



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new millennium gives us marvelous resources for genealogical information. As I marvel at these new resources, I can't help reflecting on the fact that the new Internet services and the new CD's are republishing old information. Some of the family histories on my bookshelf have been transcribed and entered into computers, mistakes and all. Some of the old census records are now available on CD's, occasionally including errors.

Let me give some examples of errors:

Recently, a friend told me that a printed family history seemed to have confused her ancestor who lived in Galena, Illinois, with another person by the same name in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. She has no idea how long it will take to unscramble the confusion, or even if it is possible to do so.

Confusion has also surrounded one of my ancestors. For a hundred years, several local histories and DAR applications have shown an ancestor of mine as one of four Kirkland brothers who settled in Chautauqua County, New York, during the early 1800s. Several years ago, birth records were located showing that James and Alexander Kirkland were cousins, rather than brothers, of William and George Kirkland. Unfortunately, the minister entered the birth records in a sloppy fashion, leading various people to doubt the accuracy of the birth records. The oldest surviving member of the family believes that James was a brother of William and George, because "my mother said so." The number of male children shown in the early census records is not consistent with the birth records and tends to support the four brothers tradition. Still, most professional genealogists would tend to follow the birth records as the best documentary evidence available.

Unfortunately, many of the genealogies on which we now rely did not cite their sources. We would be far better able to resolve conflicting information if only we had source citations. Today most of the genealogy programs available for our computers have special provisions for citing sources and we have little excuse if we fail to do so.

Another example of an error occurs in the printed census record for one of my ancestors in the year 1800 in Albany. The figures it shows in all the columns differ from the original handwritten census record. These wrong figures belong to the family on the line above. I wonder which figures are or will be memorialized in the new Internet and CD records. A typical procedure is for the old printed records to be sent to China or some other country for economical transcription of the data into the computer (no English required to type in the information). Old errors are often copied and new errors are introduced.

Although I have tried to avoid it, I, too, have been responsible for publishing errors, including a death date for one lady who is very much alive. Fortunately, I have been saved from many more errors by having others read my copy. I know that I am not good at proofreading and have been lucky enough to know people who are great at it.

So, as you take advantage of all the new high-tech resources that are available, be alert for both old errors and new ones. Do your best to get it right when you publish your family history and genealogy for posterity. You can then congratulate yourself for correcting old errors and be pleased that you have worked hard to avoid new ones.

David L. Mordy



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
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Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

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

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UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

5 FEBRUARY 2000: USING THE INTERNET and ANNUAL WORKSHOP, jointly sponsored by MGS and Darien Library.

12 NOON TO 1:30 PM: Join staff of the **DARIEN LIBRARY** and MGS Vice President **DONNA MOUGHTY** to gain understanding of what is available on the **INTERNET** and how it can be used to learn about genealogy, enhance research techniques, find lost "cousins," and publish your findings to share with others.

2:00 PM: ANNUAL WORKSHOP. Join small groups focusing on areas such as the U.S., Ireland, England, English Quakers, Germany, etc. For most effective participation, attendees are urged to prepare questions in advance and bring them to the workshop, along with relevant parts of their family trees.

8 APRIL 2000: Roger Joslyn has had to cancel his engagement for this meeting and **HENRY HOFF** will speak in his stead. Henry's subject will be: "**THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN PRINT: EFFECTIVE RESEARCH IN SECONDARY SOURCES.**" Experience often tells us there must be something already compiled on an individual or a family, and Henry will discuss some of the methods and sources for finding these compiled accounts.

Henry has been a trustee of MGS since 1989. He worked in Darien until 1996 when he moved to Boston where he is currently Director of Development at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He is a Certified Genealogist and a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. He is also Consulting Editor of *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* and the author of more than 100 articles.

13 MAY 2000: This meeting has been canceled because of scheduled construction work in our meeting space at Darien Library. Consider attending the NGS Conference in the States, 31 May to 3 June, in Providence, RI, instead (see page 6, column 2).

14 OCTOBER 2000: Speaker to be announced.

18 NOVEMBER 2000: Speaker to be announced.

ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY AT DARIEN LIBRARY. 12:00 NOON, USING THE INTERNET; 2:00 PM, ANNUAL WORKSHOP. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND! ■

MGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Renewal notices for the year 2000 have been mailed. Please return yours promptly along with your check, and, at the same time, consider making a tax-deductible charitable contribution to the society to support its educational programs, e.g., purchase of books, CDs, audiotapes, and payment of the annual maintenance fee for the *FamilySearch* program. ■

BECOMING PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN GENEALOGY

by Bill Atkinson

Sometimes genealogical research leads to very personal and almost eerie consequences. My first venture in 1983 proved to be just such a case.

From the day that I was born and named for my great-grandfather William Henry Atkinson, the family has maintained that I took after the Atkinson side of the family in appearance, mannerisms, etc. It was only natural then that my earliest attempt at tracing family roots was to look up the Atkinsons and to confirm some of the oral history that had been related to me by my great-grandfather and, later, my grandfather.

Briefly, the story was that my great-great-grandfather Richard Atkinson came to the United States from Leeds, England, in the 1830s with his wife and two sons. A third son, my great-great-grandfather, also William Henry Atkinson, was born shortly after the family immigrated. Richard was a shipsmith and opened a shop on West Street in Manhattan. In the early 1850s, however, he apparently became disillusioned with the business and social climate of New York City and joined with a number of other like-minded individuals to found a utopian community, which we now know as Mount Vernon, NY. Richard was a deeply religious Anglican and donated the land for and was instrumental in the building of Trinity Church in Mount Vernon. He was also a political leader and served as Village President of Mount Vernon for two terms in the late 1850s and early 1860s. He died at a ripe old age in 1887.

Richard's son was not so fortunate. He died of pneumonia after participating in a 7th Regiment parade in New York City and then riding home to Mount Vernon on an outside train platform in a driving fall rainstorm. His death occurred shortly before the birth of his only son, my great-grandfather, in January 1858. I had been told that Richard donated a stained glass memorial window for his son and had had it installed at Trinity Church.

Armed with these stories, my cousin and I decided to go to Mount Vernon to see if we could fill in some of the details. We first went to the Mount Vernon Public Library and were successful, with the help of the librarian, in obtaining several newspaper articles confirming much of the family history. While

we were at the library an elderly gentleman overheard our inquiries and came over to ask if we were looking up information about the Atkinson family. When we said that we were, he said, "I believe that I can save you a lot of trouble because I have been collecting Atkinson memorabilia for over 60 years." He said that he had been a member of the choir at Trinity Church, was aware of the role of the family in the church and in the city, and had kept records of their activities over the years. When I introduced myself he said that he recalled seeing my great-grandfather and other family members in the church in the 1920s and that seeing me was "like seeing a ghost." For me it seemed like hearing a voice from the past. We went over our information and he later sent copies of the records that he had kept; but this was not the end of the coincidence!

He invited my cousin and myself to attend a service at Trinity Church, which we did on 20 November 1983. We arrived early so that we could look around the interior of the church, which appeared not to have changed a great deal from the 1850s. We located the memorial window and, to our astonishment, read the date of my great-great-grandfather's death, 20 November 1857. We had chosen the 126th anniversary of his death to visit Trinity Church!

It is little wonder that my interest in family history was piqued, and, although I have yet to experience quite the same circumstances again, I have acquired a sharper feeling of contact with my ancestors that transcends impersonal statistics of birth, marriage and death. ■

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION'S DEBT OF HONOUR REGISTER

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

The British Commonwealth War Graves Commission, through its Debt of Honour Register, offers Internet access to records for any of the 1.7 million members of the Commonwealth forces (includes those of Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa) who died in the First or Second World Wars. Search results provide service unit, rank, age, date of death, grave or memorial location with instructions on how to find it, and, in about two-thirds of the records,

the name and address of next of kin. Sixty thousand civilian casualties of World War II are also recorded, but no burial details are given. The register is located at: <http://yard.ccta.gov.uk/>

This site reports that more than 250,000 people visit *each week*, so access can be slow—and at times impossible. If you have an interest within its focus, however, persevere, because you will find the information it provides to be of great value.

For example: When my husband's grandfather George Shillinglaw emigrated from Scotland to the United States in 1883, he left behind four sisters, three of whom married and had children. I know the names of seven of their children—three girls and four boys—although there probably were others. A search for the four known male names yielded two sad results:

- Lt. Louis George Liebenthal, 8th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders, attached to 1st Battalion, Essex Regiment, aged 31, died on Friday, 4 June 1915. He was the son of Agnes (Shillinglaw) and Louis Liebenthal,¹ 34 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh. There is no gravesite. His name appears on Panel 177 of the Helles Memorial² at the tip of the Gallipoli Peninsula in Turkey.
- Lt. Selwyn MacGeorge Monilaws, 8th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, aged 21, died on Monday, 12 August 1918. He was the son of Janet (Shillinglaw) and William MacGeorge Monilaws, 8 Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh; and is buried in Plot 2, Row D, Grave 1, in Le Grand Hasard Military Cemetery, Morbecque, Nord, France.

1. George Shillinglaw's obituary, a secondary source, listed "Mrs. Louise Liebenthal" as one of his surviving sisters. I searched diligently for a sister named Louise—until I found the primary record of his sister Agnes's marriage to *Louis* Liebenthal in 1881 and understood the newspaper's error. It is, perhaps, ironic that Louis Liebenthal (Lt. Liebenthal's father) had been born in Germany and was a naturalized British subject.
2. There are more than 20,000 names on this memorial belonging to Commonwealth forces lost in the Gallipoli campaign who have no known burial place or who were lost or buried at sea. Not included among them are Australians, New Zealanders and Newfoundlanders who have their own memorials on the peninsula. ■

**SATURDAY MORNING WORKSHOPS:
Research help at Darien Library every
Saturday morning 10 am to 12 noon.**

.13 NOVEMBER 1999 MEETING

1:00 PM: IMMIGRATION, PASSENGER AND NATURALIZATION RECORDS

One quickly runs out of superlatives with which to describe MGS Vice President Donna Moughty's presentations. They are always concise, informative, well organized, and filled with concrete examples that enliven the research in depth that she has done.

Donna reviewed the history of **immigration** in this country and mentioned the availability of some published passenger lists covering 1565-1819, the use of Castle Garden in New York City as an entry (when immigration still fell under the Customs Service) and then Ellis Island (1892-1954), and the use of visas from 1924 on. There are large gaps in indexing. For example, there are none for Boston, 1892-1901, or New York, 1847-1896. A Supplemental Index, 1820-1874, covers 70 of 101 ports—but not the Port of New York.

You need to have some minimal information about an immigrant in order to search for his/her arrival. This would include the full original name, approximate date of arrival, and approximate age at arrival. Helpful sources for this information might be family papers, oral tradition, genealogies, and church or civil records, such as censuses after 1900 and naturalization papers.

If your immigrant ancestor arrived between 1820 and 1890, the arrival record would be on a customs list, which contains limited information: name of ship and master, port of embarkation, date and port of arrival, and passenger's name, age, sex, occupation and nationality.

Beginning in 1891 passengers were asked for additional information, such as marital status, last residence, final destination in the U.S.A., if here before and for how long, American relative's name, address and relationship. Then, in 1906 and 1907, more questions were asked: personal description (height, complexion, color of hair and eyes, identifying marks); city, town or village of birth; and the name and address of the closest living relative in the immigrant's native land.

Check whatever indexes do exist (see page 5, column 2 for examples), because without an index, finding arrival records can be very difficult.

Naturalization is a two-step process that takes five years and starts with a Declaration of Intent (to become a U.S. citizen), which can be filed as early as two years after arrival in the United States *in any court in the*

country. After three more years, a Petition for Naturalization can be filed. When the petition is granted, a Certificate of Citizenship is issued. These two steps may take place in two *different* courts.

Beginning 27 September 1906, a copy of all naturalization proceedings was sent to the Immigration and Naturalization Service by the clerk of the court that generated them.

Donna recommends referring to *They Came in Ships* by John Philip Colletta and Ancestry's *The Source* by Loretto Szucs and Sandra Leubking

2:00 PM: NATIONAL ARCHIVES, NORTHEAST REGION BRANCH, NEW YORK CITY

Suzanne McVetty was warmly welcomed back to MGS. She explained that the National Archives and Records Administration is charged with maintenance and preservation of the records of the federal government. Its Northeast Region Branch at 201 Varick Street in New York City maintains archival records from federal agencies and courts in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This facility is best reached via public transportation, i.e., subway, bus, PATH trains. It is closed Sundays and holidays, but is regularly open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Extended hours for microfilm research *only* are from 4:30 to 8:00 pm, Tuesdays, and 8:30 am to 4:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month. (Suzanne also mentioned NARA's facility in Waltham, MA, and explained that it contains archival records for Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.)

Reference books are accessible at the branch to help you focus your efforts and get the most from your visit.

NARA's Northeast Region Branch has extensive microfilm holdings of interest to genealogists. Among them are:

- Federal population censuses for all states, 1790-1920.
- Indexes for the 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.
- Selected military service records and indexes.
- Selected pension and bounty-land warrant applications.
- Indexes to selected naturalization records handled in federal courts in New Jersey and New York.
- World War II concentration camp records.

Note: Researchers using archival materials must obtain

a researcher identification card by filling out a short form and providing identification that includes a photograph. The researcher ID card is issued promptly on-site; it is valid for three years and is renewable. Researchers using microfilm *only* do not require a researcher ID card.

There are minor record groups that include World War I draft registrations, along with Draft Board lists and maps to help you find the right roll, and the Emigrant Savings Bank records. New York State Vital Records indexes are also available at this branch (Births 1881-1923, Marriages 1881-1948, and Deaths 1881-1948). A variety of finding aids can be consulted on-site, including New York City directories for census years.

Naturalization records and passenger arrival records are important holdings at this branch, and Suzanne described what is available and what must be known by the researcher in order to search for them effectively, e.g.: name of ship and year of arrival, or month and year of arrival; passenger's name as it was in his/her native land; age; occupation; whether traveling alone or with others. Reference books at the branch can help. Suzanne mentioned:

- *The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-Dec. 1851*, Vols. II-VII. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1983.
- *Irish Passenger Lists, 1846-1871: Lists of Passengers Sailing from Londonderry to America on Ships of the J. & J. Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD, 1988.
- *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1850-May 1891*, Vols. 1-60. Scholarly Resources, Inc., Wilmington, DE, 1988. (One-third of all emigrants from continental Europe came through Hamburg.)
- *Italians to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1880-June 1896*, Vols. 1-9. Scholarly Resources, Inc., Wilmington, DE, 1984.
- *Migration from the Russian Empire: Lists of Passengers Arriving at the Port of New York, 1875-June 1891*, Vols. 1-6. Scholarly Resources, Inc., Wilmington, DE, 1984.

AS ALWAYS, the more preparation you do before visiting a research facility, the more productive will be your visit. ■

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by David Bowley

Your MGS Board has taken two initiatives in the last quarter, the most significant of which is the purchase of the complete Federal Censuses for the State of Connecticut from 1790 onwards on CD ROM disks. These records, already held by Darien Library in microfilm form, are now available on *Family Quest* CD disks at our computer workstation.

Darien Library has generously offered to share the cost of these disks, and the first 14 disks, covering the State of Connecticut in Federal Censuses for the years 1790-1830, 1870, and 1900, have arrived and are accessible at our computer. Disks covering the remaining years will follow when digitization of that data has been completed by Heritage Quest.

The *Family Quest* program that displays these records gives you a facsimile of the original microfilmed image, which can be magnified or printed as required.

Our second initiative will have great appeal to anyone with an interest in the subjects covered at any of the various national genealogical conferences. We have started a service that will provide audiotape cassettes of presentations at these conferences that we think will be of interest to members. To start the ball rolling, we have purchased two tapes of Roger Joslyn's presentations at the Fifth New England Regional Conference:

- "Finding Your Ancestors' New York Origins."
- "Three Females 10-16...Making Sense of Pre-1850 Censuses," which you will remember was presented at our 14 November 1998 meeting.

We would like to get your feedback on this idea and also your suggestions for national meeting recordings that might be purchased in the future. A listing of what is available can be obtained from the vendor, Repeat Performances; telephone: (219) 465-1234. ■

GENEALOGY 101 COMES TO STAMFORD

The New England Historic Genealogical Society is bringing this popular seminar for beginning and intermediate genealogists to the Stamford Historical Society, 1508 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06905; telephone: (203) 329-1183) on Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 February 2000. There will be six lectures:

1. "Getting Organized in Your Research."
2. "Using Library Sources and Vital Records."

3. "Researching City and Census Records."
4. "Transcribing vs. Abstracting Documents."
5. "Researching Your Immigrant Ancestor."
6. "Computer Resources for Genealogy."

Lectures 1 to 3 will be given on Friday, 25 February; lectures 4 to 6 on Saturday, 26 February. It is possible to attend one day only, either Friday or Saturday.

Advance registration is recommended and can be accomplished by calling NEHGS toll-free at (888) 286-3447 and using a credit card. Registration at the Stamford Historical Society on 25 February is from 9:30 to 10:00 am; on 26 February from 9:00 to 9:30 am. Lectures end at 2:30 pm on Friday and at 2:00 pm on Saturday. Twenty-minute, post-lectures, private consultations can be prearranged for either day, ending at 4:30 pm both days. Fees are \$50 for attendance one day, \$90 for both days, and \$20 for a 20-minute private, afternoon, research consultation.

NEHGS lecturer and professional genealogist Marcia D. Melnyk will give the talks and be available for private, afternoon consultations. ■

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

From 31 May to 3 June 2000, in Providence, RI—only two hours away—you can take advantage of an extraordinary opportunity to attend one of the premier national genealogical conferences. The cost of the entire conference is \$155 for NGS members, or \$180 for non-NGS members, who register before 3 April. Attendance on a daily basis is also possible for \$60 per day. To see the schedule, visit the NGS website at www.ngsgenealogy.org

Hotel space is available at a special rate for those attending the conference. To receive the special rate, mention the NGS conference when making your room reservation. Hotels granting a special rate are:

- Providence Biltmore, single/double \$114 per night, telephone: (800) 294-7709.
- The Westin Providence, single/double \$135 per night, telephone: (401) 598-8000.
- Marriott, single/double \$127 per night, telephone: (401) 272-2400.
- Holiday Inn Downtown, single/double \$122 per night, telephone: (401) 831-3900.
- Days Hotel, single/double \$107 per night, (401) 272-5577. ■

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.

08. KIRKLAND/KIRTLAND. Seek information on Connecticut ancestors and family of Ambrose KIRKLAND/KIRTLAND, b. 1811 in Connecticut; also his wife Martha _____ (possibly SHEPARD). Ambrose, his wife and daughter Mary Jo are listed in the 1850 Census of Schroepfel, Oswego Co., NY. *David L. Mordy, P.O. Box 1051, Darien, CT 06820; e-mail: dlmordy@aol.com*

109. GRANT—WARNER. Seek information on Nathaniel GRANT and his wife Bethia WARNER. Their daughter Ruth was born 26 Feb. 1701/02 in Enfield, Hartford Co., and married Joshua BOOTH in that town 5 Sept. 1722. *Dorothy Shillinglaw, 27 DuBois St., Darien, CT 06820; e-mail: sd-shillinglaw@prodigy.com*

110. WATERBURY. Seek birthplace of Estella WATERBURY who was born 9 March 1867 in Connecticut and went to school at Smithridge. *Helen C. Aukerman, e-mail: lovey@futureone.com* ■

Almost 300,000 people emigrated from the UK in 1849. More than half left from Liverpool, and nearly three-quarters came to the United States.

Her Majesty's Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners

THE BELL FILES

by David Bowley

In January of 1999 an Elaine Wilson (nee Bell) of Anacortes, WA, contacted MGS through our Webpage and asked whether we would be interested in a large Family Tree Maker database that she had assembled. I replied that as it contained many local names we would indeed be interested. Last month a package arrived with two floppy disks and a short note. At first I couldn't recall who Elaine Wilson was, but when I started to read the database on Family Tree Maker my memory began to work, and it was clear that we had a genealogical treasure of local people going back over many, many years.

Elaine Bell Wilson is descended from Thaddeus Bell Jr. and his son Holly Bell, and the file contains every Bell that she has been able to identify, plus large numbers of Scofields, Hows, Reeds, Hoyts, Olmsteads, Byxbees, Sheffields, Mills, Raymonds and Gorhams. The total file contains some 20,000 names.

I have placed these records on the Family Tree Maker program to which we have access at our computer workstation. It is on the first screen that is displayed when you invoke the program. Usually we are supposed to ignore this screen and use the program to search for the CD ROM disks that we have chosen by using the "Search Expert" button. Instead of doing this, click "OK" on the person displayed at the top of the screen and it will give you the record on that person. You can scroll through the 20,000 names (alphabetically arranged) and read the data or print it out as desired. To do this, click on the "Index" button, scroll to whichever record you wish to view, click "OK," and then click the tabs to the right to show records for the spouse, parents or children. To print a copy of the record, click the "Print" button, then click "OK" on the print screen that is displayed.

Any significant comments or questions on the entries can be mailed to Elaine Wilson at 3016 L Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221, or e-mailed to her at: gooday@ssip.com

If any members with local genealogy would like to place their ancestors on the MGS computer, please give me a 3½" disk with your GEDCOM file on it. In that way we will be able to build a significant local resource for which Elaine Wilson has provided an excellent beginning. ■

GENEALOGISTS DEFINED*

by Helen Heginbotham

I had spent the last several days entering close to 600 names in my family file, along with stories on some of these family members. The names came from a variety of sources, and all are the descendants of two individuals, one of whom arrived in Australia with the first fleet, and the other his wife who arrived with the second. As I sat back after my labors, my eldest daughter spoke up:

Genealogists are not just collectors of names; they are the keepers of living history. If you'd all been alive when history was an oral hand-down, then you would have been regarded as the holders of great knowledge and wisdom, instead of as having an obsessional hobby that most people think is an awful waste of time. Scientists are driven by the need to know. All of you are driven by the same thing, but while scientists can tell us what causes our physical

characteristics, they cannot give us the knowledge of who people were. Historians give us facts about what happened, but not about the individuals who lived through that history. You are the bards of a modern age, who take our families and roll them into the music and facts of the past and give us the family that made us. All of you are to be congratulated for letting these people out of the closets and into the daylight.

*Adapted from a posting by Helen Heginbotham on 21 November 1999 to Rootsweb's County Tipperary List and reprinted here with her permission. Her eldest daughter, whom she quotes, is Melissa Margaret Elizabeth Heap. Both live in South Australia. ■

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER
21 MARCH 2000**



Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111

5 FEBRUARY 2000
12 NOON, USING THE INTERNET
2 PM, ANNUAL WORKSHOP MTG
DARIEN LIBRARY

