity College; ancillary events will take place nearby. It is possible to attend on a daily basis, rather than for the entire conference. (At least one MGS member plans to be there.)

Trinity College has about 200 rooms available on campus, but accommodations can also be booked independently elsewhere in Dublin. Additional information can be found at the IGC's Website:

<http://indigo.ie/~irishgc/> ■

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2001**

**Middlesex Genealogical Society  
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Darien, CT 06820**

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*Middlesex Genealogical Society  
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**MEETING  
SATURDAY, 19 MAY 2001, 2 PM  
DARIEN LIBRARY**

