



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XX, No. 2

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

April 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently, I spent seven weeks in Florida. Having driven back in a snowstorm (I left in a snowstorm in January as well), I'm trying to remind myself why I had wanted to be here (29° when I got back, while the temperature in Florida was 83°).

As a genealogist, I can definitely say that one of the things I enjoy about Connecticut is the easy access to vital records for those of us who belong to an incorporated genealogical society (including all MGS members). Obtaining records in Florida is not as easy. First, birth records were not required until 1917. Also, the eligibility requirements state that you must be the individual or parent in order to obtain a birth record (this extends to spouse, child or grandchild if you can prove the person is dead.) Death records cannot contain the cause of death (considered private) unless you are the spouse or child of the individual, which makes medical histories difficult. If you meet the strict requirement, though, you can get a commemorative certificate for birth or marriage signed by the governor and suitable for framing (\$30-\$35!). I think I'd stick to the photocopy of the original certificate, which contains more information for half the price.

March was tense for genealogists in Connecticut, however. As I mentioned in the January newsletter, a draft bill was before the Connecticut legislature attempting to close vital records in Connecticut. The bill, HB 5628, was referred to the Public Health Committee for hearings early in March and the Genealogical Coalition under the able leadership of Tom Howard, President of the Connecticut Professional Genealogical Council, went into action. Spurring a writing campaign to local representatives (I understand they were inundated with letters and e-mails), as well as testifying

before the hearing on 11 March, Tom and others made the points that the existing law is working, that no issue of identity theft has been traced back to genealogists, and that there is ongoing cooperation between the Town Clerks Council and the Professional Genealogists Council to work out any problems. I am happy to say that the offensive was successful and according to an e-mail to Tom from Rep. David McCluskey, "HB 5628, the bill is dead." Rep. McCluskey goes on to say, "The Public Health Committee MAY allow the Department of Public Health to salvage other portions of the bill, but the portion restricting genealogical access to vital records has no support." Congratulations to Tom and all those who wrote and those who attended the hearing.

It is important that we all continue to be aware of legislation that restricts our rights and it's good to know that as individuals, we are heard by our elected representatives, and that the rights that many of our ancestors fought for are still alive and well in this country. As a reminder, always be polite and patient when requesting vital records and treat the records with care.

We want the Town Clerks to continue to support our cause. If you run into a problem, you can advise any of the officers of MGS and we will see that the issue is brought before the joint council of Town Clerks and Professional Genealogists.

Happy Hunting!

Donna Moughty

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

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2003-2004 OFFICERS

Donna Moughty	President
Robert E. Kenyon III	Vice President
Dale Pollart	Treasurer
LaVerne Burzynski	Secretary

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

William Atkinson  
Carolyn Barfuss  
Philip Morehouse  
Richard Sarr  
Marianne Sheldon  
Lloyd Sturges

David Mordy	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://www.darien.org/mgs>**

**E-mail: [mgs2@optonline.net](mailto:mgs2@optonline.net)**

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**1 MAY 2004:** "The Unique Genealogical Treasures Found in School, College and Alumni Yearbooks" will be presented by **Thomas F. Howard**, President of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Coordinator of the Genealogist's Coalition of Connecticut, and a Director of NERGC. He will demonstrate through visuals the evolution of yearbooks around New England and how special, valuable and available they are to the family historian. Case studies will be used.

Tom is a retired high school history teacher and a National Science Foundation Fellow. He was a Project Director of a Federal Title IV project that examined and developed local historic records for schools. He and his wife are both professional genealogists who run a small business, Search: Skeletons and Heirs (tvhowsearch@snet.net).

**2 OCTOBER 2004:** To be announced.

**18 NOVEMBER 2004:** To be announced.

**29 JANUARY 2005:** To be announced.

**5 APRIL 2005:** To be announced.

**7 MAY 2005:** To be announced.

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

## NANCY MALLING LEAVES BOARD

Nancy Malling who has served on the MGS board for some years and as MGS secretary during the past year is retiring from the board. Nancy has made major contributions to MGS and will be sorely missed. Thank you, Nancy, for all your help.

MGS board member LaVerne Burzynski has agreed to serve as secretary. ■

## GENEALOGY ARTICLE

### *NEW CANAAN, DARIEN & ROWAYTON*

MGS members will find of interest the article "In Pursuit of the Past," which starts on page 80 of the April 2004 issue of *New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton*. In preparation for writing the piece the author interviewed a number of local people, including MGS president Donna Moughty who is also a professional genealogist, MGS secretary Nancy Malling who also teaches genealogy at the Lapham Community Center in New Canaan, MGS board member Lloyd Sturges who also volunteers his time and talents at the Family History Center in New Canaan, MGS newsletter editor Dorothy Shillinglaw, and Fred Hart who has spoken at several of our meetings. Darien Library subscribes to the magazine so you should find it on a shelf in the library's magazine room. ■

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## BREAKING THE BRICK WALL

by Jackie Cech Sullivan

When you hit a brick wall, don't give up.

I have been working on my family tree for over 20 years. In 1980 I wrote to the church in New York City where my grandfather Joseph Cech was married. The church record only gave the date and name of his father (as Mr. Cech), mother dead, and nothing else. I asked to see the record myself, but that was not allowed. The marriage certificate in Chambers Street, NYC, gave his birthplace as *Oder*. I couldn't read what it said or find the name of a town that might have been spelled that way.

In 1984 I wrote to the Archives in Plzen, Bohemia, with my grandparents' names and birth dates, and the area that they were from. At that time you had to go through the Czechoslovakian Embassy in Washington, DC. They sent a request for \$10 to start a search. Then, in 1985 I was asked for \$40 to continue the search. In 1986 I received a request for an additional \$100 for the search. Finally, late in 1986 they sent information. They were able to trace my grandmother's family back to the early 1700s, but said that they could not find anything on my grandfather.

I decided to look into the civil records again—if I could get some help deciphering my grandfather's birthplace as shown on his marriage certificate. Someone on the Czech RootsWeb site suggested that I e-mail a man in Canada who lectures on Old European handwriting. He told me that if I mailed a copy to him he would help. In the meantime, neighbors who had a German dictionary were moving. I asked to borrow it, and, even though it was already packed, they dug it out and loaned it to me. (I was looking for information pertaining to my German grandfather.) In the dictionary's index, information was listed under "...M, N, O, D, P, Q..." What was the D after the O? It seems they have different letters in the alphabet to help with pronunciation. The town was Oder. The man in Canada confirmed it.

A genealogist in Czechoslovakia on RootsWeb said he was going to Oder that week and would look for information on my grandfather. He was unable to find anything, except that the town was all German.

In November 2001 I wrote to the church in New York again, but didn't receive an answer. I looked in the Catholic Church Directory and saw that the

church (built in 1886) had been torn down and the records sent to another church. I decided to call that church (20 years after the original request) to ask if I could look at the record myself. The secretary who answered said she would look it up. She came back to the phone with the record in her hands and said there was something under "Birthplace" with "Boh" after it. I said the Boh was for Bohemia, and the illegible word that preceded it was the town name that I was looking for. Since she still could not read the name of the town, I asked if I could come in and try to read it myself. She said she would let me look at the record myself, but when I explained that I wasn't in good health a decision was made to send me a copy of the page so that I could look at it at home. I received it the following week, and, although I could tell that the name began with a J, I still could not decipher a town name. Even a nearby Czechoslovakian neighbor was unable to figure it out.

Then I looked at copies that I had made of a book on Czechoslovakian research and discovered that the letter J is sometimes substituted for a Z at the beginning of a word. Zdirec was the name of the town!

With that information, in August 2002 I decided to write the Plzen Archives again and include their answer from 1986 about my grandfather, mention the name of the town, and see if they could find any more information about him. On 15 October 2003 I received an answer from them—all in Czech. Someone on RootsWeb translated it for me. Apparently in 2002 the Czech government passed a law that the Archives could no longer do research. You have to go in yourself and do it or pay a professional genealogist to do it.

The letter writer, however, ended the letter by saying that he would give me a good start and gave me information on my grandfather and his mother and the towns that his grandparents came from and his grandmother's maiden name. It seems that my grandfather was illegitimate. I have read many times that a woman with an illegitimate child would be told to leave the town and live elsewhere, that townspeople would call her names as she walked down the street. I now think that even though I had the right birthday and mother's name and the county he came from, no further information on my grandfather was forthcoming simply because he was illegitimate. ■

# DISCOVERING LONDON'S GENEALOGICAL TREASURES

3 April 2004

John Konvalinka gave an excellent presentation on this subject at our 3 April meeting. London is a treasure trove of genealogical records, but they are stored in a number of different repositories, which can be confusing. I would urge you to visit John Konvalinka's Website at [www.konvalinka.com](http://www.konvalinka.com) for a complete listing of repositories and help in determining where a specific record might be located. John has done a superb job. When you get to the Website, click on "Genealogy Events and Resources" on the left-hand side, then "Handouts from Recent Speaking Engagements," then look for "Discovering London's Genealogical Treasures." Clicking on anything underlined will open up additional information. John has a "What/Where Record Locator," which might be a good place to start.

To give you a small idea of how much information John provided to us, some of the major London repositories are listed here.

- **The Society of Genealogists**, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd., London. A yearly or daily membership is required for admission. The society holds transcripts of many parish records from England, Wales, Ireland and the Channel Islands. They also have records from many London Roman Catholic chapels and missions and microfiche copies of the indexes to the parish registers in the London Metropolitan Archives. The society holds Boyd's Marriage Index; Boyd's *The Inhabitants of London* (238 volumes, mainly 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century); Boyd's London Burials (pre-1853); GRO indexes 1837-1920; Scottish GRO indexes 1855-1920; 1881 census index; information on apprentices, schools, universities, armed forces, and professions; wills and Principal Probate Registry indexes 1858-1930. The society's Website is at [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)
- **The National Archives (formerly Public Record Office)**, Ruskin Ave., Kew, Richmond, Surrey. A reader's card, which can be obtained with a passport as identification on your first visit, is required. The National Archives holds apprenticeship records 1710-1811; bankruptcy records; birth, marriage and death records of Britons abroad 1627-1965; cemetery records for Bethnal Green (1793-1837), Bunhill Fields (1833-1853), and Victoria Park (1852-1876); change of name records (1760-1992); criminal records; death duty records 1858-1903 (stored offsite); divorce records 1858-1940; 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century emigrant records; immigrant records, including naturalization

and denization 1801-1935 and passenger lists from 1890; "fleet" and other irregular marriages 1667-1777; medieval records, including some births, marriages and deaths, and wills and manorial records; military records from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to World War I, including service records; nonparochial records, including some 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century nonconformist chapel registers; police records, including London Metropolitan (1829-1932) and Royal Irish Constabulary (1836-1922); tax lists, including Nationwide Land Tax for 1798, Hearth Tax (1662-1674), and Valuation Office Records (1849-1915); wills and probate records and lawsuits (1383-1858), and calendars of wills after 1858 (actual wills in Principal Registry of the Family Division Probate Service, First Ave. House). PRO-Online makes downloadable records available online, including PCC wills 1840-1858. The fee for downloading a will is £3. The National Archives Website is at [www.pro.gov.uk](http://www.pro.gov.uk)

- **Family Records Center (formerly St. Catherine's House and PRO Chancery Lane)**, 1 Myddleton St., Islington, London. There are no admission requirements. The General Register Office, Office for National Statistics contains indexes for births, marriages and deaths registered in England and Wales from 1 July 1837; adoptions registered in England and Wales since 1927; births and deaths at sea registered from July 1837 to 1965; and military, consular, civil aviation and High Commission returns of births, marriages and deaths for various years. Actual records are not open to the public, but indexes may be consulted. The PRO Website is at <http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk/partners/frc-partner.htm> The ONS Website is at [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)
- **The British Library**, 96 Euston Road, London. A reader's card is required for use. This is a research library with reading-room access restricted to those who cannot easily find what they need in other libraries. The British Library should have in its collection anything ever printed in the UK. There is an online catalog at <http://blpc.bl.uk/> and an application form for a reader's card can be found at <http://www.bl.uk/services/reading/admissions.html>
- **The British Library Newspaper Collection**, Colindale Ave., London. Admission requires either a British Library photographic reader's pass or a Newspaper Library's reader's pass, which is issued in the Newspaper Library Reading Rooms. Carry your passport as proof of identity. The newspaper collection is extensive, many from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and some from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Website can be accessed at <http://www.bl.uk/collections/newspapers.html>

- **London Metropolitan Archives**, 40 Northampton Road, London. There are no restrictions on admission. This is the largest local record office in the UK. It contains parish registers, poor law records, school registers, electoral registers, church marriages, and directories. It has court records dating back to 1549 and diocesan records dating back to 1467, the archives of the Anglo-Jewish community dating back to 1656, bishop's transcripts, burial records, deeds registry, electoral registers, hospital records, transported convicts, and wills. Its catalog of holdings can be consulted at its Website, <http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/archives/lma/index.htm>
- **Principal Registry of the Family Division (PRFD, formerly Somerset House)**, Probate Search Room, First Avenue House, 42-49 High Holborn, London. There are no restrictions on use. Visit the Website at [www.courtservice.gov.uk/using\\_courts/wills\\_probate\\_probate\\_famhist.htm](http://www.courtservice.gov.uk/using_courts/wills_probate_probate_famhist.htm)
- **Guildhall Library**, off Gresham Street, Aldermanbury, London. Admission is unrestricted. Contains London parish registers, church register transcripts, bishop's transcripts, nonparochial registers, ecclesiastical court records for probate and marriage licenses, criminal court records, London burial index 1813-1853, trade directories, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century poll books, rate books, London electoral registers 1832 to date, 1841 London census returns, apprentice indexes 1710-1774, national calendar probate indexes 1853-1943 (wills at PRFD), prints, maps, and manuscripts relating to London. Website is at <http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/gh>
- **Corporation of London Record Office**, Room N 221 North Office Block, Guildhall, Basinghall St., London. Sign in at Security desk. This is the official archives of the Corporation of London and contains charters, architectural plans and drawings, coroner's inquests, and administrative, judicial, financial, freedom, and cemetery records. Website is at [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/archives/clro](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/archives/clro)
- **Westminster Archives Centre**, 10 St. Ann's St., London. Unrestricted admission. Contains Westminster census returns 1841-1901, parish registers from 1551, nonconformist and Catholic registers (limited numbers), cemetery registers, trade directories, rate books, electoral registers, deeds, wills, and newspapers and obituaries. Website is at [www.westminster.gov.uk/archives](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/archives)
- **Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts**, Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London. Has National Register of Archives Catalog, the Manorial Documents Register and a database of manuscript collections that have been offered for sale.

Website is at [www.hmc.gov.uk](http://www.hmc.gov.uk)

- **Wellcome History of Medicine Library**, Wellcome Bldg., 183 Euston Road, London. Its online catalog is at <http://library.wellcome.ac.uk> Bring your passport as identification and obtain a reader's card on first visit. Contains medical books, histories, journals, and biographies. Maintains jointly with The National Archives a hospital records database, and has medical records of injured WW I and WW II soldiers and prisoners of war. Its Website is at <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/1/lib.html>

There are many other repositories. Even this brief review, however, should convince anyone traveling to London of the need for advance planning. A visit to John Konvalinka's Website at [www.konvalinka.com](http://www.konvalinka.com) would be a good first step. ■

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## PROPOSED EXPANSION OF BRITISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES SERVICES

"Listening to the Past, Speaking to the Future" is the title of a foresighted recent report from the UK's National Archives Task Force. According to the report, already heavy usage of the UK's Archives will continue to increase and there is urgent need for broader access to accommodate users. The Task Force envisions: "An archival heritage unlocked and made open to all citizens in a way that engages them and empowers them to use archives for personal, community, social and economic benefit." The report recommends an easily accessible online gateway to UK Archives that, "Will give everyone the opportunity to participate in the archival heritage." ■

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## UPCOMING SEMINARS

### National Genealogical Society

**NGS Annual Conference in the States**, 19-22 May 2004, Sacramento, Cal. This major conference was covered more fully in our last issue. To learn more, visit <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/>

**National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR)**, Washington, D.C., 11-17 July 2004 will be held at the newly renovated National Archives building in Washington D.C. and in College Park, Maryland. It offers on-site and in-depth examination of the common and less-known federal records found there. This intensive weeklong study opportunity is for experienced genealogists, and for archivists, historians and librarians interested in using federal records for genealogical research. The program will feature sessions on the census and records for African

American, military, land, Native American, legislative and cartographic research. Additional lectures on less-frequently-used sources along with popular sessions on naturalization, citizenship, and immigration documents will round out the program. Attendees will spend one day at Archives II in College Park, Maryland, for presentations on records at that facility and for an opportunity to conduct research there. Evening sessions at the Local History and Genealogy Room of the Library of Congress and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library are optional. To facilitate direct contact between the students and the lecturers and archivists, enrollment is limited. Tuition is \$325 for applications postmarked on, or before, 15 May 2004, or \$355 for applications postmarked after that date. For more information about the 2004 program, or to obtain an application brochure, send e-mail to [NatInsGen@juno.com](mailto:NatInsGen@juno.com); or write to NIGR, P.O. Box 724, Lanham, MD 20703-0724; or visit the Institute's Website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/>

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116; telephone 888-286-3447.

- NEHGS will present an **Irish Genealogical Seminar**, Sat., May 8, 2004, at the NEHGS Library. This one-day seminar will focus on Irish research methods and resources, many of which may be found in the society's library. Speakers will include Irish experts Eileen and Sean O'Duill from Dublin; the Society's library director and Irish research scholar Marie E. Daly; NEHGS assistant executive director for technology Dick Eastman; and George Handran, JD, CG. This seminar is cosponsored by The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA).
- **Come Home to New England**, Two sessions are scheduled, both Sunday to Sunday: 13 June to 20 June 2004 and 8 Aug. to 15 Aug. 2004. 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.
- **Electronic and Online Genealogical Resources**, Sat., 26 June 2004. NEHGS staff "techies" will show you how to use the technology of today to find your ancestors of times past and make sure that your genealogy toolkit includes the best of today's technology. NEHGS assistant director for technology Dick Eastman will discuss and demonstrate modern devices that can assist in locating records, finding old (and even abandoned) cemeteries, plotting grave locations, locating ancestral homesteads, etc. NEHGS membership campaign director Laura Prescott will speak on researching your ancestors on the Internet. NEHGS di-

rector of electronic publications Michael Leclerc will survey NEHGS electronic resources, including CD-ROMs and the [NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org) Website. NEHGS microtext supervisor David Lambert will demonstrate how to research U.S. and Canadian military records online.

- **Research Tour to Dublin**, Sun.-Sun, 15-22 Aug. The group will attend guided research visits to various repositories in central Dublin, including the General Register Office, the National Library of Ireland, and the National Archives among others. Genealogical lectures and personal consultations will be available throughout the week with NEHGS library director Marie Daly, Irish research expert and Dublin resident Eileen O'Duill and other Irish genealogical authorities. Accommodations will be at Trinity College.

For more information on these seminars please visit [www.nehgs.org/events/main](http://www.nehgs.org/events/main) or e-mail Amanda Batey at [tours@nehgs.org](mailto:tours@nehgs.org)

**The National Archives Northeast Region**, Waltham, Mass., offers free genealogical workshops at the Regional Archives building, 380 Trapelo Road in Waltham. Participants will learn what they need to know in order to locate records, as well as what one might expect to find in the records. Additionally, behind the scenes tours of the archives will be given at 1:30 before workshops marked with an asterisk (\*).

Two workshops, "Genealogical Roundtable: Open Forum for Genealogical Quandaries," will allow attendees to address their particularly difficult genealogical questions to a panel of National Archives staff.

The schedule is as follows:

- Tues. 4 May, 1:30 PM, Census, Naturalization & Passenger Lists.\*
- Thurs., 6 May, 6:30 PM, Customs Houses and Their Records: Exploring the Maritime History of New England (not genealogical in nature).
- Thurs., 13 May, 6:30 PM, Census, Naturalization & Passenger Lists.
- Wed., 19 May, 2:00 PM, Genealogical Roundtable: Open Forum for Genealogical Quandaries.
- Tues., 1 June, 1:30 PM, Beyond the Census, Local History in Federal Records.\*
- Wed., 9 June, 2:00 PM, Genealogical Roundtable: Open Forum for Genealogical Quandaries.
- Thurs., 17 June, 6:30 PM, Military Pension Files, Revolutionary War and Later.

There is no fee for these 60-90-minute workshops, and light refreshments will be served; however, space is limited to 20 participants at each. Call 866-406-2379 for more details or to register.

**Irish International Genealogy Festival 2004**, Thurs., 30

Sept. to Sun., 3 Oct., hosted by the staff at County Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Centre, Aras Reddan, Temple St., Sligo, Ireland; international telephone number: 00-353-71-9143728. A broad range of topics will be covered by international experts on Irish genealogy. Two streams of lectures will run simultaneously. One will address genealogical research and include lectures on "Genealogy Sources at the National Archives & National Library," "Census Returns and Civil Records," "The Public Record Office Fire in 1922," "Griffiths Valuation," "Poor Law Unions and Workhouses," "Irish Heraldry," and "Lesser-Known Sources of Irish Genealogy." The other stream will appeal to those who want to learn more about Ireland and its people and how things were done in days gone by. Lecture topics include "Irish Customs and Folklore, Emigration in 19th Century Ireland," and "Rural Irish Matchmaking and Burial Customs." For more information visit the conference's Website at [www.sligoroots.com](http://www.sligoroots.com) ■

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## LIBRARY REPORT

by C. Scribner

At the 31 January 2004 meeting Christine Crawford-Oppenheim presented "Long-Distance Genealogy: When You are Here, and Your Ancestors Were There." In her talk she recommended a number of books to be used for researching her subject. She listed the books and many more in her handout under the heading of "Reference Works for Long-Distance Research.

Some of these books can be found in our own collection at Darien Library. They are:

- *Genealogical & Local History Books in Print*, Genealogical Publishing Co. (GPC).
- *Netting Your Ancestors*, GPC.
- *The American Census Handbook*, Thomas Jay Kemp.
- *International Vital Records Handbook*, GPC.
- *Virtual Roots*, Scholarly Resources, Inc.
- *State Census Records*, Ann Lainhart.
- *American Passenger Arrival Records*, Michael Tepper.
- *Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Census 1790-1920*, GPC.
- *The Handy Book for Genealogists*, Everton Publishers Inc.
- *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, Marcia D. Melnyk.
- *Guide to Genealogical Research In the National*

*Archives*, U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

In the Darien Library collection, you will find:

- *Cyndi's List*, Cyndi Howell.
- *The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy*, Loretto Dennis Szucs.

The Ferguson Library in Stamford has the *Periodical Source Index (PERSI)*. (Editor's note: *PERSI* has been added to the HeritageQuest Online database and should now be available at all Connecticut libraries.)

*The New York Genealogical and Biographical Newsletter* has been renamed *The New York Researcher*. ■

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## NEW YORK CITY DEATH INDEX

An impressive volunteer effort by the Genealogy Federation of Long Island has produced a name index for New York City Deaths from 1891 through 1911. The Italian Genealogical Group has made the resulting 1,400,000 records available at their Website at <http://www.italiangen.org/NYCDdeath.stm>

Those who are researching in New York City will be grateful that this free database is available. There are a couple of things to remember while using it, however. While the Bronx was treated as part of Manhattan until incorporated as a separate borough, not all of the other boroughs were included in every year covered by the index. And even though you can do a Soundex-type search, some transcription errors may still place a name out of reach. The wild-card option provided for index users may help. ■

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## QUERY

**110 WATERBURY Correction.** Helen C. Aukerman, who seeks the birthplace of Estella WATERBURY, born 9 March 1867 in Connecticut and attended school at Smith Ridge, Conn., has sent us her new e-mail address: [hcaukerman@earthlink.net](mailto:hcaukerman@earthlink.net) ■

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**Deadline for next newsletter  
September 2004**

Middlesex Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1111  
Darien, CT 06820

**MEMBERSHIP**

- Renewal  
 New

**ANNUAL DUES**

- Individual (\$20)  
 Couple (\$25)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please consider adding a contribution toward our genealogical resource maintenance and expansion, e.g., subscriptions, books, CDs, etc.*  \_\_\_\_\_



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

MEETING  
SATURDAY, 1 MAY 2004, 2 PM  
DARIEN LIBRARY

