



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXV, No. 1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

February 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How exciting! The new Darien Library is now open, and it is the state of the art in buildings and such a pleasant place to do research. We have a great area in the library, where we can not only make our collection of genealogical materials available to the patrons of this new facility, but to all who desire to find out about their family. At the time of this writing our computer has not been installed, but it will be up and running soon. Our new spot in this library will give us an opportunity that we did not have in the old library in that we can work with library patrons without being silenced. We want to be able to do this for anyone that wants to get started in tracing their ancestors and does not know how or where to get started. That means that we need additional society members that can and will make themselves available to work with a library patron. If you can add your name to the list, please e-mail me at lrskeeter@optonline.net and give me your name, phone number and e-mail address.

Our next program for the public will be on the 21st of February, 2009. It will be especially to acquaint the patrons of the Darien Library and the folks that live in the Darien area with genealogy and MGS's role at the library. It will focus on basic genealogy and how to get started. Participation by board members will be the highlight of this program.

It is with deep regret that I inform every one that Marianne Sheldon is in the process of moving to Georgia and will be leaving the board. Marianne has been a hard-working member of this society for a long time. She has been a mentor to me since 1987 when I went to work for her as a librarian at the Family History Center in New Canaan. I for one will really miss her.

Looking forward to the new genealogical year in our new library,

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

LIBRARY NEWS

by C. Scribner

On 10 January 2009 the new Darien Library was dedicated and opened. It is now the new home of the Middlesex Genealogical Society. Prior to the dedication, all library-related items were moved from the old to the new. Many of these items were placed on shelves to be ready for the dedication. Others were stored in the basement and are slowly being placed in their proper locations.

In the case of the MGS collection most of our books are in place on the shelves assigned to us. The exception here is our periodicals. Between *The New York Genealogical & Biographical Record* and *The New England Historical & Genealogical Register*, we have close to 300 volumes of these periodicals among others. A row of shelves in our section with wood framed glass doors will be used to house our many periodicals as soon as they are removed from storage. On the other side of these shelves a section is being set aside for the contents of our filing cabinet, which is being disposed of by the library staff. Our computer is still in storage and should be in place soon.

In the meantime all of our books, periodicals, magazines, newsletters, filing cabinet, etc., will need to be inventoried again.

At a recent meeting of our board of directors the members were quite pleased with our new location. ■

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, CONFERENCE ROOM (on the mezzanine, above the 2nd floor, elevator button "M"), AT THE NEW DARIEN LIBRARY, 1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

21 FEBRUARY 2009. Our first meeting in the new Darien Library is an excellent opportunity to review what we at MGS have and what we offer to the community to help friends, neighbors and visitors learn more about their family history. Concrete examples of research techniques will be provided by board members and others. Because of today's rapid changes in resources and methods, even if you have been researching for a long time, this is a meeting you should not miss.

21 MARCH 2009. To be announced.

16 MAY 2009. To be announced.



SAD NEWS

We report with regret the passing of two long-time members of MGS:

Emeline Walker Fatherly died in Holyoke, Mass., on 3 January at the age of 95. She had lived in Darien for 65 years and was a descendant of Rev. Moses Mather. Emmie was the widow of Robert Edward Fatherly (died 1995), a founding member of MGS. Before moving to Holyoke in 2005, Emmie also served MGS for some years as hospitality person. She was a truly gracious lady.

Ray Bartlett Jr., who died 31 January at the age of 89, was a 50-year resident of Darien and a founding member of MGS. He served the society in several capacities, most recently (1995) as president. Ray's contributions to MGS were many and varied—and always highly valued.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the families of these two very special people.

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, 6 May 2008, and is copyright 2008 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>

THE DARK SIDE: GENEALOGY RIP-OFFS LISTED

by Richard W. Eastman

Ninety-nine percent of the businesses that sell products and services to genealogists are legitimate companies that work hard at supplying the best products possible. This article will focus on the other 1%.

It seems that scam artists have been around forever in the world of genealogy. They existed centuries ago, and they exist today. I have written about a number of them in past newsletters, and you may encounter still more such scams if you use any modern Internet search engine.

As a convenience for newsletter readers, I am compiling a list of alleged genealogy scams. In short, this list will be updated as often as necessary and will contain the name and web site of each company that reportedly delivers less than what they advertise to the genealogy marketplace. Whenever possible, the listing will include a link to other web pages where the reader may find further details. These are the web sites and e-mail messages that generate the majority of messages that I receive from concerned newsletter readers.

A listing here does not mean that the company has been proven guilty or even that it has had a court appearance. While a listing here does indicate significant customer dissatisfaction, the listing should not be construed as proof of guilt. The information is provided solely to assist you in exercising your own best judgment. I believe the information contained in this report is reliable, but there is no guarantee as to accuracy. Reports are subject to change at any time.

Morphcorp Corporation, also known as "Family News" or the "Family News Network" or the "Mountain Pacific News Service":

Many consumers who purchased the product have alleged that it does not represent their specific family genealogy information. Complainants allege that the company sends similar genealogy information to a wide range of customers.

The company paid a \$30,000 civil penalty in 2006 and also paid the State of Colorado \$25,000 in attorney fees and costs and have agreed to significant changes in the way "Family Yearbooks" are marketed. However, the company's business practices have changed little, and the company continues to send out misleading advertisements for the "Family Yearbook." If your name is Smith, you will receive an ad for the "Smith Family Yearbook." Anyone with a last name of Jones will receive ads for the "Jones Family Yearbook." In fact, both publications will contain nearly identical generic information with nothing specific to either the Smith family or the Jones family.

While these are called "yearbooks," the publications do not seem to change from year to year. Each booklet contains generic information about the origins of surnames, a list of references for "how to research your own ancestry" and similar material. You can find more and better information within a few minutes by using any search engine. Unlike these so-called yearbooks, the information found via search engines is mostly available free of charge. This company charges \$39.85 for the so-called "yearbooks."

The company had a web site at www.ourfamilyyearbook.com, but the company apparently has since switched to <http://familynews-about.com>. Mountain Pacific News Service's new web site does offer the following disclaimers at <http://familynewsabout.com/acks.php?id=27401>:

FAMILY HISTORIANS NOTE: This data is for you to do your own genealogical research.

OUR PRODUCTS ARE NOT PUBLISHED YEARLY. New data is added from time to time. New major changes are advertised on the web.

Our products **CONTAIN NO PICTURES OF FAMILY MEMBERS** unless otherwise noted.

OUR PRODUCTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE ABOUT YOUR FAMILY but about the entire family nationwide.

IF FOR ANY REASON WHATSOEVER you are dissatisfied with this product, return it within 15 days for a full refund.

For more information, look at the Better Business Bureau's web site at <http://denver.bbb.org/WWWRoot/Report.aspx?site=33&bbb=0885&firm=11038>

and at this newsletter's earlier articles at <http://tinyurl.com/4ht3j8>.

SearchYourGenealogy.com, Ancestry-search.com, and Australian-Ancestry.com:

These sites claim to have "the largest online genealogical search tool" and promote themselves as the foremost resources for genealogy; however, they are nothing more than a series of web pages with links to other services. On each site, potential customers are lured to purchase under what we feel to be false, misleading, or deceitful promotional material, and the buyer gets little or no value out of money spent at these websites.

Further information may be found at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2008/04/10/potentially-fraudulent-sites-posing-as-genealogy-websites>

Clett Island: Clett Island is situated on Loch Dunvegan in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. The island's owner is selling small plots on Clett Island as "**Heritage Land Plots.**" His advertising is mostly aimed at Americans and Canadians, apparently appealing to those of Scottish descent. However, the Scottish National Parliament (SNP) claims that the deeds issued are not worth the paper they are written on. In fact, SNP media and culture spokesman Mike Russell is furious, claiming the scheme is illegal and also exploits Scotland's culture. "This is a cynical exploitation of Scottish history and culture and I want it stopped," said Russell.

The sale was conducted on the seller's Web page at <http://www.clett.com> but the site now appears to be defunct.

The BBC has an article about this at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/2577095.stm and I wrote about it also at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/05/update_own_a_pi.html

Family Trackers:

<http://www.familytrackers.com>

The owner of Family Trackers also owns several other web sites, including **Market Profiles** at www.MarketProfiles.net. According to that web site's main page:

Market Profiles is a full-service research company that surveys members of our online panel about the web sites that they visit and sells the

results to website marketers through affiliates and directly through our online store.

In other words, a genealogist receives unsolicited mail from Family Trackers, believes it, signs up, and "even recruits and organizes indexers and transcribers on Family Trackers." All of these folks then have their information collected by surveys, and that information is then sold to other marketers. While this is misleading, it is probably legal. Still, you might want to know the "full story" before filling out any surveys.

Details may be found at the owner's own web site at <http://www.MarketProfiles.net>

Independent Committee of Eminent Persons:

This is a very pathetic scam. You receive an unsolicited e-mail message stating that a bank official in Switzerland has "discovered" millions of dollars left in an account by a now-deceased relative of yours. Most of the time, there is a reference to the deceased person being a Holocaust victim. The sender of this message usually has a forged return e-mail address; clicking on REPLY doesn't work. However, the body of the message tells you how to supply your personal banking information so that "the money may be deposited directly to your account." The unsolicited message may even say, "There is no risk involved."

Of course, once you supply your personal banking information, the scam artist is able to drain all the funds already in your account. Then the thief promptly disappears.

Note: There is a real organization called the "Independent Committee of Eminent Persons." It is part of the International Monetary Fund. However, it doesn't search for money left in bank accounts, doesn't notify relatives of "newly discovered funds," and doesn't send out tens of thousands of e-mail messages with bogus return e-mail addresses.

You can find hundreds of references to this on Google by starting at <http://www.google.com/search?source=ig&hl=en&rlz=&q=Independent+Committee+of+Eminent+Persons&btnG=Google+Search>

"Your Wealthy Relative Died in a Car Crash": This is a variation of the well-known Nigerian scams. You receive an e-mail message from someone claiming to be a lawyer, a solicitor, or a bank employee. The letter says that someone with the same last name as yours was killed in a horrible

automobile accident a few years ago, and the bank that is holding his funds is trying to find heirs. The person writing the message has decided that you are the likely heir.

At this point, the scam becomes the same as the various Nigerian scams or the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons scam described earlier. You are asked to supply your bank account information so that "the money may be deposited directly to the account." Of course, once you supply your personal banking information, the scam artist is able to drain all the funds already in your account and then promptly disappears.

If you receive such a solicitation, quickly click on the DELETE key.

Whenever you receive an e-mail message from someone you do not know, hang onto your wallet tightly! Never accept such messages at face value. Ask a friend, preferably someone who is very experienced with online activities. Before you ever divulge personal banking information, ask your bank to review the message you received. Banks are experts at recognizing scams, and they offer their advice at no charge to their customers. Use that service!

Finally, if anyone ever says they will give you money, be suspicious. That simply doesn't happen often. In addition, if anyone asks you to first send money before they give you money, ask yourself, "Why?" The sender of the message may claim that he or she has to pay fees in advance. Ask for documentation and receipts.

If anyone sends you a message claiming that you can obtain large sums of money, say to yourself over and over, "This is too good to be true." Then believe it. It is a scam. ■

1911 CENSUS OF ENGLAND, WALES...

The 1911 Census of England, Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands, which contains 36 million names, is now available online at www.1911census.co.uk. This is the most detailed UK census since records began and includes personnel aboard Royal Navy and merchant vessels and Army personnel serving abroad, along with

their families. It is the earliest census for which the original census schedules (may contain your ancestor's handwriting) have been preserved.

Access to the index to the 1911 census is free, but viewing images of the handwritten household pages requires 30 "credits," which cost from £2.50 to £3.48, depending on the package of credits you buy. For 10 credits, which cost from 83p to £1.16, again depending on the package of credits you buy, you can view a full transcript of everyone in the household or a whole page of an institution.

Because women were not permitted to vote in 1911, the Women's Freedom League asked for a boycott of the census. As a consequence, the census is missing many women and includes partial entries by outspoken suffragettes. One woman wrote: "No vote—no census. In view of restrictive legislation I refuse to give details of my household asked for in this document." Another wrote: "If I am intelligent enough to fill in this paper, I am intelligent enough to put a cross on a voting paper."

Your editor likes to try these things out and had one very uncommon surname (Monilaws) that might produce results as the family sometimes lived in Scotland and sometimes in England. Two Monilaws popped up in the index. One was a "householder" who was married to my husband's first cousin once removed, and the other was their 13-year-old son who was away at boarding school. Seven years later that 13-year-old boy would be killed on the Western Front. ■

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? COMING TO THE U.S.

NBC will bring this television program to American viewers, starting 20 April on Mondays at 8 PM. The American version of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will feature American celebrities, including Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon. Their genealogies and uncovered family stories about love, secrets and triumphs will then be woven into the larger narrative of American history. "This show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative," Kudrow says. "The most striking thing about the show is the realization of how connected we all are." ■

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.

- 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:

2009 NGS Conference in the States, The Building of a Nation, From Roanoke to the West, will be held in Raleigh, NC, Wed.-Sat., 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/~nywcgs>

- 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 again offering tours to the Federal and NYC Municipal Archives, the New York Public Library, the New York Historical Society, and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

- **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. Please register online, or call 212-755-8532, ext. 36.

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

- **Washington, D.C. Research Tour**, Sun.-Sun., 8-15 March 2009. NEHGS returns to the 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.
- NEHGS invites you to an intensive week-long program (Mon.-Sat., 22 June to 27 June) in Boston, "**Come Home to New England.**" Throughout the week of guided research, you will have the opportunity for one-on-one consultations, daily lectures and special extended library hours.
- **Scottish Family History Research Tour**,

Sun.-Sun., 20 Sept.-27 Sept.: Discover the origins of your Scottish ancestors with the inaugural NEHGS research tour to Edinburgh. This weeklong intensive research program will be based out of Scotland's two premier genealogical repositories, the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS). Together these neighboring repositories house the major collections of government and vital records for more than 700 years of Scottish ancestry.

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. More information is available at the conference Website: www.org

Wholly Genes invites you to attend their **2009 Genealogy Conference and "Land Cruise,"** Wed.-Sat., 26-30 August 2009, which will be held at the Shrine Mont Conference Center in historic Orkney Springs, VA. This rural setting provides a very inexpensive (\$379 for 4 days or \$309 for 3 days, double occupancy, including meals and all conference events) venue for their genealogy presentations, and its proximity to Washington, DC, offers the opportunity to follow preparatory lectures with an all-day research trip to the extraordinary research repositories of the nation's capital. Speakers include John Philip Colletta, Ph.D.; Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CG, CGL; Patricia O'Brien Shawker, CG; and Craig Roberts Scott, CG. (*Note: There is no air conditioning in these historic buildings. Because of the location, that may not be a problem at all. If the lack is a concern, read about alternatives on the Website.*)

For more information or to register, visit the conference Website at: <http://www.whollygenes.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?screen=CRUISE> ■

1891 CENSUS OF CANADA

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has announced the launch of a new online database, Census of Canada, 1891. Through this online database, researchers can access digitized images of original census returns featuring the name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of Canada's residents at the time of the 1891 Census. The database is available at: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html

The 1891 Census marked the third regularly scheduled collection of national statistics. Information was collected for Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia and the North-West Territories (which at the time covered much of modern-day Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, northern Ontario, northern Quebec, Labrador,

Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut).

The 1891 Census also marks the launch of a new feature that allows visitors to suggest a correction to a record. This will be launched on a wider scale in the next few months.

Library and Archives Canada collects and preserves Canada's documentary heritage, and makes it accessible to all Canadians. This heritage includes publications, archival records, sound and audio-visual materials, photographs, artworks, and electronic documents such as websites. The Canadian Genealogy Centre at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy includes all physical and online genealogical services of Library and Archives Canada. It offers genealogical content, services, advice, research tools and opportunities to work on joint projects, all in both official languages. ■

**Deadline for next newsletter
28 April 2009**

Peter Biggins
230 Old King's Highway North
Darien, CT 6820

MEETING
21 FEB. 2009, 2 PM
DARIEN LIBRARY

Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111

