



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

April 2006

MGS BOARD'S MESSAGE

Since we currently have no president, it must fall to someone else to fill this space! The MGS board is currently "holding things together"...and taking turns chairing board meetings. Thanks to Pete Kenyon's good work, there are still exciting programs ahead.

This is YOUR organization. It is time (past time) for you to step forward and help. We need some new board members and we need a PRESIDENT. When lots of people help, the responsibilities are not overwhelming.

Donna Moughty's message in the January newsletter outlined the variety of jobs that need to be done.

Come on folks...pick an assignment and HELP! And we thank those who do help. Applause for Joan Rinaldi who has joined the board as secretary.

Since I am in the mode of *things we ought to do*... here are several other topics for your attention.

"I'm going to write a book someday"...or the variant..."you ought to write a book or an article or something." Perhaps many of us have thought or heard comments like these. This is one of those tasks we really should attend to lest the research we have done becomes lost. I realize that many of us would rather hunt elusive records, crawl around in court house basements, visit libraries and repositories or struggle over stone walls. Somehow, the writing gets pushed further and further down on the to-do list or becomes a perennial New Year's Resolution! At the last several conferences I have attended, speaker after speaker has emphasized the need to publish our work in some form. Don't wait until you have time and content for a book. Pick a piece of your research, an individual/family or a problem (solved or unsolved) and write about it. Popular genealogy magazines, scholarly journals and all manner of newsletters seek material. Publishing may not only help others but the very process of formulating our data and thinking about a segment of our research can help us to *see* where our research needs to go.

"What is going to happen to all your files someday?" is another theme I keep hearing and mulling over in my mind. Some of us have relatives and descendants who are interested in picking up where we leave off. Others are waiting for the bug to bite their family members. I suppose how urgent this question is depends on where we think or hope we are in our life's journey. Perhaps the key task we need to address is the organization of our files. There is probably no "one right way" for our day-to-day purposes although the systems archivists use to organize manuscript collections can offer guidance. My files, and perhaps

yours as well, have really grown and expanded over time. Many of us use computer software to manage our data. In the context of these comments, I am thinking more of the paper we have collected over the years: the documents, original and photocopies, census extractions, photos, books and our copious notes. Could anyone else make sense of our files if

we are not around to explain? Folders, binders, file cabinets are far superior to *shoe boxes*! Get large quantities of these so that you can sort and identify like materials by name, place, or type, etc. Take time to write out a brief description of your personal filing system.

If you do not have family members interested and willing to be the recipient of your files, explore repositories in the geographic area(s) to which your research pertains. Historical and genealogical societies, local and state archives or similar repositories are possible candidates to which you can gift your collection. Explore their rules and accession policies. Think about a monetary contribution to help support your collection. Repositories of all sorts are far more likely to welcome personal papers which are well organized and supported by a financial gift.

OK...now it's time to volunteer to help MGS, publish something, organize your files and think about the future of all your research! Thank you.

Virginia Banerjee
Board Member at Large



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2005-2006 OFFICERS

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

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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 \$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
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Homepage: <http://mgs.darien.org>
E-mail: mgs3@optonline.net

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

13 MAY 2006 is our **Annual General Meeting**, during which a few minutes will be utilized to elect new officers and board members. Please note the program **change** as Thomas V. Howard, is unavailable.

Instead, **FREDERICK C. HART, JR.** will present **FINDING AND USING ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS FOR FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH**. This talk discusses the nature of original documents and how all genealogists should be able to find them for and implement them in a family history project. Special attention is paid to the types of documents available, repositories, search methods, techniques for using, and citation requirements. This illustrated lecture includes many examples from a local Historical Society's collection and from the speaker's own personal collection.

Fred is a certified genealogist, specializing in the families of Fairfield County and the Connecticut shoreline. After a career in electrical engineering and management with New England's largest electric utility, Fred has focused on genealogy. His articles have appeared in many of the major genealogical journals, including *The American Genealogist*, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, and most often in *Connecticut Ancestry* where he has been a regular contributor since 1989. Having ancestors from Darien on both sides of his family, he is a charter member of the Middlesex Genealogical Society. He is also presently genealogist of Connecticut Ancestry Society and an active member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council and the Connecticut Town Clerks and Genealogists Action Group, in addition to several other historical and genealogical societies. ■

MGS BOARD WELCOMES JOAN RINALDI

The MGS board welcomes our new secretary, Joan Rinaldi. Joan is a native of Long Island, who spent 35 years with IBM in various compensation, communications, and personnel management positions. Her print and video work on compensation received many awards, among them several Gold Eagles from the Council on International Non-Theatrical Events. After retirement from IBM in 1991 she did consulting work for Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield and developed a new compensation system for her alma mater, the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Joan also served as a member of Stamford's Board of Representatives 1991-1993 and then on the City's Personnel Commission until 2000. She was a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Lyric Operetta and is currently serving as president of the Friends of Ferguson Library, Stamford. She has been a member of MGS since 2003. ■

THE STORYTELLERS

This piece was first written in 1943 by Della M. Cummings Wright, who passed away in 2001. In 1981 her granddaughter Della JoAnn McGinnis Johnson, working with her grandmother, rewrote it, making a number of changes and additions. More recently, it has been reworded somewhat yet again and edited by Tom Dunn.

We are the chosen ones. My feeling is that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors: To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell their family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: Tell our story. So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, you have a wonderful family? You would be proud of us! How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow that there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I, and why do I do the things that I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us: That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do. With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are them and they are us.

So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to the one called in the next generation to answer the call and take his or her place in the long line of family storytellers. That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones. ■



RESCUING THE PAST 25 MARCH 2006

Edith Glass, speaker at our 25 March meeting, encouraged all of us to become "storytellers." Edith dated her own interest in genealogy to the death of her father in 1956. When she started her search, she found that her immigrant ancestors had carried no records with them when they came to this country, and that she was dependent for information on the memories of older members of the family and whatever records she could unearth. She likened genealogists to historians who must search records to learn what happened to people. To assist us in the search Edith gave us her:

Memoir Writing Information Sheet

Biography/Autobiography

- Name (include maiden name);
- Relationship;
- Date of birth;
- Place of birth;
- Father's name and occupation;
- Mother's maiden name and occupation;
- Physical description;
- Personality;
- Siblings;
- Residences;
- Education (religious and secular);
- Languages spoken;
- Month, day and year of arrival in U.S.;
- Name of ship;
- Date and place of arrival;
- Employment;
- Hobbies;
- Military service;
- Naturalization papers;
- Children from this marriage (list oldest to youngest—date of birth, and pertinent information);
- Divorce (if applicable);
- Name of second spouse and date and place of marriage;
- Medical information;
- Disabilities—physical and educational;
- Awards;
- Date and place of death—copy of death certificate;
- Name and location of cemetery—plot number and gravestone inscription;
- Newspaper obituaries;
- Other _____.

Handed-Down/Experience Stories

These stories are very important since they

make your chosen person come alive in the mind of the reader. Remember to answer the questions: Who, When, Where, What, and Why.

With this basic information in hand, it should be easy to begin. Edith urged us to be factual always and to use primary sources whenever available. Secondary sources can be used if necessary, but the writer must be clear about the relative value of whatever sources are used.

As an exercise, try listing 10 events in your own life that are well remembered—small snapshots of a life, good times and bad times. Remember that you are a primary source for your own life. Explore what you value, what you believe, what your opinions are. Do not take the “you” out of your life.

Use photos of people and places if they are available, and whatever graphics seem appropriate.

Remember that even if your family members are not important or famous, a description of their lives will illustrate the human condition, and, if you do not write down what you know, your family members may well be forgotten. ■

LDS CONVERSION OF MICROFILM TO DIGITAL RECORDS

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced last year that it would convert its more than 2.4 million genealogy microfilms in the church's granite mountain vault to digital images. At the time that the announcement was made, the conversion was considered to be a long-term project that might take as many as 120 years to complete. In the meantime, however, the church has developed a new technology system called FamilySearch™ Scanning that has cut that estimate to 30 years and perhaps a lot less with additional scanners and volunteers. (Your editor has heard some even more optimistic estimates, one as low as five years.)

Writing in *News from the Church*, Brittany Karford describes the operation as follows:

One vault worker loads rolls of film into a pod of scanners and presses ‘Go.’ The scanner then takes one comprehensive video picture and transfers that continuous file to another computer, where an application analyzes the contrast of the ribbon for quality and splits each frame into individual JPEGs (a digital file of an image). To finish, a good pair of eyes reviews the job and processes the newly created JPEGs. The digital images are then readied for use by the Church's online indexing program,

where volunteers over time will extract the birth, marriage, and death information from the images to create free searchable indexes online (like the 1880 U.S., 1880 Canada, and 1881 British Censuses currently found at FamilySearch.org).

(Brittany Karford's complete article can be read on the Internet at <http://www.lds.org/library/display/0,4945,40-1-3384-9,00.html>)

The new system is so much more efficient than the old that with additional scanners operating and sufficient volunteers the day will come far sooner than originally expected when LDS's vast treasure trove of records will be available at any time, without waiting, to anyone anywhere in the world who has an Internet connection. ■

A NEW WAY TO LEARN: PODCASTS

by Donna M. Moughty

Among other things, genealogy is a life long learning experience. Whether it's attending the MGS meetings, a national or regional conference, reading magazines or journals, or taking a class on the Internet, there's always something to learn. Each new discovery about our ancestors may lead to a new location or new type of record that we must learn about.

When I began my journey, the Internet was not a major force; research was done in libraries, courthouses and archives. Today, newbies sometimes think that all of their research can be done on the Internet, which is not true. The Internet, however, is a great place to learn: to learn about methodology, about history and social customs, about geographic locations, and about what's going on in the genealogical community. A new tool in your learning arsenal is Podcasts. These are radio-type programs that can be downloaded to your computer and that you can listen to at your convenience. You can also download them to your iPod or other MP3 player, or burn them to CD to listen to in your car. Two examples are “Dear Myrtle” and “The Genealogy Guys.”

Pat Richley, or “Myrt” as she is better known in the genealogical community, has been an institution since she ran the first genealogy forums on AOL. An author and teacher, she has a Website, <http://www.dearmyrtle.com> ■

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

1841 CENSUS FOR SCOTLAND IS NOW ONLINE AT SCOTLANDSPEOPLE

ScotlandsPeople has just announced the addition of the 1841 Census for Scotland to its database at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk Other censuses available at this site are the 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901 Censuses for Scotland.

According to ScotlandsPeople, their Website is the result of a partnership between the General Register Office for Scotland, the National Archives of Scotland, and the Court of the Lord Lyon, enabled by IT Company Scotland Online. ScotlandsPeople contains the most comprehensive online set of family history information for any country in the world and is currently one of the largest single information resources on the Web.

In addition to the censuses, the GROS material available includes indexes to the Old Parish Registers (some as early as 1553); indexed digital images of the statutory registers of births for Scotland, 1855-1905; the statutory registers of deaths for Scotland, 1855-1955; and the statutory registers of marriages for Scotland, 1855-1930. (Images linked to index entries for the OPR will become available later this year.) Wills and Testaments from 1513 to 1901 from the National Archives of Scotland are also available.

Although ScotlandsPeople is a fee-based site, some free features are included, e.g., a free surname search where visitors can see how many entries there are under their names in the indexes.

Access to statutory, OPR, and census indexes costs 6£ and can be charged to a credit card. For this fee, you will receive 30 "page credits," which are valid for seven consecutive days. Viewing a page of index results costs one page credit, and each page can contain up to 25 results. (It can also contain only one.) Viewing an image costs five credits (equivalent to 1£). Your session begins when payment has been authorized, and additional credits may be purchased in 6£ increments. A new seven-day access period starts with each new credit purchase, and unused credits from your last purchase will be carried over into the new period.

Although you may search the index for Wills and Testaments free of charge, you must register before doing so. If you wish to view a Will or Testament as a result of your index search, it will cost you 5£ per document, regardless of the length of the document.

Instructions for printing downloaded images are available at the site. ■

UPCOMING SEMINARS

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 122-126 E. 58 St., New York, NY 10022; telephone 212-755-8532. The NYG&B is offering two walking tours that may be of interest.

- **Monuments of Morningside Heights**, Sat., 20 May, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Meet on the steps of St. John the Divine, 111th St. and Amsterdam Ave.
- **Grand Old Park Avenue**, Sun., 4 June, 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., followed by light refreshments at the NYG&B. Meet outside the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, 49th St. and Park Ave.

Reservations are required and registration is limited. Register at the NYG&B Online Store, <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/> or call Lauren Maehrein at 212-755-8532, ext. 36.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newberry Street, Boston, MA 02116; toll-free 888-286-3447.

- **What's New in Essex County Research: A Day of Personal Research and Consultations with NEHGS Genealogists**, 20 May 2006 at the Phillips Library of the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem. Bring your family charts as well as your Salem and Essex County problems to NEHGS staff experts David Dearborn and Christopher Child for their advice and opinions. Our one-day program begins with the lecture "A Cornucopia of Records: Researching Essex County Ancestors," includes time for your personal research and consultations with our expert genealogists, and concludes with a time for sharing the day's success stories. Registration Fees: \$95 for members, \$115 for non-members. For more information, visit www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/essex_county_research.asp
- **Come Home to New England**, Mon.-Sat., 19-24 June 2006. Enjoy a week of guided research in the NEHGS library, personal one-on-one research consultations, morning lectures, and special access to the library when it is normally closed to the public. The lectures will include a tour of NEHGS, which introduces first-time researchers to the library and updates long-time participants on the latest resources. This year's Come Homers can opt to take part in an optional tour of The Bostonian Society's Old State House museum. Registration fee, \$720; non-participating spouse, \$100. Registration fees increase by \$200 per category after 20 May 2006. Space is limited, so please register soon to reserve your place. For more information, visit www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/come_home06.asp

- **New Online Seminar: Getting Started in Irish Genealogy.** NEHGS has just added the latest in a series of online seminars to www.NewEnglandAncestors.org. This new online seminar, along with the rest of the series, is available at www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/online_lectures.asp

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., 16-22 July 2006, and will focus on immigration, military, land, cartographic, postal, African American, legislative records, and more. One day at Archives II and optional evening sessions at the Library of Congress and the DAR library are included.

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/~natgenin/> and add your name to the mailing list; or e-mail NatInsGen@juno.com or write to NIGR, P.O. Box 724, Lanham, MD 20703-0724.

National Archives Northeast Region, New York City. These programs are free, but advance registration is required. For more information and to register, e-mail newyork.archives@nara.gov

- **Using Customs House Records**, Tues., 9 May 2006, 12:30-1:30 PM.
- **Introduction to NARA's Resources**, Wed., 17 May 2006, 3:00-4:00 PM. This workshop will be held at the New York Historical Society, 170 Central Park W., at 77th St.
- **Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors**, Thurs., 18 May and Thurs., 15 June 2006, 1:00-3:00 PM. These programs will be held at the Ellis Island Museum on Ellis Island.
- **NARA's Online Resources**, Wed., 24 May 2006, 3:00-4:00 PM. This program will be at the New York Historical Society.
- **E Vet Recs: Finding Military Records Online**, Tues., 13 June 2006, 12:30-1:30 PM.

National Archives Northeast Region, 380 Trapelo Rd., Waltham, MA. These free lectures last for approximately 90 minutes and begin at 2:00 PM. 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

- **Customs House Records**, Tues., 9 May 2006.
- **Records Relating to Sailors and Seamen**, Tues., 23 May 2006.
- **Naturalization Records**, Tues., 13 June 2006.
- **Census, Naturalization & Passenger Lists**, Tues., 27 June 2006.

National Genealogical Society Conference in the States and Gentech, "They Passed This Way," will take place at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, IL 60018 (near Chicago's O'Hare Airport), 7-10 June 2006, Wed.-Sat. The overall program is designed to focus attention on methodology, overcoming adversity and achieving success. The conference will bring together genealogists of varying skill levels, professionals and nonprofessionals, who share a common desire to learn more. Presenters are experts in their fields and nationally known speakers. For more information and to register, visit www.ngsgenealogy.org. You may also reach NGS toll-free at (800) 473-0060, fax (703) 525-0052, or e-mail conference@ngsgenealogy.org

Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; 888-FGS-1500. The annual conference of FGS that takes place at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston Wed.-Sat., 30 Aug. to 2 Sept. 2006 (cosponsored by NEHGS), will be the largest genealogical conference ever. Presentations by nationally and internationally known speakers will be given on a truly dizzying number of subjects. During the conference free consultations with professional genealogists will be available to all attendees. For more information, visit the conference Website at:

<http://www.fgs.org/2006conf/FGS-2006.htm>

2006 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Sun.-Fri., 13-19 Aug. 2006, the largest ever Jewish genealogy conference will offer more than 180 programs incorporating history, genealogy, sociology, anthropology, economics, geography, technology and DNA to about 2,000 anticipated international attendees with a passion for the past. The six-day IAJGS Jewish genealogy conference will offer a wide variety of lectures, panels, workshops networking, and even musical programs. A special focus will be on high-tech genealogy research through the use of a unique computer education center. The hands-on class schedule provides computer learning opportunities in everything from basic computer 101 to searching online genealogical databases and how to create a genealogy Web site. For more information visit the conference Website at <http://genealogy.about.com/b/a/255772.htm?r=94> ■

CONNECTICUT'S BARBOUR COLLECTION OF VITAL RECORDS 28 JANUARY 2006

The colonial government of Connecticut in 1640, 1644, 1650, 1694, and 1702 passed statutes requiring the recording of vital records. The quality of these records varies, depending on the standards of individual town clerks.

During his service as Connecticut State Examiner of Public Records, 1911-1934, Lucius Barnes Barbour began the collection of Connecticut vital records now known as the Barbour Collection. He was experienced, as he had supervised the publication in 1909 of Bolton and Vernon vital records for the Connecticut Historical Society. He hired several transcribers to process records from most of the other Connecticut towns, the best known of whom was James N. Arnold, who had published Rhode Island vital records.

These transcripts were presented to the Connecticut State Library where the information was typed onto printed forms. Each form was cut into 12 small strips. The strips for a town were alphabetized and the information typed on large sheets that were then bound into a volume for that town. Slips for all towns were assembled and alphabetized, which produced a statewide slip-index/abstract of most surviving town records to about 1850. This is arranged alphabetically by name, and then chronologically. There are more than a million of these alphabetized slips in index drawers, each slip containing an abstract of the event, with whatever additional information (e.g., parents, residence, relationship) was provided in the original entry, plus a citation at the bottom of each slip to the source of the original information, giving town, volume and page number. There are also yellow slips in the same file with similar entries from private sources and institutions. There were omissions. Some works addressing these omissions include:

- **Darien:** Jessup, Harlan R. "Darien Vital Records, Book I: Another Barbour Omission," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 44 (November 2001): 55-59.
- **Guilford:** Jacobus, Donald Lines. "Guilford (Conn.) Vital Records," *The American Genealogist*, vol. 15 (1938) to vol. 19 (1942).
- **Hebron:** Deaths, 1796-1860, in first book of Town Minutes (photocopy at Connecticut State Library).
- **Montville:** Marriages, 1820-1855 (Connecticut State Library Film #78, LDS #0004863); first item on microfilm labeled "Montville Congregational Church (North Parish) 1722-1909."
- **Newtown:** Jessup, Harlan R. "Newtown, CT—Bills of Mortality, 1797-1821: A Supplement to the Barbour

Index," *The Connecticut Nutmegger* 29 (December 1996): 395-407.

- **Shelton:** Jessup, Harlan R. "Huntington (Shelton) Marriages, 1820-1827," *Connecticut Ancestry* 43 (May 2001): 143-146.
 - **Trumbull:** Vital Records, 1796-1847. On microfilm labeled "Trumbull Vital Records" (Connecticut State Library Film #4113, LDS #1491334).
 - **Woodbury:** Plummer, Judith. "Unrecorded Woodbury, CT, Marriages, 1820-1825," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 31 (March 1999): 566-575. Also included by William Cothren in his *History of Ancient Woodbury*, vol. III (Woodbury, CT: 1879): 196-198.
- Some pre-1850 records were never entered in town books.
- **Ashford and Brooklyn:** Labbe, Marilyn. "Corrections and Additions to the Vital Records of Ashford, Connecticut," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 31 June 1999): 375-376.
 - **Newtown:** Jessup, Harlan R. "Newtown Marriages, 1794-1810, a Recent Discovery," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 40 (May 1998): 172-173.
 - **Pomfret:** Labbe, Marilyn. "Six Marriages Performed by Lemuel Ingalls, Justice of the Peace, Pomfret," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 32 (June 1999): 8.
 - **Thompson:** Ullman, Helen Schatvet, and Kathryn Smith Black, "Some Marriages From Records of the First Congregational Church in Thompson, Connecticut Records," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 155 (July 2001): 295-317.
 - **Woodstock:** Labbe, Marilyn. "Records of Jedidiah Morse, Justice of the Peace, Woodstock, CT," *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, 32 (June 1999): 5-6. ■

CIVIL WAR PHOTO INDEX

The United States Army Military History Institute has made available an index of American Civil War photographs from the Special Collections Branch of US-AMHI. Eventually, this database will reflect the full range of USAMHI's photo collection from periods of the Mexican War in the 1840s to recent operations such as those in Somalia and Bosnia.

At present, this is an index only, and index entries are not yet linked to images. Searches can be done for individual names, units, places, and significant events, however, and copies ordered of items of potential interest. Up to two photocopies of photographs will be mailed to you, without charge, for examination and approval, along with more detailed instructions, including charges for duplicating photos. Mail a check for items that you want, and, after processing, the photos will be sent to you. ■

ACCESS TO CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Believe it or not, many genealogists' requests to the federal government for citizenship and immigration information about ancestors are currently routed to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services within the Department of Homeland Security. If you are looking for this type of information for anytime later than the early 20th century, your request must be filed under the Freedom of Information Act and will be processed by USCIS. This is both cumbersome and expensive. USCIS has proposed a genealogy program that will simplify the process to make it faster and more economical for both the government and applicants.

Comments on this proposal are being solicited. Go to <http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/whatsnew.htm> and click on "Latest Federal Register Announcements." Then click on "Establishment of a Genealogy Program, No. FR20357." ■

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Family considerations have made production of this newsletter increasingly difficult for me over the past year and a half. It is time for a new editor to take on the task, and I hope that someone among the membership will volunteer.

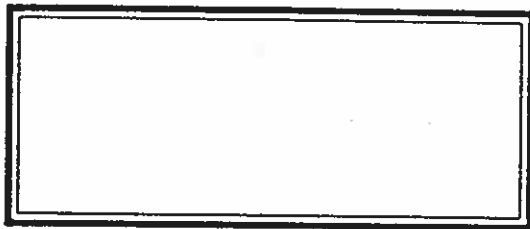
If you are not quite ready to take on the entire job and become our new editor, there are small contributions that can ease any editor's burden:

- Write about a family member or research experience, either successful or unsuccessful.
- Review data sources that you have used.
- Volunteer to write up some or all of our programs.
- Serve as a reporter. Look for usable news items and write them up.

Any scrap of help is welcome and appreciated.

Dorothy Shillinglaw ■

Deadline for next newsletter
August 2006



MEETING
2 PM, 13 MAY 2006
DARIEN LIBRARY

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