



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XVI, No. 2

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

April 2000

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Whenever I find a connection between my family history and other historical events it helps to make the family history a little more interesting and give it more "spark." Searching for these connections can make genealogy more fun.

Some computer genealogy programs provide "timeline" information relating to historical events. Perhaps this information will let you know that one of your ancestors was born on the same date as the Battle of Waterloo, or that your great-grandmother died on the day that President McKinley was born.

Although it is true that a coincidental date provides a related timeline, it takes a somewhat more direct connection to bring the history alive for me. As I write my family history, I can hopefully add interest by showing that my wife and I both have ancestors who were among the founders of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1636.

As another example, it was exciting for me to discover that my grandmother (along with hundreds of other Gettysburg residents) shook hands with President Lincoln on the day of the Gettysburg Address.

By all means, explore the idea of historical connections in your own family. As an example, a number of families in our local area were connected with famous witch trials. See the article by Jane Edmundson beginning on page 3 of this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Recently, in Denver, a relative showed me three scrapbooks about his grandfather that provide another interesting example of historical connections. The grandfather was a railroad detective who managed to find and arrest several train robbers in Colorado and New Mexico, and there were many newspaper articles about these arrests. Strangely enough, the detective was probably related to the family that perpetrated the

first U.S. train robbery, which took place years earlier in Indiana. Of course, it took a great deal of research time and effort to locate microfilms of old and sometimes obscure newspapers. The result is certainly worth the effort, though, in connecting with newsworthy or notorious relatives.

I hope all of you have fun and success in finding a few of the sparks in your family, and recording them for posterity.

David L. Mordy

## MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

The MGS Board has voted to replace our under-utilized Saturday Morning Workshops with a system of "help by appointment," beginning 1 April 2000. In addition to allowing more flexible scheduling, the new system will permit matching of the specific needs of those requiring assistance with the skills and experience of individual volunteers. Anyone in need of assistance may initiate the process by calling the Reference Desk at Darien Library (6551234, ext. 4) and asking for the MGS Library Committee Contact.

Long-time Saturday volunteers will be called on as needed, and other society members who would like to give an occasional hour or two would be welcome recruits. Please call Jane Edmundson, 203-226-8788, to give a hand to beginning genealogists needing guidance with the book collection or the computer programs.

The Darien Historical Society has generously transferred a number of books to the genealogical collection at Darien Library. They are: *Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire*,

(Continued on page 10)

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

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

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**8 APRIL 2000: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** at which 3 directors will be elected to the board. Then, **HENRY HOFF** will speak on: **"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.

**14 OCTOBER 2000:** Speaker to be announced.

**18 NOVEMBER 2000:** Speaker to be announced.

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

## NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S CONFERENCE IN THE STATES

The National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States will take place 31 May to 3 June 2000 at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, RI. This is a major, national genealogical conference, only two hours from Darien. One hundred ten nationally known speakers are scheduled to present programs on a truly dizzying number of subjects. Fundamentals, advanced methods, professional topics, genealogical and family history writing, computer-assisted genealogical topics, genetics and family health history—and much, much more—are all amply covered. Attend one day or all four, but don't miss this one! Additional information may be obtained from NGS at 4527 17<sup>th</sup> Street North, Arlington, VA 22207, (703) 525-0050 or (800) 473-0060; or visit the conference Website:

[http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/conference/conf\\_states.html](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/conference/conf_states.html) ■

## DALE POLLART JOINS MGS BOARD

The MGS Board of Directors has elected Dale Pollart to fill the vacancy on the board created by Emeline Fatherley's recent move to Massachusetts. ■

# THE ACCUSER AND THE ACCUSED

by Jane Edmundson

The assignment of writing a short article about the 1692 witchcraft trial of Elizabeth Clawson (b. 1631, m. 1655, d. 1714) seemed simple enough, but proved to be complex. There is an infinitude of material on the general subject of witchcraft, but primary evidence of Elizabeth's trial is nonexistent in Stamford (where she lived), and the secondary evidence is contradictory, confusing, and inextricably mixed up with the trial of Mercy Disborough of Fairfield. The reader must hope that good judgment has been used in sorting out the conflicting accounts available.

There is no record of the trial in Stamford's archives, which is understandable, as the actual trial took place in Fairfield, where, it must be remembered, the town records were burned by the British in 1779. Also, there may have been some reluctance within towns to discuss the subject, as Upham reports: "The records of the parish of Salem Village, although exceedingly well kept before 1692 by Thomas Putnam, are in another hand for that year, very brief, and make no reference whatever to the witchcraft transactions."

The incident precipitating the investigation, the trial, and even the final sensible conclusion began in Stamford about 1684. A dispute over a quarter pound of flax had been simmering between Elizabeth Clawson and Abigail Westcott, both wives of responsible citizens and public officials. They were neighbors on the west side of Mill River, but if Abigail's testimony is to be believed, they were hardly neighborly. Reliable evidence about Elizabeth's character to the contrary, Abigail testified that Elizabeth had hurled epithets (such as "slut") and had thrown an actual stone at her.

The quarrel took a more sinister turn in May 1692 when the Westcott's maidservant, a young Frenchwoman named Katherine Branch who was probably epileptic, began to have severe prickling sensations and visions of cats that eventually took the form of Goodwife Clawson in such unlikely postures as sitting

on a spinning wheel or on the back of a chair. Katherine, perhaps, began to enjoy the attention she was getting—as did the young girls who were accusers in the famous Salem witch trials the same year. In any case, there can be little doubt that Katherine was also influenced by rancorous conversations within the Westcott household, not only about Elizabeth Clawson, but also about Mercy Disborough of Fairfield. Mercy was said to have spurned advances from Katherine's employer, Daniel Westcott, when he had lived in Fairfield years before.

In any event, in addition to accusing Elizabeth, Katherine accused Mercy and four other Fairfield women of witchcraft, saying that they were bewitching her since Elizabeth and Mercy were in jail. One, Goodwife Miller, escaped to Bedford, a town that steadfastly refused to extradite her. The other three were Mary Staples, her daughter, and granddaughter. Mary had been accused of witchcraft in 1652 when the Staples family were neighbors of Roger Ludlow, a man of great accomplishment, but one who had a sharp tongue. He called Mary Staples a liar and was sued for slander twice by Thomas Staples, Mary's husband. The second time his own lawyer wouldn't continue his case when Ludlow didn't appear in court (Tomlinson). Ludlow left the colonies, never to return. Fortunately, when

Katherine pointed her finger at Mary and her daughter and granddaughter in 1692, the family had enough influence that only two townspeople dared to come forward with evidence against them. They were acquitted even though the grand jury had recommended their arrest. The court dismissed the testimony as not sufficient and, "Commanded all persons to forbear speaking evil of them for the future upon payn of displeasure." (This was the first glimmer of sense in the whole distasteful episode.) Elizabeth and Mercy were then left as the

only defendants and were tried together.

Elizabeth seems to have lived an exemplary life and only fitted the folk image of a witch in that she was middle-aged and married with a number of children (eight). More importantly, she had been *accused*. Most accused witches were of disputatious personality and

*A word is dead  
When it is said,  
Some say.*

*I say it just  
Begins to live  
That day.*

*Emily Dickenson*

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low social status, poor, or of a nonconforming lifestyle, none of which applies to Elizabeth.

Mercy, the wife of an older man who was a Westport farmer of comfortable circumstances and one of the early settlers of the Compo district, had a less conventional background than Elizabeth. Mercy's 20<sup>th</sup> century reputation has also been clouded in the Fairfield County press, and by what can only be described as an almost salacious article that appeared in a 1981 magazine (for school children, no less). No sources for this article are cited, but imagined conversations are quoted: "She causes an ungodly passion among the men of our town." Mercy is provocatively described as, "One of the most beautiful girls in the colony, with long, jet-black hair, a trim figure, a dark complexion, thick lips, and enchanting hazel eyes." Mercy did, indeed, have what we would call a dysfunctional family. Her natural father who was charged with illegal business practices was a drunkard. Her stepfather was a stern, Puritan clergyman—Fairfield's' first—the Rev. John Jones who had actively pursued the witchcraft cases in 1653 and 1654. According to court records, Mercy had been banished from Fairfield in 1661 for some unspecified misbehavior with a young man, Joseph James, and Mercy, her mother, and her brother were once on parish relief. In 1664 Mercy was sent to the household of Gershom Bulkley, a respected relative, who ultimately proved to be the agent of her release from the 1692 charges.

When Daniel Westcott reported Katherine's behavior and accusations to Capt. Jonathan Selleck, Stamford's "leading spokesman" (Majdalany), Capt. Selleck, Rev. John Bishop, and an unnamed Norwalk minister questioned Katherine. By July, after more interviews, they were sufficiently convinced of the substance of the charges to report their findings to the court. Meanwhile, a committee of women had been appointed to search Goodwife Clawson's body for marks of the devil—next to confession, the most damning evidence. These marks, called imps or familiars, were believed to be teats by which the devil derived its nourishment. A wart on Elizabeth's arm was their sole finding. As a warning to the reader about conflicting evidence, a second search during the trial found a growth, which cannot be described in this family publication.

A third search found nothing. Three searches, three opposing results. The mortification to which these women were subjected is unspeakable even to modern-day easiness, but to Puritan women whose deformities were reported in a court of law, and therefore publicly, the mental anguish must have been overwhelming. It has often been said that the men of New England took a peculiarly prurient interest in witches and witchcraft, but the Stamford men seem to have been less zealous in their pursuit of "the truth" of the matter.

The trial opened 14 September 1692, after Elizabeth and Mercy had spent the summer in jail, for which they were required to pay their keep. Elizabeth was indicted, in part, for having familiarity with Satan and doing "harm to the bodyes & estates of sundry of his Maties subjects." Mercy was indicted because she "has with the help of the devil...don harme to the bodyes & estates of sundry of their Maties subjects." After the selection of a jury (requested by Elizabeth and Mercy), depositions were taken—which were little less humiliating than the body inspections. There is no record of cross-examination, so evidence went unchallenged. Both women pleaded "not guilty," but one source says that Mercy suggested trial by water, the heinous practice of dunking a person tied hand and foot to see if he (or more likely she) would float. If he sank, and thereby probably drowned, he was innocent. If he floated, he was guilty and would be hanged. Reportedly, Elizabeth and Mercy floated "like corkes," in spite of the best efforts of onlookers who must be assumed to be well-wishers. The fear of hanging, as witchcraft was a capital offense, and the ordeals of dunking, searches, and a long, hot summer in jail must indicate that Elizabeth and Mercy, as different as they were, were made of stern stuff. The treatment of anyone accused of being a witch has justifiably been called terrorism.

Most of the depositions were made by men, generally young, and were certainly not favorable to the accused. This is hardly surprising since to defend a witch was to accuse one's self. Bits of light shine through this dark, dark period of our history, however, in what must have been heroic testimony. For instance, Abigail Westcott's own niece, Lydia (Knap?) Penoyer, stated in her deposition of 24 August that she had heard her aunt say that she did not believe that any of the accused were any more witches than herself, but that her husband, Daniel, would believe Kate before he would Rev. Bishop, Commissioner Bell or herself.

Sarah Kechum reported that Daniel Westcott bragged that he could make Kate do tricks at will.

Stories of visits by young men to the Westcott house, one specifying that Daniel was away, would probably send today's social workers scurrying to make house calls. There are accounts of amateur witch tests, such as holding a naked sword over the accuser's head, or taking a lock of hair while a young man held Katherine down. The young man in question was of a "good family," but will go unnamed here as there were at least three by that name in Stamford at the time. Midwife Sarah Bates (wife of Ensign John Bates), originally called in to examine Katherine in her capacity as the only medical practitioner in town and not to do a body search, told of Abigail's crying out and describing Katherine as bewitched, a performance that caused Katherine to laugh and hide her face in a pillow.

Stephen Clawson, with the support of 80 (or 76, depending on the source) Stamford townspeople, women as well as men, signed and presented a petition on behalf of Elizabeth. It might be said that there is safety in numbers, but it makes a statement about the turning tide of sentiment about witchcraft as a social phenomenon. Two brave men, however, dared to send a separate deposition:

"The testimony of Eleazar Slawson\* aged 51 years:

"He saith yt he lived neare neighbour to goodwife Clawson many years & did allways observe her to be a woman for pease and to counsell for pease & when she hath had provuacations from her neighbours would answer & say we must live in pease for we are naibours & would neuer to my observation giue threatning words nor did I look at her as one giuen to malice & further saith not.

"Eleazar Slawson  
"Clement Buxstum"

The jury could not reach a verdict, and the General Court in Hartford was asked for instructions. The buck was passed to an assembly of ministers who were given "the infor-

\*Eleazar Slawson is listed as a petit juror, but testified. Was this a highly irregular situation or incorrect history?

mation from the trial" (transcript, minutes, summary, copies of the depositions?), and they reported on 17 October to the effect that:

1. "Conviction of witchcraft by swimming is unlawful and sinfull and therefore cannot afford any evidence."
2. "Able physicians" must identify "unusual excrescences" upon bodies of the accused.
3. The "afflicted maid's evidence appeared counterfeiting wherefore we cannot think her a sufficient witness; yet we think that her affliction, being something strange, it well deserves a further inquiry." (Would a modern court simply remand Katherine for psychiatric examination?)
4. "As to ye other strange accidents as ye dying of cattel, etc., we apprehend ye applying of them to these women as matters of witchcraft to be upon very slender and uncertain grounds" (Taylor).

These churchmen seem to have had a grasp of some rudimentary rules of evidence, but never is anything said about the permissibility of hearsay, although it is about the only kind of evidence presented throughout the trial.

The trial reconvened in October with a substitute juror. And the third committee of search was convened—without "able physicians"—the committee that found marks on *both* women. Nonetheless, one woman, Elizabeth, was found not guilty, while the other, Mercy, was found guilty of "familiarity with Satan." The jury was sent back to reconsider, but returned with the same verdict. An appeal was made on Mercy's behalf, and three of the assistants of the court (Samuel Wyllys, to whose papers we owe almost any knowledge of the trial, and two others) granted a reprieve until the next meeting of the General Court.

Meanwhile, Gershom Bulkley, in whose household Mercy had lived many years before, published in December 1692 a paper claiming that the government of Connecticut was illegal because it was acting under the charter that James II had revoked before the Glorious Revolution of 1688, but the law under which Connecticut witchcraft trials were conducted was Roger

*"If any man or woman be a witch [that] has consulteth with a familiar spirit, they shall be put to death."*

*Code of 1642 by Roger Ludlow*

Ludlow's 1642 code. Bulkley referred to the colony's government as a "pretending, usurping corporation," having "no authority to condemn or reprieve."

The three court assistants explained their reasons for the reprieve by saying, wonderfully succinctly, that they had "the power to do so." They said also, but at great length, that changing even one member of a jury made it "not the same jury," and therefore also changed the due form of law. Furthermore, the evidence against Mercy did not meet the standards of the authorities of the time. These were:

1. Confession. (Neither woman had confessed.)
2. "Two good witnesses proving some act or acts which could not be but by help of the Devil." (Clearly, there were not two such witnesses.)

The committee then set more specific standards: "As for the common things of spectral evidence, ill effects after quarrels or threats, teats, water trials and the like, suspicious words, they are all discarded and some of them abominated by the most judicious as to be convictive of witchcraft and the miserable toil they are in in the Bay for adhering to these last mentioned litigious things is warning enough. Those that make witchcraft of such things will make hanging work apace and we are informed of no other but such as these brought against this woman." The court then made Mercy's reprieve a permanent pardon (Tomlinson).

It would be nice to know that both women lived happily ever after, and it seems that Elizabeth at least lived quietly. Mercy, however, was charged rather belatedly in 1696 by James Redfin of Fairfield with having been (unmarried and) pregnant when she lived in the Bulkley house in New London many years before. Redfin even implied that Dr. Bulkley was the father and that the baby had been done away with. (At least this charge had nothing to do with the supernatural.) Gershom Bulkley managed to put the matter to a well-deserved death (Tomlinson). In the meanwhile, Mercy lived on at least to 1707, apparently unmoled, but with what memories of the miserable year of 1692 we can only imagine. Upham wrote of Salem: "This general desire to obliterate the memory of the calamity has nearly extinguished tradition....The only recourse was in oblivion." Salem, of course, had much more to forget. Fairfield executed two women in the 1650s, but no one in 1692. Connecticut has been

praised for its relatively less malign record, New England for never having burned a witch. (Damning with faint praise?)

Aspects of witchcraft hardly touched upon here—e.g., the kinds and degrees of witchcraft and being bewitched, the relationship of witchcraft with magic, religion, fortune telling, and necromancy, the causes of the sudden outbursts of hysteria, the demographics of the epidemics and victimization, church vs. state—can be pursued in our local libraries. The gradual awakening of public officials and the clergy, which seemed to follow the public revulsion at the proceedings, emerges in almost every work on the general subject, but almost nothing is ever said about the fate of the accusers. Their imputations left scars and shadowed lives, but the punishment of the accusers in Salem was nothing but loss of their own reputations, which were usually not very good to begin with (Upham). And one must wonder what ever happened to Katherine Branch. Was she banished? Did she have even the punishment of a guilty conscience? Did she or any of the accusers understand what they had done?

A word is *not* "dead when it is said." Unlike its victim, it may live forever.

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- Marcus, Ronald. "Elizabeth Clawson, Thou Deseruest to Dye," (Continued on page 7)

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## 5 FEBRUARY 2000 MEETING

by Bill Atkinson

### USING THE INTERNET

The growing interest in the Internet was manifest in the turnout for the talk given by MGS Vice President Donna Moughty at the Darien Library at 12:00 noon on 5 February 2000. Forty-four people were in attendance as Donna discussed "The Internet for Family Research."

Donna opened by saying that we should not expect the Internet to provide us with a family history at the click of a button. Rather, the Internet should be looked upon as a tool for research that can enhance our techniques and avoid unnecessary waste of time. She particularly noted the need to exercise care in the use of the Internet, pointing out that information on the Internet is, necessarily, entered by others who may or may not be careful in their work. Donna displayed two family sites on a projection of the computer screen. In one case the information was carefully

organized and sources of information were documented. In the other, the site owner had entered information concerning Donna's own family without sources or even attribution. The first site was obviously useful to a researcher, who could use the sources to confirm the information given on the site. The second should not be relied upon as a research tool. The lesson Donna brought home was that the Internet does not replace the need to seek out information from reliable sources such as vital records, probate records, deeds obituaries and the like; but the Internet can, if sources are provided, be a good starting point and guide to our research.

Donna also noted that the Internet can provide contacts with others interested in genealogy and, in fact, can provide the searcher with the names and e-mail or postal addresses of others working in the same or related areas. She warned, however, that information concerning living persons should not be entered into the Internet as such information can be misused.

Donna reviewed some of the major genealogical sites on the Internet, including the National Genealogical Society, Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Genealogy.com, and Cyndi's List. She noted that each site included instructions with respect to genealogical research and that such sites were great learning tools. She explained how the Internet could be used as the "world's biggest finding aid," and illustrated how best to enter a query in the Internet. She stated that a query which was neither too broad nor too narrow would achieve the best results. Donna cautioned against impatience in waiting for a response. She said that new users were constantly coming onto line and described one query that she had made that did not elicit a response until two years later.

Time saving is a very important result of the use of the Internet. Names, addresses and telephone numbers of libraries, historical societies, other genealogical societies, and churches can sometimes be found on the Internet. The information may include hours of operation for individual organizations. Donna pointed out that this type of information is invaluable for anyone planning to do research in another locale. On the projection screen she showed how governmental record offices can also be located and how the procedures, and even the forms, for ordering copies of governmental records can be obtained.

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- (Continued from page 6) **THE ACCUSER... Bibliography**  
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Donna suggested that family research can often become even more interesting if it is done in historical context. An example of this would be research showing that the geographical area from which a family originated was impacted by famine, war, or other disaster at the time a family moved or emigrated to another location. She said that the Internet could be used to obtain this type of background information.

Finally, Donna discussed subscribing to mailing lists. She very strongly suggested that subscribers should ask for digests only, as receipt of individual e-mails from others on a mailing list can be overwhelming.

As Donna deftly maneuvered around files, websites and the like, we all realized how rapidly our horizons are expanding and what a boon the Internet will prove to be for genealogy.

### ANNUAL WORKSHOP MEETING

At the end of Donna's talk and prior to the annual workshop, coffee, tea and delicious baked goods were enjoyed by all preparatory to the mid-afternoon session which opened at 2:00 pm with several announcements by our President, David Mordy. Dave announced that Emeline Fatherley had moved from Darien and resigned from the Board of Directors. He reported that the Board had elected Mrs. Fatherley to the honorary position of Trustee of the society. He also announced that the Saturday Morning Workshops at the library would be discontinued and replaced by a system of appointments for assistance. Persons wishing to receive research help and instruction should advise the Reference Desk at the library of their requirements. Reference Desk personnel will contact Jane Edmundson, one of our Board's Library Committee members, who will then attempt to match such requirements with the expertise of one of our volunteers. Dave asked that members of the society with experience in one or more areas come forward and volunteer to work as advisors in the program.

Dave also announced that the society's Annual General Meeting would be on 8 April 2000. The speaker at the AGM will be Henry Hoff, one of the society's trustees, whose subject will be "There Must be Something in Print: Effective Research in Secondary Sources." The May general meeting has been canceled due to planned construction at the library, and members

were urged to attend the NGS National Conference in the States, to be held in Providence 31 May to 3 June, instead.

Then Dave opened the Annual Workshop by introducing Kim Paterson to speak on "RootsWeb." He also listed the different "interest" groups which would assemble following her talk. The groups included: The Internet—Donna Moughty; Ireland—Ruth McGrath; England—Florence Wyland; Germany and The Netherlands, as well as research material in the MGS collection at Darien Library—Marianne Sheldon; and The U.S.A.—David Mordy.

Kim Paterson again used the projection screen to demonstrate the capabilities of RootsWeb. She said that the site was intended to provide a worldwide genealogical information center. Persons seeking information on establishing a family website are welcomed. RootsWeb also provides useful assistance in learning how to do genealogical research. She demonstrated how one may subscribe to mailing lists and send out queries through the web. Kim reiterated Donna's suggestion that anyone subscribing to a mailing list should consider requesting digests only. Kim illustrated how the website could be used to save enormous amounts of research time and, in particular, how interactive lists could be used to narrow inquiries by combining two related surnames, thus reducing the scope of responses.

Following Kim's talk, attendees separated to pursue their personal interests in the groups designated by Dave Mordy, and to conclude another informative and challenging afternoon. ■

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### LOCAL FHC OPERATING HOURS

The Family History Center at 692 South Avenue, New Canaan, telephone 966-8475, has announced a change in its hours of operation. This FHC is now open Tuesdays 6 pm to 9 pm (change); Wednesdays 9 am to 12 noon *and* 6 pm to 9 pm; and Thursdays 6 pm to 9 pm—a total of 12 hours each week.

The Family History Center at 800 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford, is open from 6 to 9 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings—a total of six hours each week. ■



## 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.

**111. BATES—HUNTINGTON.** Lois BATES married Jeremiah HUNTINGTON Jr. (born 1751 in Norwich, removed to Bennington Co. UT). Was this the Lois BATES born 7 Jan. 1754 in Durham, Middlesex Co., daughter of Lois and Stephen BATES Jr.? *Laura Garrett, 726 Brown Ave., Pueblo, CO 81004.*

**112. BRYAN/BRYEN/BRUYN.** Seek information on Charles BRYAN, born in Brookfield about 1812, the son of Emelia and Charles BRYAN Sr. who had been born in Holland. *Ron Prince, 1203 Stone Trail, Longview, TX 75604.*

**113. BURROWS—GATES—PHELPS.** Seek information/obituaries on William Arvin BURROWS (died 11 May 1904/05), Herbert GATES (died 19 Sept. 1913), and Walter PHELPS (died 19 Sept. 1913). It is believed that all died in Moodus, Middlesex Co. *Karen Murray, 4981 Daisy, Springfield, OR 97478.*

**114. LOCKART.** Need Connecticut town (possibly Middlesex Parish/Darien) where James LOCKART lived 1740-1762. He married Rebecca ? about 1740, and they had children John (b 1744), Mary (b 1751), James (b 1752), Alexander (b 1755), Miriam (b 1757) and David (b 1760). Removed to Nova Scotia in 1762 to settle on a land grant. *Deanna Dodd, 20683 Tallyho Ct., Ashburn, VA 20147; DeeDodd@aol.com* ■

## UPCOMING GENEALOGICAL EVENTS

**New York Genealogical & Biographical Society,** 122 East 58<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022, (212) 755-8532, ext. 11:

- **A Week of Guided Research in New York City,** 30 April to 7 May 2000: Includes orientation to genealogical research in New York City, a full day of exclusive access to the library at NYG&BS, guided visits to the National Archives Northeast Region, New York Public Library, and New York City Municipal Archives.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society,** 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116, (617) 536-5740 or toll-free (888) 286-3447

- **Heritage Tour to Kent, England,** with Dr. George Redmonds, 9 May to 19 May 2000. This annual tour offers a fascinating study of the land, architecture and people, emphasizing the scope of history over time and pointing out traces of the past.
- **Two Research Programs to Salt Lake City** are scheduled, 18 June to 25 June 2000 and 29 October to 5 November 2000. Personal research consultations with NEHGS staff, lectures on genealogical topics, guidance in use of the Family History Library, receptions, group meal and a historical tour of the city are all included. Accommodations will be at the Wyndham Hotel, only one and a half blocks from the Family History Library.
- **Come Home to New England,** 30 July to 6 August 2000, at NEHGS. Search for your roots with NEHGS help at their library, one of the world's best facilities for genealogical research. Accommodations will be at the John Hancock Conference Center nearby.
- **New England Summer Conference for Genealogists,** 18 August to 19 August 2000, Farmington, CT: two days of lecture topics focusing on New England genealogical research and general methodology, as well as a special hands-on workshop on land platting. This conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Farmington, CT, close to I-84, and just 10 minutes southwest of downtown Hartford. ■

(Continued from page 1)

## LIBRARY

Stearns, 4 vols.; *Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York and the Hudson River Valley*, Reynolds, 3 vols.; *Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families*, Talcott; *American Genealogist*, Jacobus, six bound vols. 38-49 and paper-bound quarterlies, Vol. 50 nos. 1-4 and Vol. 53 no. 1; *Genealogical Register of the Town of Litchfield, Conn.*, George C. Woodruff; *Mayflower Index*, Rev., Vols. 1&2 combined and Vol. 3; *Newcomb Genealogy*, *Descendants of Andrew Newcomb*; *Genealogy of the Benedicts in America*; *Genealogical History of the Descendants of Joseph Peck*; *Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy*, *First Families of America*, Virkus, Vols. 1 & 2 (to Darien Library to complete their 6-vol. set).

Two titles, *Massachusetts Genealogy*, 4 vols., and *Order of the Founders and Patriots of America*, are being returned to the Darien Historical Society because copies are already on shelves at Darien Library. ■

## CHICK SCRIBNER HONORED BY THE DAR

On 24 March MGS board member Chick Scribner received the DAR Community Service Award for achievement in educational, humanitarian, patriotic, historical, citizenship, and environmental endeavors. Chick, a Darien High School graduate who was a Cub Scout and Boy Scout in Darien, has a long record of community service. Among his activities: He served as Scout Master and District and Unit Commissioner and has received six scouting awards. He has also served as a Little League coach and been a Darien Old Timers' Athletic Association honoree. He is a charter member and past adjutant of the Darien VFW. In addition, he has been Line Officer, First Assistant Chief and House Committee Chairman of the Noroton Heights Fire Department and has received four fire department awards. Congratulations Chick! ■

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2000**



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

**MEETING**  
**8 APRIL 2000, 2 P.M.**  
**DARIEN LIBRARY**

