



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXX, No. 3

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into fall, Middlesex Genealogical Society has prepared or will participate in a number of activities that we hope will be of interest to existing as well as prospective members.

At 1 p.m. on 4 October we will continue the roundtable discussions. At these informal events, individuals can raise issues associated with their research, describe a success, or seek assistance regarding a brick wall that they have encountered.

Our presentation series returns on Saturday, 4 October, at the Darien Library. "Googling Your Genealogy" will be presented by Phil Hayes at 2 p.m. We will present additional topics throughout the year.

On 18 October we will co sponsor an event at the Darien library entitled "Discover an Ancestor." This morning event is designed to introduce you to the use of the FamilySearch Website.

Later in the year we will initiate a series of small workshops that deal with getting started with your genealogical research.

In addition, we have reinitiated our research assistance on Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Darien Library. Come in and ask your questions, discuss how to get started or

where to go next in your family history journey.

To do all this we need your help. Our board has five openings and is looking for interested members to help carry out the programs we offer. We need some volunteers to step up and help us carry out our mission of supporting members in researching their family histories. Please consider helping us out.

I look forward to seeing all of you on 4 October and throughout the rest of the year.

Steven A. Anderson



WORLDCAT

The Internet does not have everything that you will need to do your genealogical research. Many items can only be found on library shelves or in archives, but finding them is very difficult if you do not know which library or libraries to check. (The U.S. alone has more than 120,000 libraries.) Since 2006, however, WorldCat, worldcat.org, has been available on the Internet and can help you to focus your efforts. At this time 72,000 libraries in 170 countries and territories contribute information on their holdings to the Online Computer Library Center, a global cooperative in which WorldCat participates. The WorldCat catalog now contains more than three million records and is a good place to start any search. It is a free site, but registration (also free) confers some advantages.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2014-2015 OFFICERS

Steven Anderson	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
Keeley Kriskey	Treasurer Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Virginia Banerjee
Peter Biggins
John Driscoll
Tara Finn Forschino
Timothy Gordon
Peter Riordan

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	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 \$25 per individual and \$30 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

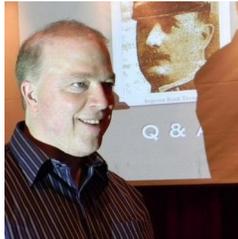
Website: <http://mgs.darien.org>

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY,
1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.**

**REMEMBER: PROGRAM MEETINGS ARE PRECEDED AT
1 PM BY AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION OF GENEALOGICAL
CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS.**



4 OCTOBER 2014: PHILIP HAYES will present **GOOGLING YOUR GENEALOGY**. In this program, experienced “Googler” Phil Hayes will show you his favorite tips and tricks, which can gain some amazing genealogy results. With over 20 million indexed pages,

Google is the most valuable search tool for genealogists. Learn how to use Boolean search queries to filter your results and discover hidden content related to your family. Explore the leveraging of Google Alerts, a free content monitoring service that will notify you when new content related to your interests appears in the Google Search Index. In Google Books, search the text of almost 130 million books—over four billion digital pages—to find content related to your ancestors. Remember that Google aggregates all the news content from the more than 25,000 news sites in the Google News Index. Learn how to use the index. In Google Maps & Earth pinpoint your ancestors’ homestead and more. Make use of Google Translate. It is a free translation service that allows you to translate to and from a variety of languages.

Philip (Phil) Hayes is the CEO of Sirius Innovations, LLC and serves as a technology solutions consultant and web applications programmer for Fortune 500 companies, large municipalities and hospitals. He is fluent in SQL, ColdFusion, PHP and Javascript programming languages. He is also a power user of the WordPress Content Management System, commonly used for blogging.

Phil became a genealogy addict when in 1998 his Uncle Lloyd W. Lewis sat him and his wife down on the deck of the uncle’s home and told them the story of his great-great-grandfather Henry W. Lewis, the privateer. The story was so intriguing that he yearned for more details. Leveraging his technology skills, Phil has grown and developed his family

(Continued on page 8)

17 May 2014 Meeting

AFRICAN-AMERICAN RESEARCH

(OR WISDOM GLEANED FROM RE-SEARCHING FREE WOMEN OF COLOR BEFORE AND AFTER THE CIVIL WAR)

by Virginia Banerjee

African-American genealogical research is essentially like any genealogical research back to 1870. The usual sources should be “mined” for every tidbit of information and any clue they contain.

Think extended family and include these folks in your research. The “best” information is sometimes in the records of ancillary family members or those who witnessed baptisms, marriages, Wills, etc. Cast a “wide” net. Think extended time frame—sometimes records were not “made” for a long time after the event, i.e., deeds not registered for years. Thoroughly search the following:

- Family information and documents;
- Family folklore which often has elements that are critical to finding ancestors;
- Censuses;
- Land records;
- Probate records; and
- Vital records.

Once you have **ALL** the records you can locate back to 1870 **AND** you know who and where your people were in 1870, you are ready to look for earlier records. If the person was not enslaved, the same research techniques should be employed as for persons of any race. If the person was enslaved, for records pre-1870, you must know the name of the master. Special techniques are required for learning this. Skill and effort will be required. This level of research is discussed in materials devoted to African-American research.

Resource Materials and Sites

From the beginning, the Web sites used for all genealogy research should be used. They include *Cyndi's List*, *RootsWeb*, *USGenWeb*, NARA (National Archives), The Library of Congress, *FamilySearch* (the site of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, sometimes called Mormon), state archives of individual states and similar. Many have sections devoted to researching persons of color. Some, like NARA, have published materials on the subject. Use various

terms: i.e., African-American; Afro-American; Black, Negro, persons of color, etc. A *Google* search will turn up many resources. On-site research may be required as you progress. Not “everything” is on the Web and you can't do your genealogy entirely on the Internet!

Special Materials and Sites Include:

- **Afrigeneas**—www.AfriGeneas.org. Site devoted to African-ancestored genealogy.
- **Freedman's Bank**—Records are available from *HeritageQuest* and elsewhere. HQ is available via the state library or local libraries in many states. Freedman's Bank provided financial services to freed persons after the Civil War. The records often contain much family information, names of the master when enslaved, etc.
- **African-American Genealogy Research Center**—www.caagri.org. The center is a free site focused on African-American genealogical research, data and assistance.
- **Ancestry.com**—www.Ancestry.com. This commercial site with both free and fee materials includes a section on African-American research. The library version is available free at many public libraries.

The following are illustrative of general reading that provides both guidance in research and background. These are just a few of the many books:

Non-fiction:

- Alexander, Adele Logan. *Ambiguous Lives—Free Women of Color in Rural Georgia 1789-1879.*, Fayetteville Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1991.
- Berlin, Ira. *Slaves Without Masters—The Free Negro in the Antebellum South.* New York: Pantheon Books, 1974.
- *Many Thousand Gone—The First Two Centuries of Slavery in North America.* Cambridge Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1989.
- *Generations of Captivity: History of African American Slaves.* Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2003.
- Bracey, John H. Jr., Editor. *Free Blacks in America 1800-1860.* Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing, n/d.
- Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: a beginners guide to tracing the African-American family tree.* New York: Fireside Books/Simon and Schuster, 2001.
- DiBonaventra, Allegra, *For Adam's Sake.*

Liveright Publishing, New York, 2013. Family saga of colonial New England by a Yale dean deals with Connecticut persons, free and enslaved.

- Gates, Henry Louis, editor. *The Classic Slave Narratives*. New York: A Mentor Book—Penguin Book, 1987. (One of many editions of these.)
- Leslie, Kent Anderson. *Woman of Color, Daughter of Privilege. Amanda America Dickson, 1848-1893*. Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1995.
- Woodtor, Dee Parmer. *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African-American Genealogy and Historical Identity*. New York: Random House, 1999.

The bibliography in many of these books and the bibliographies published by libraries will provide leads to additional material. The following is an example:

- Simpson, Jack and Rutherford, Matt. *A Bibliography of African American Family History at the Newberry Library*. Chicago: The Newberry Library, 2005.

Fiction:

Two very well-researched historical novels about multi-racial families in Louisiana that cover many generations before and after the Civil War:

- Tadem, Lalita. *Cane River*. New York: Warner Books, 2001.
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Isle of Canes*. Provo, Utah: MyFamily, Inc. 2004.

Initially prepared for the national Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society Conference (AAHGS) October 2007. Revised February 2008 and undated October 2009 and March 2014. © Virginia Banerjee

THE SCANNER IN YOUR POCKET OR PURSE

by Richard W. Eastman

Genealogists have lots of uses for scanners. We like to make digital images of information from books, court records, old maps, and even records found on microfilm. High quality portable scanners are inexpensive these days, typically \$50 and up. You can occasionally find them at even lower prices if you watch the sales. However, convenience is always an issue. Do you really want to carry a portable scanner with you at all times just

in case you happen to encounter something you want to digitize?

Actually, you probably already have such a scanner with you every time you leave the house. Today's Apple and Android smartphones typically have excellent, high-quality digital cameras built in. These make terrific scanners. Need to digitize a record in the deed books or the receipt you just received from a fast food restaurant? Make sure you have good lighting and snap a picture of it. I have been doing that for years and find it works well.

The handheld cell phone's camera may not create images that look as good as those produced by a good flatbed scanner. You might not want to scan documents or photographs you later wish to publish in a book. However, the images are always more than "good enough" for my personal notes. I also travel a lot and I used to collect all sorts of pieces of paper as receipts from restaurants, taxi cabs, shuttle buses, and more. Keeping paper receipts for tax purposes results in a mountain of paper receipts of all shapes and sizes. I find it much easier to store and retrieve the receipts electronically. I snap a picture, file it, and then throw the paper copy away. I have read that the Internal Revenue Service actually prefers digital images when doing an audit. The IRS auditors also do not like to wrestle with hundreds of pieces of paper, they find digital images easier to work with.

For some time, I simply snapped pictures and saved them to various folders in my desktop computer's hard drive, along with backup copies in the cloud. However, using a specialized app installed in the cell phone results in additional convenience and often also results in higher quality images. Some have automatic page edge detection so that all you save is the paper, not the surrounding background. Others create PDF files as well as the more common JPG images. Some even feature direct upload to Dropbox, Google Drive or Evernote so that the user doesn't have to remember to do that manually at a later date.

Best of all, using a cell phone camera to digitize images does not harm the paper being digitized. Most other scanners require placing the old or delicate piece of paper into the scanner and, worst of all, some scanners move the document being scanned through a series of rollers. Never attempt to do that with anything fragile! Even sending a photograph through rollers that bend the item being scanned can result in damage to the photograph. Using a cell phone's camera avoids those problems as the cell phone never touches the item being digitized.

All of today's "cell phone scanning" apps are much cheaper than buying an additional scanner. All the apps I am about to describe are available in the Apple iPhone and iPad App Store or in the Google Play Store for Android systems.

iPhone/iPad/iPod Touch

Of all the available cell phone "scanning" apps, my favorite is **TurboScan** for the iPhone. This \$1.99 product allows the user to create multiple-page PDFs, as well as JPEGs. It provides edge detection and adjustable contrast settings for the camera's settings. The images of color photographs captured by TurboScan are not high quality, but they are excellent black-and-white reproductions of documents and even of faded cash register receipts. TurboScan includes a "SureScan 3x" feature which merges three exposures, an excellent tool for use in low-light situations. The results typically are much better than the simple photographs you snap without using specialized software.

Scanner Pro for iPhone and iPad is probably the "top of the line" portable scanning app. It is the most expensive of the apps I have seen with a price tag of a mighty \$6.99. (Do you really still want to buy a scanner for \$50 or more?) Scanner Pro includes real-time border detection for better framing as well as iCloud sync for keeping your scans backed up and in sync with your devices and direct upload to Dropbox, Google Drive and Evernote. If you need an app that does everything, Scanner Pro is probably it.

CamScanner+ is a \$4.99 app for iPhone and iPad that allows the user to fax scans directly (for a fee), tag entries, collaborate, identify text and even set a passcode to secure your private documents. There's a free version available that uses advertisements and watermarks your scans, among other limitations. I believe it works well but I abandoned faxing years ago so I don't use CamScanner+. However, if you still use a fax machine, CamScanner+ may be a good choice for you.

Android

CamScanner+ is also available for Android devices. A free version is available that watermarks your scans and limits some of the app's more useful features. In effect, the free version is useful as a free trial but not something you would want to keep and use regularly. Who wants scanned images with watermarks prominently displayed? You can try out the free version and, if you decide you like it, then pay \$4.99 for a full-featured version without watermarks.

Mobile Document Scanner, also known as MDScanner, sells for \$4.99. It features multi-page support. That is, instead of having to take 10 pictures of a 10-page document and then having to store them as 10 separate files, Mobile Document Scanner allows the user to take the 10 different pictures and then stores the result in one larger file that contains all 10 pages. It also includes edge detection of each document and a range of processing options for making text, pictures or whiteboard drawings stand out. I believe the Android user will find Mobile Document Scanner to be an excellent choice for digitizing all sorts of documents you encounter while out and about.

Summation

Whatever your choice of software, using a cell phone's camera provides a lot of capability in a convenient package you probably already have with you. On your next trip to a library or archive that allows scanning or picture taking, try using your cell phone's camera. I suspect you will like the results.

Reprinted from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* 14 June 2014, <http://www.eogn>. Copyright Richard W. Eastman.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at One Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004. Their *Finding Family* programs, which are held in the Learning Center on the 3rd floor, are free and open to the public, and take place the second Tuesday of each month (unless otherwise indicated), from noon to 1 p.m. Seating is limited. Register by telephoning 866-840-1752 or e-mailing newyork.archives@nara.gov.

- **“Introduction to Genealogy Resources at the National Archives”** will be presented 14 Oct. It will cover the basics of family research using U.S. Federal census, passenger arrival, naturalization, and military records.
- **“What Court Records Reveal About Your Ancestors”** will be presented 13 Nov. NARA maintains court cases (admiralty, civil, and criminal) that may reveal family stories.
- **“Under-utilized Resources at the National Archives”** will be presented 9 Dec. and will assist you in finding records that are often missed or overlooked.

National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20408; telephone 866-272-6272. This program is in Room G-25, Research Center, (Penn. Ave. entrance): **“Help! I’m stuck” Genealogy Consultation** will take place Sat., 18 Oct. An archivist will be available from noon to 4 p.m. to answer questions. Sign up for a 20-minute appointment at the Microfilm Research desk.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 36 W. 44th Street, 7th fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; fax 212-754-4218.

- **Municipal Archives Tour #2: Beyond the Basics** (nygb-programs/2014-repository-tours-municipal-archives-tour-2-beyond-basics) will take place Fri., 24 Oct., 1:30-4:30 p.m. After visits to the Visitor Center, the City Hall Library, and the Conservation Lab, participants will spend most of their time in the Archives Reference Room where they may conduct their own research at a time when

the Municipal Archives is closed to the public and there is no wait for work stations or staff attention.

- **Research in Albany 2014**, Wed., 29 Oct., 6 p.m., to Sat., 1 Nov., 5 p.m., provides three days of assisted research.

National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204; toll-free phone 800-473-0060; fax 703-525-0052; e-mail conference@ngsgenealogy.org; Website www.ngsgenealogy.org.

- **NGS Research Trip to Salt Lake City**, Sun.-Sun., 4-11 Jan. 2015. In addition to the library’s records, researchers will have access to numerous commercial computer databases.
- **NGS 2015 Annual Conference** will be held in St. Charles, Mo., Wed.-Sat., 13-16 May 2015. More information will be forthcoming.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116-3007, toll-free telephone 888-286-3447, Website www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

- **New Visitor Welcome Tour**, Sat., 6 Dec., 10-11 a.m. A free orientation and tour that will introduce visitors to the resources available at the NEHGS research facility.
- **In Search of Livelihoods: Researching Occupations in Early New England**, 10-11 a.m., Sat., 25 Oct., will help you fill in details of the daily lives of your ancestors. Free and open to the public.
- **Children of Long Ago and Their Dolls**, 2-3 p.m., Sat., 25 Oct. Judith A. Ranta will discuss the kinds of dolls available to children of the 19th and earliest 20th centuries and display examples from her own collection, with an emphasis on American-made dolls. Free and open to the public.
- **Uncovering African American Stories**, 6-8 p.m., Tues., 18 Nov., Expert genealogist David Lambert will discuss the primary and secondary sources available at NEHGS for researching African-American ancestry.

Connecticut Ancestry Society, P.O. Box 249, Stamford, CT 06904-0249, www.connecticutancestry.org, will present **“Finding Your Medieval Ancestors”** by Harlan R. Jessup on Sat., 4 Oct 2014, 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Danbury Library.

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 a.m. (Premeeting networking starts at 9:30 a.m.) Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is requested of nonmembers. Visit the society's website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywogs>:

- **“Share Your Memories—A Bit of Myself”**, 11 Oct., will be presented by Filomena Abys Smith at the Irvington Public Library, 12 S. Astor St., Irvington, N.Y.
- **“Getting the Most From an Obituary,”** 8 Nov., will be presented by Christine Crawford Oppenheimer.
- **“Portrait of a Musical Russian Jewish Family,”** 10 Jan. 2015, will be presented by Guy Fairstein.

Federation of Genealogical Societies The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and RootsTech are teaming up for a one-time special genealogy event at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Wed.-Sat., 11-14 Feb. 2015. FGS and RootsTech will share the expo hall, general sessions, activities, and more while each conference offers its own program of sessions. FGS sessions will focus on methodology, records, ethnic research, and migration for honing your research skills and society issues to motivate and inspire society volunteers. RootsTech will offer a program of technology-based solutions for the genealogy needs of both individuals and societies. Register for FGS only or add a RootsTech pass for an additional fee to have access to both programs. For more information, visit the FGS Website at <https://www.fgsconference.org>.

Genealogy Cruises

The **6th Unlock the Past Cruise** (www.unlockthepast.com.au) will be a four-day cruise in the waters near Sydney, Australia, Thurs.-Sun., 23-26 Oct. The program will offer 25 topics in up to two streams, with an optional 5-day tour of Norfolk Island to follow Mon.-Fri., 27-31 Oct.

The **7th Unlock the Past Cruise** will be a five-day cruise in the waters of southwestern Australia around Freemantle, Albany, and Esperance, and will take place Mon.-Sat., 19-24 Jan. 2015. Again, they expect to offer 25 topics in up to two streams. Fifteen different sessions are anticipated.

The **8th Unlock the Past Cruise** will sail from Southampton, England, on Sat., 11 July 2015, to Bruges (Zeebrugge), Belgium; Berlin (Warnemunde), Germany; Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland; Stockholm, Sweden; Copenhagen, Denmark; and return to Southampton, England, on Sat., 25 July 2015. The genealogical program will be led by presenters from three continents and will cover 100 topics in 50 sessions.

For more information on any of these cruises, visit their Website at www.unlockthepast.com.au.

Cruising With Legacy Family 2014—Legacy Asia:

- **First Cruise, 26 Oct.-9 Nov. 2014;**
- **Second Cruise, 9 Nov.-23 Nov. 2014.**

The first cruise will be packed with genealogy classes on each sea day. The second cruise has no genealogy classes. It is for those who want to continue on and see more of Asia.

The first cruise will depart from Tokyo (Yokohama) on Sun., 26 Oct. 2014 and visit Mt. Fuji (Shimizu), Kobe, Kagoshima, and Nagasaki, all in Japan; then visit Shanghai (Boashan), China, Taipei (Keelung), Taiwan; and Hong Kong, China, where the first cruise ends Sun., 9 Nov. 2014.

The second cruise starts at Hong Kong, where and when the first cruise ends. departs Hong Kong Sun., 9 Nov., then visits Hanoi, Hue (Halong Bay); and Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), all in Vietnam; Bangkok / Laemchabang, Thailand; and Singapore, where the cruise ends Sun., 23 Nov. 2014.

For more information on either or both of these cruises, visit:

www.legacyfamilytree.com/CruiseInfo_2014.asp

Eastern Caribbean Genealogy Cruise will take place Sun.-Sun., 7-14 Dec. 2014 aboard the Celebrity *Silhouette*. Hosted by Gary and Diana Smith, with special guest speakers Dick Eastman and Jana Sloan, CG, the cruise will depart from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 7 Dec., then visit San Juan, PR; Basseterre, St. Kitts; and St. Maarten; before returning to Fort Lauderdale on 14 Dec. For more information, call Cruise Everything Today! at 800-959-7447 or 239-275-1717 or visit: www.cecruisegroups.com/genealogy-cruise

MGS MEETINGS*(Continued from page 2)*

tree well beyond what his uncle could ever have imagined.

15 NOVEMBER 2014: JONATHAN SHEA and MATTHEW BIELAWA will present **FINDING YOUR ROOTS IN EASTERN EUROPE WITH EMPHASIS ON POLAND, UKRAINE, AND BELARUS**. Jonathan Shea is a professor of foreign languages in the Connecticut Higher Education System. He is also a trained archivist and the founding president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. Matthew Bielawa is the Associate Registrar at Central Connecticut State University and is vice president of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast. His research specialization is in Eastern Galicia/Western Ukraine, and he is Webmaster of "Genealogy of Halychyna/Eastern Galicia," <http://www.halgal.com>, a site devoted to Polish and Ukrainian genealogical research

Their presentation will cover determining the family's place of origin, naturalization records, passenger ship arrivals, church records, and records of ethnic fraternal organizations. It will discuss major sources in Europe, gazetteers and geographical dictionaries, archdiocesan guides, diocesan archives, parish archives, location of vital records in Poland, local vital registry office, as well as other European sources.

24 JANUARY 2015: "INTERMEDIATE GENEALOGY" will be presented by **TONY LAURIANO**, who is a regular instructor on genealogical subjects throughout the tri-state area. Tony has published a number of articles in the Italian Genealogical Group magazine.

16 MAY 2015: "CIVIL WAR RESEARCH" will be presented by **LAURA W. CONGLETON**,

**Deadline for next newsletter
27 October 2014**

**MEETING
4 OCTOBER 2014
DARIEN LIBRARY**

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