

# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXII, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

November 2006

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I again would like to congratulate and thank past president Donna Moughty for her many contributions to our society. Her 7 October presentation on Irish research was outstanding and very informative.

In my quest to improve success in meeting the goals of promoting the study of family history, I am soliciting the aid of the members of this society to become proactive on a few committees to ease the workload of board members.

The committees that I need your help on are: the Membership Committee, the Publicity Committee, Newsletter, and the Program Committee. These committees are now directed by board members who have given many years to Middlesex Genealogical Society and are now looking for help.

I also have met with the folks from Darien Library where our society meets and find that they are really anxious for us to promote genealogy at the library. A new computer has been purchased for genealogy use, and the library is installing programs for research on it now. These include FamilySearch, Ancestry, and Heritage Quest. I would also like to support this area with volunteer members willing to spend a few hours at the library to help patrons get started with their family research.

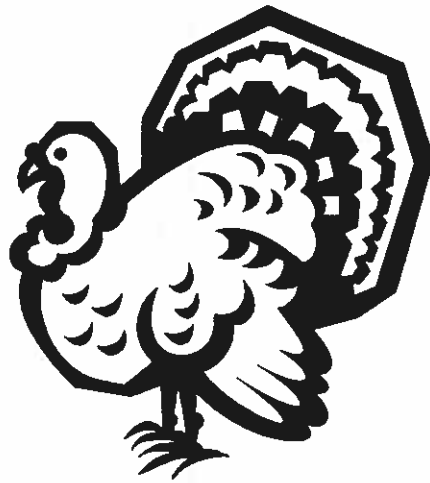
Anyone willing to become active on one of these committees or programs should contact me by e-mail at [lrskooter@snet.net](mailto:lrskooter@snet.net) or telephone me at 203-438-9105.

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

## LIBRARY NEWS

by C. Scribner

The new Middlesex Genealogical Society computer and printer have been installed and tested by Judy Sgamato of the library staff and by three members of the MGS board of directors. This computer is for use by genealogists only.



Those requiring assistance should be directed to Lloyd Sturges via e-mail at [lrskooter@snet.net](mailto:lrskooter@snet.net), or telephone 203-438-9105. This information will be posted next to the MGS computer. ■

## 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due 1 January 2007. *Please consider this to be your renewal notice.* You may use the application form on page 7 of this newsletter if you wish, or a plain piece of paper, marked renewal, with your name and address. Please note that current members need *not* provide us with any information that we already have, so we do not need to see or receive another copy of a photo ID. We would, of course, like to be informed of any significant changes, such as a new e-mail address. You may bring your renewal to our 18 November meeting, or drop it in the mail addressed to Middlesex Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820. Annual dues are \$20 per individual, \$25 per couple or family.

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2006-2007 OFFICERS

Lloyd Sturges	President
Robert E. Kenyon III	Vice President
Dale Pollart	Treasurer
Joan Rinaldi	Secretary

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

William Atkinson  
Jim Baker  
Virginia Banerjee  
Carolyn Barfuss  
Lee Fingar  
Philip Morehouse  
Kathy O'Farrell  
Marianne Sheldon  
Lloyd Sturges

Donna Moughty	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor

### TRUSTEES

Emeline Fatherley  
Mary Freedman  
Henry Hoff  
Thomas Kemp  
Grant Radmall

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 \$20 per individual and \$25 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://mgs.darien.org>

E-mail: [mgs3@optonline.net](mailto:mgs3@optonline.net)

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

**18 NOVEMBER 2006. CENSUS: A RESEARCH TOOL** will be presented by **LLOYD STURGES**. This presentation will describe censuses from ancient times to today, define what is meant by the word census, and discuss where to find census information all around the world.

Now President of Middlesex Genealogical Society, Lloyd is a Family History Consultant and was Administrator for the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in New Canaan from 1987 to 2004. He started doing his own genealogy research in 1957 before the age of computers, but adapted happily to the helpful new technologies. Lloyd is also current Director of Professional Development for the Northeast Region Civil Air Patrol Aux. USAF, former Wing Commander of Connecticut Wing Civil Air Patrol Aux. USAF, and current Assistant District Commissioner, Powohay District, Connecticut Yankee Council, Boy Scouts of America.

**27 JANUARY 2007. CROSSING THE POND-FINDING IMMIGRANT ORIGINS** will be presented by **LARRY S. FERMI**. This presentation will discuss how to use United States country-of-arrival records to determine the city and country of origin of an immigrant ancestor or relative.

Larry has been a member of the Monmouth County Genealogy Society's Education Committee since 2001 and served as Vice President and Program Chair 2003 to 2005. He is a popular speaker on basic and advanced genealogy and property research in the Northeast, including New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Delaware, and has been performing in-depth family history research since 1989 with a focus on European immigration during the peak periods of the 19th and early 20th centuries. He is particularly expert in Italian immigration. Larry is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Speaker's Guild and the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. As a researcher, Larry has been featured on CNN's Open House program and NY Public Radio's Cityscape Public Affairs program.

**17 MARCH 2007. THE IRISH COME TO NEWTOWN: A WORKFORCE FOR INDUSTRY IN A RURAL COMMUNITY.** will be presented by **HARLAN JESSUP**. This is a case study specifically about the Irish immigration to Newtown, Conn., in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but it has implications for Irish immigration to other area communities. Harlan will take only a brief look at Irish immigration into Darien and perhaps surrounding towns such as Norwalk, Stamford, and New Canaan. The hope is that the Newtown study will serve as a model for others to report on similar immigration to their own towns.

Harlan is a professional genealogist whose research focuses on

*(Continued on page 8)*

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## CREATING GOLDEN QUERIES

You have probably had someone say to you "a penny for your thoughts" many times in your life. But have you ever stopped to think of the worth, the value, of a query you plan to post on a RootsWeb mailing list or a RootsWeb/Ancestry message board? Consider your goal before posting a genealogical query. There is a certain amount of information you already know, and, of course, there's additional information you wish to learn. You can best accomplish the goal of discovering new information if your query clearly and concisely states what facts you already know, and plainly asks for the information you wish to learn. First, consider the audience to whom you want to direct your query. Do not expect the subscribers to an Ohio County list to be able to answer a query about your ancestors who lived in Missouri. Don't ask about Irish ship lists or which genealogy software is best suited to your needs on a list devoted to Alsace-Lorraine research.

You may be subscribed to one or several lists and feel it won't hurt to ask the list members with whom you have already become acquainted to answer your question about software or ships. You may feel as though your fellow list members are extended "family," but those list members are not the most knowledgeable researchers about subject matter not covered by the lists to which they belong.

Find a list or board devoted to the topic of your query in order to find the "experts" on that topic. For lists, you will need to subscribe to post your query, but once you have obtained your answer and no longer have any interest in (or need for) the subject matter being discussed on the list, you can always unsubscribe. You can find the most appropriate list for your at <http://lists.rootsweb.com/>

With message boards, you do not need to subscribe in order to post, and, if the board is gatewayed to the corresponding list, you have the added benefit of the list members' seeing your query and possibly responding. You can find the most appropriate board for your query at <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>

Once you have found the most appropriate forum for posting your query, your second consideration is choosing an eye-catching and informative, yet brief, subject. Subjects are like an advertising banner for your query. They either immediately catch someone's

eye and stir interest in reading your message in full, or they result in your query being overlooked due to a dull or poor subject line.

Subjects such as "Help," "Genealogy," "Research," or "Looking for Family" tell the reader nothing. On a genealogy list or board everyone is looking, researching, and needing help. Get to the crux of the matter. Put yourself in the place of the unknown reader who is going to find your message in his incoming e-mail or who is going to be browsing through a message board index page. Include the name, dates, places of the people about whom your query revolves—and avoid abbreviations. Think. Will your cousin in New Zealand, who has your mutual ancestor's 1852 family Bible, know who and what you are talking about? Leave no doubt; spell everything out. Take time to plan and prepare your subject line and query before posting it. Don't rely on impulse. There is no rush to post a query. Your ancestors are not going anywhere; they will still be here tomorrow if you are not completely satisfied with the wording you have selected for your query today.

Review the wording of your query after you have constructed it to be sure you have answered the specific questions regarding the *who* you are writing about, *what* you are looking to learn, *where* the family lived, and *when* they lived there. Ask yourself whether you would understand your query if you were not familiar with this family or ancestor. If you can answer "Yes" to all of the above, your query may be ready to post. Take another run-through to check for spelling errors and incorrect dates and for anything that might be extraneous to the basics of your query. If someone responds to your message, you can always flesh out the details about how your great-grandfather built his own sod house on the prairie in a later e-mail reply. Lengthy details that add nothing to the specifics of your query often tend to lose the reader's interest, especially if the reader has no apparent connection to your ancestors. Remember that while *your* genealogy is extremely interesting to *you*, others may not be engrossed in all the details. If you keep the message brief and get to the point of your query—perhaps a lookup in the 1900 census—someone, even someone unconnected to your ancestors, might just keep reading long enough to realize he or she can help you. All of the above considerations add value to your query. Your choice of words can be worth far

more than the proverbial "penny for your thoughts," if you take time to plan and prepare. A well-constructed query can be as valuable as gold.

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 7, No. 22, 2 June 2004. ■

## ***AN URGENT REQUEST!***

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2006 by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>

### **NARA BUDGET ISSUES CLARIFIED**

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) budget has been the cause of much recent consternation amongst genealogists. The proposed cut-backs will hamper the research efforts of many. A recent announcement that that "all is well" at NARA turns out to be false; the money returned to the budget did not get reallocated to operating expenses. Instead, it went back to the General Fund.

Professional genealogists Marie Melchiori and Claire Bettag met with an NARA representative to discuss the budget crisis. A letter writing campaign by concerned genealogists is needed NOW. Here is their report of the meeting:

National Archives officials have provided a clarification of the budget situation. Outlined below is their assessment.

Their facts show that action is again needed from NARA users. To affect NARA's current budget and future funding, action is needed within the next WEEK, while the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is considering NARA's budget!

Assessment of the financial situation at NARA:

- The National Archives (including the presidential libraries) faces a budget shortfall of between \$10 and \$12 million for FY 2007. The shortfall is in base funding that supports the day-to-day operations of the archives and represents fixed must-pay bills (people, buildings, utilities, security).
- The shortfall is caused by steep increases nationwide in utilities, security, information technology, and rent. (NARA comprises 36 facili-

ties in 20 states and the District of Columbia).

- In addition, NARA had to absorb across-the-board appropriation reductions and fund civilian pay raises for several fiscal years.
- To survive, NARA has cut back on building security, instituted a hiring freeze, offered retirement buyouts, and reduced hours of service to the public.
- It is no news that funding is tight for the non-homeland security civilian side of government right now...but what may be news is its impact on a program like the National Archives and the presidential library system.

Consequently, everyone in the genealogical community is strongly urged to help. Here's what we all need to do—in the next week:

- 1 Write to our congressmen and senators expressing our support for full funding of the National Archives program for FY 2007—including operations, the Electronic Records Archives (ERA) program, the repair and restorations projects, and the National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).
- 2 Write to the director of OMB to ask for major "catch-up" funds in the NARA budget for FY 2008. Ongoing operation of NARA, a vital agency, requires it. Moreover, NARA's ability to take in the president's records and support his library in 2009 demands it. Write to:

Mr. Rob Portman  
Director, Office of Management and Budget  
725 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20503  
Fax: 202-395-3888

Action in the next ONE WEEK is crucial, while the Office of Management and Budget is considering NARA's budget. Thank you, in advance, for helping the National Archives!

Marie Melchiori, CG, CGL

Claire Bettag, CG, CGL

6 November 2006 ■

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

## IRELAND'S CHURCH RECORDS

7 October 2006

Once again, Donna Moughty did an excellent job explaining a very difficult subject. Irish ancestors are generally recognized as being elusive, and the complex religious situation confuses research efforts still more. In a country where the population has always been overwhelmingly Catholic (78% in 1861), the Church of Ireland (Anglican, 12% in 1861) was established by Queen Elizabeth I of England in 1560 as the State Church. For centuries thereafter it was illegal to be a Catholic, and severe penalties were enacted to ensure that Catholics were barred from education and severely limited in career options and property ownership.

There were other religions, too. After land was cleared of the native Irish and settlers brought in from Scotland to establish "plantations" in what is now Northern Ireland, there was a significant number of Presbyterians (9% in 1861). There were also small numbers of Methodists, Congregationalists, Huguenots, Baptists, and Quakers (collectively about 1% in 1861, known, along with the Presbyterians, as nonconformers), and a very small number of Jews. A Toleration Act passed late in the 17<sup>th</sup> century eased many of the restrictions against Protestant nonconformers, but Catholic emancipation had to wait until late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a series of laws gradually relaxed restrictions.

Financial support for the Church of Ireland as the State Church was expected from everyone within the geographic boundaries of the parish. For a long time the State Church was the only one that could legally perform a marriage and it also held most of the burying grounds. For these reasons, regardless of affiliation, whatever Church of Ireland records still exist should be checked. Nevertheless, It is important to determine to which church your ancestors belonged.

Civil parish designations tend to correspond to Church of Ireland parish designations. When the Catholic Church was finally allowed to function openly, the few clergy available had to cover extremely large areas. Then, as resources grew, these large areas were broken into new parishes and dioceses covering smaller geographic areas, often with different names. To find the name of the Roman Catholic parish, you first need to determine the civil parish. After you have done that, consult the *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*, Dublin, 1861, reprinted by GPC, Baltimore, 1984, to determine the civil parish.

Now, you will want to discover what records are available for the area of interest to you. Donna mentioned James Ryan's *Irish Church Records, Their History, Avail-*

*ability and Use in Family and Local History Research*, Flyleaf Press, Dublin, 2001, as a good source.

Remember that even though many Church of Ireland Registers stored in the Public Record Office in Dublin were destroyed in the 1922 fire, other church documents and records, such as vestry minutes, pew rentals, and confirmation lists, may remain in existence. Some are in local custody, but some have been microfilmed. ■

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

**National Archives and Records Administration Northeast Region** is offering free programs at two locations:

**New York City**, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, 201 Varick St. will present **Finding Family: Using NARA's Underutilized Resources** on Tuesdays, 14 Nov. and 12 Dec. 2006, 12:30-1:30 PM.

Special events and programs throughout November will celebrate America's veteran's. Several may be of interest to genealogists:

- **Out of Fire and Valor: The War Memorials of New York From the Revolution to 9/11.** will be presented by Cal Snyder, historian, photographer and Vietnam veteran on Fri., 10 Nov. 2006 at 12:30 PM.
- **Teaching With Documents: Introduction to Document Analysis Workshop**, 30 Nov. 2006, 4:30-6 PM.
- **Teaching With Documents: Finding Primary Sources Online**, 7 Dec. 2007, 4:30-6 PM.

For more information visit NARA's website at: <http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/> To register for any of these free programs, telephone toll-free (866) 840-1752 or e-mail [newyorkarchives@nara.gov](mailto:newyorkarchives@nara.gov)

**Waltham, Mass**, 380 Trapelo Rd., These free lectures last for approximately 90 minutes and begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives take place a half hour before the lectures. Light refreshments will be served. For more information and to register call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail [waltham.archives@nara.gov](mailto:waltham.archives@nara.gov)

- **Passenger Lists and Canadian Border Crossing Records**, 14 Nov. 2006.
- **Naturalization Records**, 5 Dec. 2006.
- **Customs House Records**, 9 Jan. 2007.
- **African-American Resources in the Records of the Freedmen's Bureau**, 6 Feb. 2007.
- **Introduction to Genealogy**, 6 March 2007.
- **Census, Naturalization & Passenger Lists**, 3 April and 7 Aug. 2007.
- **Introduction to Preservation**, 1 May 2007.
- **Records Related to Military Service 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**, 5 June 2007.

**New York Genealogical & Biographical Society**, 122-126 E.58 St., New York, N.Y. 10022; telephone 212-755-8532. NYG&B will sponsor another of its popular **Albany Research** programs Wed. through Fri., 15-17 Nov. 2006—three days of guided research at the New York State Library, State Archives, and other Albany repositories. This program features orientations conducted by library and archives staff; three days of research assisted by the library and archives staff, volunteers from the Capital District Genealogical Society, and NYG&B experts from our staff and Education Committee; a Wednesday banquet at the hotel with a talk by Meldon Wolfgang III; and a wine and cheese reception on Thursday evening. The program fee, including the banquet, reception, and all other arrangements, is \$100 for members, \$125 for non-members. We have arranged a special room rate at the Crowne Plaza Albany City Center Hotel, of \$99 per night, single or double. Please call the hotel directly at 518-462-6611 and mention that you are attending the NYG&B program to get this rate. To register onlorkshine visit [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

**2007 Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy** will take place 8-12 January 2007 at the Radisson Hotel in Downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. Choose one of 10 courses of study: American Records, Focus on Localities; Midwest Research (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin); Irish Research; German Research (Germany, Switzerland, Austria); Migration, America on the Move; Effective Software Use for Genealogy; Advanced New England Research (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont); Producing a Quality Family Narrative; Operating a Successful Business; and Problem Solving. For more information and to register online, visit the Utah Genealogical Association website at <http://infouga.org/site>

**2007 National Genealogical Society Research Trip to Salt Lake City**, Sun.-Sun., 14-21 January 2007. The trip package price (\$595 for a shared room, \$915 for a single room, slightly more for nonmembers) includes seven nights at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel, located next door to the library. As in previous years, the trip will be co-led by Dereka Smith, MLS, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS. For registration and more information, visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/edutripsaltlake.cfm> Questions can be sent to [lund@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:lund@ngsgenealogy.org).

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**, 101 Newberry St., Boston, MA 02116 (toll-free 888-286-3447) is offering a **Winter Research Weekend Getaway** 8-10 Feb. 2007. Join the NEHGS staff for guided research, one-on-one consultations, lectures, and special access to

their collections. Bring your charts and count on making research breakthroughs. The fee for all three days is \$285. The nearby Charlesmark Hotel is suggested for accommodations. For more information, visit [www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/) To register contact Amanda Batey at [tours@nehgs.org](mailto:tours@nehgs.org)

**Ancestor Seekers LLC**, P.O. Box 9876, Salt Lake City, UT 84109 (toll-free 877-896-0974), is offering their 7<sup>th</sup> **Salt Lake City Research Trip**, which includes research assistance, at the Family History Library, genealogy lectures, and recreational events during the week of Sun., 18 Feb. to Sat., 24 Feb. 2007. For more information visit <http://www.ancestorseekers.com/slcr.htm>

**New England Regional Genealogical Conference, New England CONNECTIONS 2007** will be held Thurs., 26 April to Sat., 29 April 2007 in Hartford, Conn. For more information visit the conference website at [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org).

**The National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR)**, held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and College Park, Maryland, is an intensive program offering onsite examination of federal records. Designed for experienced researchers, it is *not* an introduction to genealogy. The next institute will be held Sun.-Sat., 15-21 July 2007, and will focus on commonly used immigration, military, land, cartographic, African American, and nonpopulation census records. Complementing those core lectures will be presentations on lesser-known federal records useful to family historians. The program includes one day at Archives II and optional sessions at the Library of Congress and the DAR library.

Enrollment is limited, and the class fills quickly. Tuition is \$350 for applications postmarked by 15 May, or \$400 thereafter. Scholarships are available. For more information or to receive an application brochure, see the institute's Website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natngen/> and add your name to the mailing list; or e-mail [NatInsGen@juno.com](mailto:NatInsGen@juno.com) or write to NIGR, P.O. Box 724, Lanham, MD 20703-0724. ■

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## UK SKYPECASTS

Dick Eastman now has a regularly scheduled UK Skypecast the third Saturday of each month at 3 PM Eastern Time. To join the conversation, go to the Skypecast Directory at <http://skypecasts.skype> and look for the EOGN Skypecast, which will be listed as active. There is no cost for participation. ■

# MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 1111

Darien, CT 06820

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Annual dues: \$20/individual, \$25/couple or family. Photo I.D. (e.g., driver's license), required. If joining/renewing in person, show photo I.D.; if via mail, send copy of photo I.D. Please consider adding a contribution to support our genealogical resource expansion.**

**Code of Ethics:** In consideration of being accepted as a member(s) of the above society and in order to protect the integrity of Public Records and Library Books, I/we am/are ethically bound and hereby agree that I/we will research Vital Records for Genealogical or Historical purposes only. I/we also agree:

1. That I/we will treat with the greatest care and respect all Public Records and Library Books that may be made available for my/our use;
2. I/we will respect the privacy of the individuals whose information I/we may encounter in my/our research;
3. I/we will respect the custodians of the records.

This pledge is freely made by me under penalty of forfeiting my membership in the society.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Previous Member Yes  No

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of co-applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Previous Member Yes  No

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)  
Full Name of Applicant

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)  
Full Name of Co-applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address (mandatory):

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address:

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ 9-digit Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Applicant's Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Place of Co-applicant's Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation of Co-applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we belong to the following Historical Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we belong to the following Genealogical Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we belong to the following Lineage Societies: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for interest in genealogy: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

MGS use only. Photo I.D. <input type="checkbox"/>
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**MGS CALENDAR**

*(Continued from page*

Connecticut, western Massachusetts, and the lower Hudson Valley. He is Editor of Connecticut Ancestry and past President of that society. He is also an accredited researcher at the Connecticut State Library, and he has published the Civil War letters and diaries of his Virginia ancestors.

**12 MAY 2007. HIDDEN IN VAULTS: LESSER KNOWN TREASURES FOUND IN TOWN HALLS** will be presented by **THOMAS HOWARD**. Local governments have for years collected and stored many diverse and valuable genealogical gems. We know about vital records and land records, but towns have touched citizens in many other ways leading to significant and sometimes illuminating paper trails.

A retired high school teacher, Tom is now a full time professional genealogist. He has taught genealogy classes, lectured at social studies regional and national conferences, including last year's NERGC regional conference in North Falmouth. He has lectured on several genealogical topics to the Daughters of the American Revolution,

Westchester County Genealogical Society, Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Southington Genealogical Society, Naugatuck Valley Genealogical Club, Middlesex Genealogical Society, and others. He is Chairman of the Connecticut Genealogical Coalition, a founding member of the Town Clerks and Genealogists Action Group, President of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, and is on the Board of Directors of NERGC and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. He will co-chair NERGC's 2007 Hartford conference. He is a member of APG, NEHGS, Connecticut Ancestry and numerous other genealogical or historical organizations. He is a former President of the East Granby Historical Society and currently is President of the East Granby Land Trust. ■

**Deadline for next newsletter  
9 January 2007**

**MEETING  
18 NOV. 2006  
DARIEN LIBRARY**

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

