



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIV, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

December 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is the time of year that we should be joyous and count the blessings that have been ours this past year. There have been many changes, especially in the world of family search. New sources have been and are being opened each day. Research is becoming much easier, and there are more places to look just on line. We are able to look at an original document in more ways than one. This will help us to eliminate some of the analyzing mistakes that we have made in the past.

I will share with you some of the new areas that I have discovered in the last few months.

The National Homestead Monument of America is digitizing and indexing the Homestead records for the use of all of us. These records will be available to everyone, at no cost, in all of the NARA branches and in Washington, DC. The digitized records will also be free on FamilySearch.

The Homestead Act of 1862 made land available to many folks that could not afford to buy it, and also encouraged people to open the west for new farms and new cities. There were approximately two million homestead entries on public land. Wow, what a gold mine!

I have for a long time used the Hale Collection of Connecticut to search for cemetery records and obituaries. A great search tool, but it has been difficult to access at times. It is now available on line at www.Hale-collection.com

Thirty million more records have been added to the Records Search Pilot Program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints' FamilySearch program. These include U.S. censuses for 1850,

1860, and 1870; also Vermont Probate Records, Quebec Parish Records, Mexico and Germany Baptisms, and Germany Marriages. These records can be viewed at <http://pilot.familysearch.org> So, folks, if you have been stymied in your searches, here are more sources for you.



Well, the move to the new library building is well under way, and we are all looking forward to the New Year and the increase in our service to the people of Darien and the programs we can offer to the world of family search and genealogy. Opening of the new library is scheduled for 10 January.

Have a happy holiday.

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due 1 January 2009. *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, but we would like to be informed of any significant changes, e.g., new e-mail address.

We do not yet know when we will be able to have our first meeting in the new library, so we ask that you please drop your renewal 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

2008-2009 OFFICERS

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

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jim Baker
Virginia Banerjee
Philip Morehouse
Kathy O'Farrell
Marianne Sheldon

Donna Moughty	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor

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 (ISSN 1936-3494). 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>

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

You will note that we still have no information on forthcoming meetings. Until Darien Library is able to confirm specific dates on which their program room will be available to MGS, we are unable to plan programs. This situation will be resolved after the new library opens 10 January, when your patience will be rewarded by a superb new facility. Stay tuned! ■

PROLOGUE ARTICLES

Articles of considerable interest to genealogists have appeared in two recent issues of *Prologue*, which is published quarterly by NARA:

- "The Forgotten Federal Census of 1885," Fall 2008, Vol. 40, No. 3, page 54. Although this census only covers Florida, Nebraska, Colorado, and the territories of New Mexico and Dakota, it is all on microfilm and can fill in gaps for any of us that had family in these areas.
- "Follow the Money," Winter 2008, Vol. 40, No. 4, page 46. This article explains the arduous process that Revolutionary War veterans were required to go through in order to obtain their pension payments. A step-by-step guide through the payment research process is provided, using a veteran of the 15th Massachusetts Regiment as an example. A number of relevant Congressional Acts, Record Groups, files and indexes are discussed. Learn much more about a veteran's life by following his payment record. ■

QUERY

WATERHOUSE, CULVER: Seeking information about Amos WATERHOUSE, b. ca. 1735 in Connecticut to John WATERHOUSE, b. 1690, and Esther CULVER, b. 5 June 1698. Esther CULVER is daughter of John CULVER, b. 1670, and Sarah LONG, b. 1673. Amos WATERHOUSE is believed to have moved ca. 1760 to Washington, NC, and changed his name to WATERS. He married Elizabeth JONES, perhaps before leaving Connecticut. *Clyde Waters, 2604 Craig Rd., Columbia, SC 29204, e-mail chwaters1@aol.com* ■

MGS NEWLETTER

Please remember that we are actively seeking a new editor for our newsletter and consider volunteering. You have knowledge and skills that are needed by your society! ■

CREATING ANCESTRAL TRAVEL TOURS

by Joan K. Rinaldi

It was a bright, sunny, fall afternoon when Sheila D. Andersen, genealogist for the John Clough Genealogical Society since 1996 and formerly Chief, U.S. Operations Officer of Oxford Ancestors, Ltd., drove down to Darien to speak to us. She served up a delightful concoction of genetics, genealogy and the planning of ancestral tours.

Genealogy, it seems, is just about the most popular hobby in the United States. Americans appear to have a “need to know” about the past, prompting the theory that there exists in us a “genetic memory.” DNA, she explained, doesn’t replace traditional research, it may not *prove* familial connections, but it can *disprove* them. The Y chromosome passed from father to son mutates every 750 years or so resulting in jumps, but sufficient markers can be analyzed to determine if men share a common paternal ancestor. Women may take consolation, however, because the Mitochondrial test is available to trace the maternal line.

Before the availability of DNA, the traditional way of researching was through the use of surnames. Surnames originally derived from occupations (Carpenter, Cook, Miller), geographic locations (Brooks; Clough in early England/Wales is a ravine or valley with steep sides), towns (Brandon, Lincoln, Dudley), father’s name (Peterson, Anderson), and physical characteristics (Strong, Redd).

Most of the U.S. population has roots in England and without a language barrier (well, almost without such a barrier) records are easier to read. Connecting with your past, walking in the footsteps of your ancestors so to speak, prompted the creation of the British Ancestor Travel Service of which Mrs. Andersen is the founder and president.

To plan an ancestral tour of a family group or one sharing a common surname, common sense applies; however, to ensure a smooth

trip the following guide-lines were offered:

- Tie up all loose ends; find missing information; note full dates and complete place names. Do your research *before* you go, using LDS records, Ancestry.com, Rootsweb.com, etc.
- Know your goals. How long will the trip last; which ancestral lines will be followed?
- Will the trip include just a few family members or a large group?
- Group travel is more economical. Will a traditional travel agent be used, or should the assistance of a genealogist with group travel experience be employed?
- Group leader: Should you hire an author, speaker, guide, or do it yourself? Remember, the leader needs to know all the details of every single person’s itinerary, emergency contacts, the dates and times of all places to be visited and contacts at each, have maps and a mobile phone, and alternate plans (rain?).
- Transportation: Will you rent a car (directions in other countries may prove baffling); hire a car and driver (remember there are limitations on hours that can be worked); use public transportation (some passes such as BritRail can only be purchased here before you leave; not in the country in which you are traveling)?
- What tourist places are close to your destination and should be visited? What kind of itinerary is planned—circular (starting and ending in the same city) or point-to-point?
- Accommodations: Consider bed-and-breakfast inns, hotels, castles, manor houses. Prices are based on double occupancy; singles are charged extra.
- Air transportation: Will the group travel together or from different starting points? Where will it meet (airport, hotel)?
- Will research be done on the trip? Know the hours/days museums, churches, etc., are open; if laptops, pens, papers are allowed inside; if copiers are available.
- Anticipate delays; plan lightest schedule for day of arrival; have schedule buffers

(alternate plans) lined up.

One final note on packing: With the changes in the airlines today (they are weighing luggage and charging for extra suitcases), it is smart to bring only three days of clothing, but this will work only if one is staying at places where laundry facilities are provided (check).

And does anyone need to be reminded to bring a camera, batteries and extra film/memory disks? Compiling a photo book of the trip is also something that a good leader might consider.

Mrs. Andersen's last slide read:

Cherish the past
Adorn the present
Construct for the future

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY BOOK LOAN COLLECTION

The National Genealogical Society Library Book Loan Collection is located at the St. Louis County Library (SLCL) in St. Louis, Missouri. The collection consists of 20,000+ books, and new titles are being added daily. Almost every book in the NGS Special Collection at St. Louis is available for Interlibrary Loan to everyone—NGS members and nonmembers alike. Check the SLCL NGS Special Collection Online Library Catalog (<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/bookloan.cfm>) to search for books of interest. Books in the NGS collection will show this code: "SLCL—NGS Collection." Please print the catalog record and take it to a public or other library through which you can make the ILL request. Your librarian should contact the St. Louis County Library directly. Their OCLC code is ZAE.

Procedures for Interlibrary Loan

Instructions to Patrons

- Visit the St. Louis County Library NGS Special Collection Online Library Catalog to browse the collection and locate books of interest.
- Look for the books in the circulating collection. They carry this notation: "SLCL—NGS Collection."
- When you find a book of interest, please print

the entire record.

- You may request two books per loan.
- Take the printed catalog records to your local library along with these instructions (copy this article for your librarian) and ask for the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) librarian.

SLCL will also make up to 30 copies from an item, and that service may be preferable for some patrons.

Instructions to Librarians

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) requests may be submitted to SLCL via one of the following:

- OCLC: The symbol is ZAE.
- ALA forms using regular mail to: SLCL, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131-3598.
- E-mail to scollections@slcl.org Include your library's mailing address, phone number and contact person.

Donating Books to the Collection

Authors, compilers, or translators wanting to place their genealogical publication(s) in a circulating collection might want to consider this collection as a repository for their work. Also, libraries with duplicate copies of genealogical books that need a good home may donate them to the collection. For instructions, please contact:

The NGS Book Loan Collection
St. Louis County Library
1640 S. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63131
E-mail: scollections@slcl.org
Phone: (314) 994-3300 ext 208

NARA, NORTHEAST REGION, NYC

Press Release, December 8, 2008

National Archives, New York, To Open Records of the State Districts of New Jersey and New York, Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War), 1863-1866.

WHAT: The Northeast Region's New York City office announces the receipt of over 1,400 volumes of Civil War records previously held in Washington, DC. These volumes document arrested deserters, men enrolled for the draft, enlisted volunteers, and compiled statistics on the physical condition of recruits and military casualties for New York and

New Jersey.

"These heretofore obscure records are now available to a wider audience," explains Patrick Connelly, archivist and Civil War expert at the National Archive, New York. "Their use will dispel historical myths, bridge gaps in family histories, and build on our knowledge of communities during the Civil War."

BACKGROUND: Record Group 110: Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau will provide significant insight into the Civil War era for historians and for genealogists alike. The records cover New York (1861-1868) and New Jersey (1861-1868) and are arranged by draft board. The New York volumes consist of records from 31 districts, records for several state mustering points, and records of the Park and Broome Barracks of lower Manhattan. The New Jersey volumes consist of records from five districts, staff offices, and the Draft Rendezvous Station at Trenton.

While the detail within the records varies from district to district, they can be simply described as lists, reports, ledgers, and correspondence. Specifically, these records may include Registers of Enlistments, Substitutes, and Deserters; Descriptive Lists of Men Ordered To Report for Duty; Registers of Exemptions; Letters Regarding Medical Examinations of Draftees; and Letters Regarding Service. These series will include both those that served and those that didn't serve in the military. Information about the individuals may include names, ages, occupations, physical and mental characteristics, birthplaces, and family relationships. Additionally, essential information concerning freedmen and the New York Draft Riots are included in several series.

WHEN: These records will be available for public use on December 8, 2008.

The National Archives welcomes the general public, historians, genealogists, Civil War enthusiasts, and students to research these essential documents of our past. While the microfilm and online resources are available at all times, researchers are requested to make an appointment to use the original documents of Record Group 110.

The National Archives is open to the public

Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and the first Saturday of each month 8:30 AM to 4 PM (computer and microfilm research only). The National Archives and Records Administration's New York office is located at 201 Varick Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY, 10014. ■

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration Northeast Region is offering free programs at **Waltham, Mass.**, 380 Trapelo Rd. Programs at this location run from **2 to 3:30 PM on Tuesdays**, unless otherwise noted. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives precede the programs and run from 1:30 to 2 PM.

- 6 Jan. 2009, What is Not Online: Guide to NARA's Holdings.
- 3 Feb., African-American and Underdocumented Populations.
- Wed., 18 Feb., 10 AM, Family-Friendly Introduction to Genealogy.
- 3 March, Local History in Federal Records.
- 7 April, Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records.
- Wed., 22 April, 10 AM, Family-Friendly Introduction to Genealogy.
- 5 May, Records Related to Military Service 18th, 19th, and 20th Centuries.
- 2 June, Introduction to Genealogy.
- 7 July, Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records.
- 4 Aug., Saving Your Heritage: Scrapbooking With Marcia Melnyk.

For more information or to register, e-mail waltham.archives@nara.gov or call 866-406-2379.

National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304, 800-473-0060:

- Salt Lake City Research Trip, 25 Jan. through 1 Feb. 2009 with Shirley Wilcox and Marie Melchiori as your research hosts.
- 2009 NGS Conference in the States, The Building of a Nation, From Roanoke to the West, will be held in Raleigh, NC, on 13-16 May 2009 at the new Raleigh Convention Center, 2 East South St. in Raleigh. (The new convention center offers free wireless access in the lobby.)

Hotel accommodations are available in the adjoining Marriott Hotel or nearby Sheraton or New Clarion Hotels. All conference hotels offer free parking to guests. To obtain a conference booklet e-mail rcompton@ngsgenealogy.org If you have any questions about the conference, e-mail jlund@ngsgenealogy.org

Westchester County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10601, presents speakers on genealogical subjects on the second Saturday of each month at 10 AM. (Premeeting networking starts at 9:30 AM.) Unless otherwise noted, meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is asked of nonmembers. You can visit the society's website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywogs>

- 10 Jan. 2009, Return of the Ring by Mary Hoar.
- 14 Feb., Hauntings of the Hudson River Valley by Vincent D'Aquino.
- 14 March, City Directories by Toni McKeen.
- 11 April, Getting the Most Out of the U.S. Census on Ancestry.com by Gordon L McDaniel.
- 9 May, Voyage to America by Leslie Albrecht Huber.
- 13 June, NYC Police Census by Debra Braverman.

Connecticut Ancestry Society Sat., 28 March 2009, 9 AM to 1 PM, at the Bridgeport Public Library, Burroughs-Saden Main Branch, 3rd Floor, 925 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT. For an advance booking (currently only available to CAS members, but opening to the public closer to the date) call the Historical Collections Department to speak with Mary Witkowski or Elizabeth Van Tuyl at 203-576-7417.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society's Education Committee, 122-126 E. 58th St., New York, NY 10022; telephone 212-755-8532 (Website <http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/>), is very pleased to offer once again tours to the Federal and NYC Municipal Archives, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

- **The New York Public Library**, Fri., 13 Feb.

2009, 9:30 AM-12 PM. Ruth Carr, Chief of the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, will give an overview of Genealogy resources. The group will be introduced to the Milstein Division 9:30-10:10 AM; overview of the Map Division 10:15-10:35 AM; microforms 10:40-11 AM; Hands-on access to e-resources 11 AM to 12 PM.

- **Brooklyn Historical Society**, Tues., 24 Feb. 1-4 PM. The Brooklyn Historical Society's library is a wonderful resource for Brooklyn and western Long Island. Registrants will be given a detailed orientation to the collection and time for research on their own.
- **National Archives Northeast Region**, Tues., 3 March, 1:30-4:30 PM. Director Dorothy Dougherty will provide an overview of their latest release, *Records of the Provost Marshall* (Civil War). Attendees will be assisted in their research by Education Committee members and NARA staff.
- **New York City Municipal Archives**, Fri., 6 March, 1:30-4:30 PM. Director Leonora A. Gidlund will welcome registrants, and Education Committee member Art Simpson will provide an introduction to the large assortment of vital records, city directories, photographs, voters' records, etc. The otherwise closed archives will then be available for assisted research.
- **The New York Historical Society**, Wed., 11 March, 2:30-5 PM. Nina Nazionale, Associate Director for Library Administration, will provide an orientation on the genealogically pertinent holdings at the Historical Society. Registrants will have time for research on their own. Registration: Each program \$25 members/\$40 nonmembers. Any three programs \$65 members/\$110 nonmembers. All five programs \$100 members/\$160 nonmembers. Registrations begin Monday 5 Jan. 2009 at 10 AM. Please register online (coming soon), or call 212-755-8532, ext. 36, beginning 5 Jan.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116 (Website www.newenglandancestors.org) is offering two educational opportunities:

- **Washington, D.C. Research Tour**, Sun.-Sun., 8-15 March 2009. NEHGS returns to the

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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.

(Continued from page 6)

UPCOMING SEMINARS

nation's capital to explore its wealth of genealogical resources. Staff will provide daily consultations at three repositories throughout the city: the Library of Congress, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library and the National Archives and Records Administration. Orientations will be offered at each repository at the beginning of the week. Program registration includes two group dinners to socialize and share research.

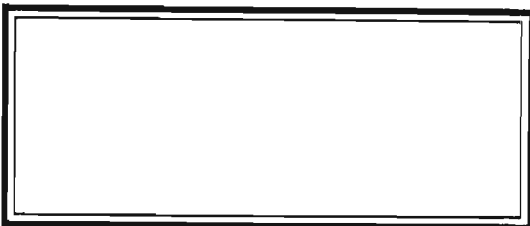
- The **English Family History Tour to London**, Sun.-Sun., 17-25 May, is an essential research trip for genealogists with British ancestry. Based at the Society of Genealogists (SoG), researchers will be offered daily classes providing historical context and research methodology tips for working with the extensive record collection of the SoG. The library's holdings include more than 120,000 books and microforms featuring census indexes; family histories; biographies; service, professional,

and trade directories; an apprenticeship index (1770-1774), school and university lists, will and marriage license indexes; runs of Burke's Peerage and Landed Gentry; a large number of manuscripts arranged by surname; and a miscellaneous card index of 3 million references.

For more information, contact Ryan J. Woods, Director of Education for NEHGS, at 617-226-1226 or email rwoods@nehgs.org

Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; telephone 888-FGS-1500.

The 2009 FGS Conference, Passages Through Time, featuring management workshops for organizational leadership training and genealogical lectures by nationally recognized speakers and regional experts, will take place Wed.-Sat., 2-5 Sept. 2009 at the Little Rock Statehouse Convention Center, Little Rock, Ark. Information will be posted on the Website at <http://www.fgs.org/conferences/index.php> as it becomes available. ■



Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111

