

NEWSLETTER

NO. 3

October 1988

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As you know, our Society has continued to grow and become stronger in the past year. I think we have all felt the excitement of building upon what Bob Fatherley began. Now we are looking forward to another season which promises to show

even more progress.

We are delighted to tell you that on Sunday, October 2, 1988, the Darien Library officially opened the new addition. Our present rather miniscule genealogy library will soon be moved into space which has been especially set up for us. Board member Tom Kemp is in charge of organizing our library. Tom Kemp is Assistant Director of the Pequot Library in Southport and President of the American Society of Indexers. He is author of several genealogical books, the latest being "Vital Records Handbook", a book that is fast becoming a "must" for the Genealogist.

Our programs will continue to be strong under the guidance of another Board member, our new Program Chairman, Henry Hoff. He is a Fellow of The American Society of Genealogists, Chairman of the Education and Publication Committee of The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Compiler of "Genealogies of Long Island Families" and "Long Island Source Records" as well as being the author of numerous genealogical articles. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings. We will continue to have our "Hospitality Hour" after each meeting, where there always seems to be a great exchange of ideas. Emeline Fatherley, as hostess, puts "the icing on the cake".

As many of you know, we combined with The Darien Historical Society and made two very successful trips: one, a day trip to Philadelphia to celebrate the Bicentennial. The other, a two-day trip to Winterthur, Longwood Gardens and Brandywine River Museum with a delightful overnight stay at The Hotel duPont in Wilmington, Delaware.

Our work on the Darien cemeteries continues. You will read details of this project elsewhere in the Newsletter.

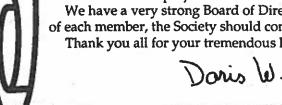
We have a very strong Board of Directors, and with the help of each member, the Society should continue to grow.

Thank you all for your tremendous help this past year.

Daris W. Hallander

The Middlesex Genealogy Society, The Stamford Genealogical Society and Heritage Quest are bringing you THE HERITAGE QUEST ROAD SHOW Sunday, Oct. 9th Bates-Scofield House 45 Old Kings Hwy N. Darien, CT 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

The road show is a mobile genealogy education program combining lectures and a traveling genealogy supermarket. So come and join in the fun while we listen to Leland Meitzler and Bill Dollarhide lecture about using the Federal and State censuses, organizing family data, little-used genealogical resources, numbering systems and computer use in genealogy, then browse among the genealogy books, research aids, and supplies they bring with them. A great way to spend a fall afternoon.





MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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The 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 the Darien Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10-12) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$10/ Individual and \$15/Couple or Family.

Original articles and notices of genealogical interest are welcomed for the newsletter. Send to the Editor:

Sherrill S. Yates 9 Wagon Rd Bethel, CT 06801.

Correspondence to the Society should be addressed to:

Middlesex Genealogical Society 45 Old Kings Highway North Darien, CT 06820



ORPHAN TRAINS

(taken in part from two articles "Orphans on a Train" and "Heritage Society Connects Families" in the *Danbury News-Times*, Sunday, August 7, 1988 written by Nancy Rogers, Feature Writer)

Around 1850, New York City's population was 500,000 with about 10,000 of that number homeless according to Leslie Wheeler, author of "The Orphan Trains," an article in the December 1983 issue of American Heritage Illustrated. In spite of a free public school system, there was a high rate of truancy and the sanitary conditions deplorable. Every summer more than 500 children a month died from dysentery alone.

Orphanages and almshouses were filled to overflowing, crime was at an all-time high (in 1852 four-fifths of the felony complaints registered in New York City were against minors) and children were literally dying in the streets.

Charles Loring Brace of Connecticut established the Children's Aid Society in 1853. He found lodging, work or vocational training for the older children, but his true dream was to get the children to clean air and country living. Thus was founded the "placing out" program, which ultimately resulted in the placement of more than 150,000 orphans and abandoned children from cities in the East to foster homes mostly in the rural Midwest.

The "orphan trains" operated for 75 years, from 1854 to 1929. The first "shipment" went by steamship to Albany and then by train to Dowagiac, Michigan. Weeks before the children actually arrived, the Children's Aid Society would be on the scene blanketing the town with posters and published circulars in local newspapers. They took applications then each applicant was questioned by a group of prominent citizens who made recommendations. The applicant had to promise to send the children to school and treat them as one of their own. The child's consent also was required. If the child was not legally adopted, the society or natural parents retained guardianship.

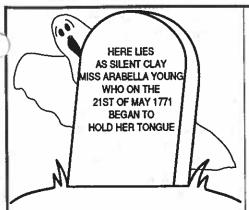
Similar societies were established in Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Chicago. The program had a very high rate of success. A 1910 survey showed 87 percent of the children had done well while 8 percent had returned to New York, and 5 percent had died, disappeared or been arrested.

My first thought as I read these articles was "how wonderful for these children to find homes!" My second thought was "Oh my, what a nightmare if one of these children was an ancestor!"

Ms. Rogers' second article deals with an organization called the Orphan Train Heritage Society of America, Route 4, Box 565, Springdale, Ark 72764, founded to help the orphan train survivors and their families in their search for information about their biological families. Unfortunately, out of the 1,588 children who found new homes in Connecticut during the early years of the program, none of their names or the names of their descendants, as yet, are known to this Society.

P.S. I personally called the New York Children's Aid Society and talked with Helen Steinman, the Society's Historian. She is located at 150 E. 45th Street, NY, NY 10017. She said there were handwritten records in large ledger books that had been kept from the beginning of the trains. However, the information might be sketchy or might be detailed. They are not open to the public, but she will look up names for people searching for ancestors and send what she has. She reminded me that The Children's Aid Society was not alone sending children on these trains. There were many orphan homes and social organizations involved, some affiliated with churches and some not, and each of these places may have kept rec-

Also Ms. Steinman said in addition to the articles mentioned above, there was a novel written "some time ago" entitled *Orphan Train* which was made into a movie that is shown on TV at least once every Christmas!



Epitaph in Plymouth, England taken from The Sunny Side of Genealogy compiled by Fonda D. Baselt

A CEMETERY SURVEY

by Janet Jainschigg

The inspiration came from reports of a committee working successfully to restore one of the town's old family cemeteries. We were not surprised that this committee included Darien Historical Society and MGS members, spearheaded by our founder, Bob Fatherley.

A general revival of interest in the preservation of old graveyards has resulted in the formation of a joint committee, representing the MGS and DHS, both of whose boards voted in support of the project. The first task undertaken by the group is a survey of all the old "family" burial grounds in Darien, using as a base a survey completed by the Historical Society in 1960, but never since updated.

Committee members have been busy over the summer rechecking and verifying the early report which enumerated but did not list or register inscriptions, as did the WPA survey of thirty years before. We look forward to further news of this project with perhaps suggestions for action steps needed for the preservation of our town's early graveyards.



An Update on the New Hampshire FAMILY REGISTER

I received a letter from the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists GENIE Editor, Carl W. Brage, with an update to an article in our last newsletter on their Register. The Family Register was copied by the Mormon Family History Libraries in mid December, 1987 and is now available on ten rolls of microfilm through them. The call numbers of the film are 1532156 - 1532159 and 1532876 - 1532881.

The Register has been such a success that there currently is a delay in excess of 6 months for mail responses to the NH Society for data inquiries, so Carl suggests the Mormon Family History Libraries would be faster at this point.

MIDDLESEX
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY MEETING
Wed., November 16th
@ 8 p.m.
Darien Public Library

HARRY MACY, JR.
Associate Editor of
The New York Genealogical
and Biographical Record
will speak on
19th Century New York
City Genealogy - Sources

and Techniques.



Items in this column
taken in part from the
Connecticut Society of Genealogists
Inc. Newsletters dated July-August,
1988

CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS

Births, deaths and marriages from 1636-1850 are indexed at the Connecticut State Library, 231 Capital Ave., Hartford. They will not do research requests by mail. They also have the microfilms, but no indexes, of the 1850-1900+ births, deaths and marriages. They are also available through the Mormon Family History Libraries.

ILLINOIS TO MICROFILM BIRTH RECORDS 50 YEARS AND OLDER AT THE STATE VITAL RECORDS

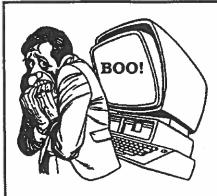
Copies of the microfilms will be available at the Illinois State Archives and through the Mormon Family History Libraries.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL DO RESEARCH BY MAIL.

The IHS now has individual people who will research for them. The fee is \$5.00 per single request non-refundable. Please state as much information as possible. They will also copy obituaries from newspapers if the exact date and newspaper is known (\$.25 per copy with a \$1 minimum). And will copy an exact page in a book for \$1 plus postage and handling.

FARMINGTON GENEALOGICAL MATERIALS

are held in the Farmington Room at the Farmington (CT) Public Library. The Farmington Museum on High Street does not keep them.



GENY COMPUTS

I feel there are many of you out there who are dragging your feet about computerizing - genealogically speaking. There are many factors to consider and in the beginning we all feel less than intelligent when confronted with computers. Even though I am somewhat computerliterate, I have yet to get all of my own data entered.

Entering your data into the computer is time consuming. It took me most of the summer to enter my 2,067 names. I have yet to enter my research data. You know, all those notes on all those scraps of paper stored here and there.

Once I finish, the computer will sort through both names and data, calculate relationships linking many people or a few, edit information already entered. It will then print out many different forms including our standbys - the pedigree charts and family group sheets. In general, it will HELP me keep track of where I am on each individual, even if it has been a year since I last did research on that particular person. It will save me hours by telling me where I left off.

There are many different genealogy software packages out now. I purchased a package about two years ago for \$200 called Family Reunion. Unfortunately, due to lack of time and computer experience, I put off actually getting very far in the process. I did load several hundred names in the system, but never felt very comfortable with it. I also found the user manual difficult to read, too technical. I have since switched to the PAF (Personal Ancestral File) put out by the Mormon Church. For \$35 it is both powerful and easy to use and learn. This summer, I have been using the 2.0 version, but they have since come out with the 2.1. I bought it for \$25 and will be updating as soon as I finish this newsletter! (See a review of the 2.1 next article.)

I encourage you to "take the plunge" and get started. It is something you can do for 15 minutes a week or 8 hours a day. Therefore, fitting it into your busy schedule is no excuse. Once you do it, you will feel so much more organized. Also you will have reviewed your entire filing system and probably thrown away most of those scraps of paper.

Salt Lake is working on a communications system which will allow access to their data. I, for one, plan to be at the front of the line. Won't you join me?

REVIEW OF PERSONAL ANCESTRAL FILE 2.1

UPDATE

This article reproduced with permission by the Stamford Genealogical Society, Inc. Originally written for the *Connecticut Ancestry*, Whole Number 164, Vol. 31, No. 1, August 1988, PC Interest Group Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 3, by Robert W. Green, Editor

As promised in our second newsletter, I have used Personal Ancestral File (PAF) revised version 2.1 for enough weeks to be convinced that it is worthy of a new product review.

After nearly two years of close exposure to PAF 2.0, there is no doubt in my mind that this program was really designed as two primary products in one wrapper. The first, Family Records, is a straight-forward, plain vanilla, powerful genealogical database manager with a rigid entry screen structure, coupled with a freeform, notekeeping function. The second, PAF Utilities (PAFUTIL), carefully hidden away from the prying eyes of the uninitiated, is a powerful search and query system with automated continuous report printing, relationship calculator, and

other useful utilities that can be accessed easily from pop-up menu screens.

The upgraded PAF 2.1 integrates these two products into one, by adding the data entry and modification functions of Family Records to PAF Utilities, so that PAFUTIL can be renamed "Family Records" and save the need for switching back and forth. But that is only the beginning of the goodies to be found in PAFUTIL 2.1.

PAFUTIL 2.1 now permits a direct switch from the three-generation pedigree view screen—husband/wife, all children (up to 20, instead of 10 at a time as in PAF 2.0), and parents of spouse in the top position—to an expanded individual screen for the spouse in the top position that shows spouse(s) and marriage dates for up to three marriages, and displays the notes for this individual on the same screen at the same time!

As the Ginsu knife ads say "But wait, that's not all!" Your notes for one individual can now be as long as 32 screens (if your computer has 640K) and you can edit either individual data or notes by pressing one key from this individual data screen, and when through, one keystroke returns you to the previous pedigree screen, with no necessity of exiting PAFUTIL in order to access and use the data entry or modification function for the individual selected.

Moreover, you can access a "family information" screen with one keystroke when you are at this individual screen (or with two strokes from the three-generation pedigree screen) that shows you the full family, with up to 30 children on the same screen, and permits you to edit the marriage date and place with one more keystroke. (Normal data entry for new individuals and new families is still done under Family Records as before, which PAFUTIL 2.1 now permits you to use without leaving PAFUTIL.)

There's much more in the way of search utilities, too. A new function called "Alpha browse" sorts all your

individuals into alphabetical order, and then displays twenty names at a time in a box at the left side of your screen. At the right side, compressed individual and family data for the individual whose name is highlighted at the left is shown: names and dates, names of up to three spouses, names of parents. You can move up or down one name or twenty at a time, jump to any part of the alphabet, and access the regular pedigree chart for the highlighted individual with only one keystroke.

But that's not all. From the standard three-generation pedigree screen you can select the "large" option, which substitutes a skeleton line chart covering five generations of the spouse in the top position on the left half of the screen, with a solid box symbol showing at each position for which you have identifying data in your database. If you move the cursor to one of those symbols, the compressed datename, sex, dates and places of birth, marriage, and death-for that person appears on the right half of your screen. If you have a mouse (for which PAFUTIL now provides drivers), these functions become incredibly fast and fluid. If you have a lot of data but don't have a mouse, I will lay odds that you'll soon covet

And that's still not all. PAFUTIL 2.1 will calculate the frequency of every single individual or place name in your database, display a frequency bar graph for birth dates, calculate age from birth and death dates or death date if you have birth date and age at death, show the calendar for any year selected on your screen, etc., etc.

For data entry, <F8> becomes a ditto key, repeating the name at a particular location on the data entry screen on the next person's data entry screen. For example, when entering a family group, the family surname and common locations of births, deaths, etc., need only be entered for the first individual, and then "dittoed" by pressing <F8> at

the appropriate locations. And sophisticated computer users can determine macro keys for commonly used names, so that a few keystrokes will insert the specified name.

For the technically oriented, PAFUTIL 2.1 finally provides drivers for laser printers, but not without bugs. Several phone calls suggest that Salt Lake believes they know what they are doing-and there is no doubt that their hearts are in the right place, but they don't actually have a laser printer of their own on which to test version 2.1. In fairness, it takes thirty single-spaced pages to describe all of PAFUTIL 2.1's features, and this mini-manual will print out automatically from the READ.ME file on disk No. 4, and some glitches are unavoidable with a new product. With LaserControl from Insight Development it works flawlessly.

I'm still scratching my head trying to figure out why all this gorgeous utility power is hidden away in a READ.ME file, with zero mention in the printed manual. Steal a copy at \$35.00 before some spoilsport decides to increase the price to what it is really worth. (One word of caution: high functionality typically requires a lot of RAM (system memory). Don't try to run this program on less than about 512K, and preferably, the full 640K that DOS can handle. Similarly, it runs faster on a hard disk, but you can live without one, unlike the RAM imperative.)





THE GENEALOGY BUG by Alice Mickey Weddle (taken from *The Sunny Side of Genealogy* compiled by Fonda D. Baselt

Our world is a quiet, peaceful place We go along at a smooth, even pace; Until that bug, "Genealogy" bites Then all is changed, both days and nights.

We search and research each nook and cranny
To find all we can about Gramp and Granny,
Dad and Mom, Uncles and Cousins
We quiz them all, dozens and dozens.

In books we read, in records we search In old courthouses and in the church; We hope to find a great, or a great great Where they lived, why and how they rate.

With pleasure our records we compile Each one we add brings a smile'; We are inspired, life is much brighter That bug, "Genealogy" is a real biter.



HORNES' HOWARD JOHNSON HOTEL

Temple Square Salt Lake City

makes a "One Time Offer - Genealogist's Special" to groups or individuals interested in a "great Salt Lake experience". They are about 1 1/2 blocks from the L.D.S. Genealogical Library and are offering \$38 + tax single or double occupancy from October 15, 1988 through February 28, 1989 and April 15, 1989 through May 31, 1989. They also mention 7 world famous ski resorts only 45 minutes by ski bus "just across the street" in case you would like to take advantage of Utah's great powder! Sounds like a deal to me, however, this is not a personal recommendation as I have not been. For more information, call 800-366-3684 or (801) 521-0130.

Balch Institute founded by court to document American immigration

taken from AntiqueWeek, Genealogy Week section, Monday, Sept. 26, 1988, page 7B written by John W. Heisey

Go to Philadelphia if you want to steep yourself in the beginnings of United States history. Predictably you'll want to visit Independence National Historical Park and see the Liberty Bell et al.

When you've stuffed yourself on American history as the main course, look around for dessert. You won't have to look far. Just one block west of the Liberty Bell is another tribute to American history and one no genealogist should missthe Balch Institute.

Ever heard of it? It isn't that well known yet, but I hope that in the future this museum/library will be recognized as one of the primary places for American immigration historical research.

Surprisingly this institution, officially "The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies," was founded by the Philadelphia Orphans Court in 1971. This was done so in order to carry out wishes of the Balch family of some 50 years ago.

The mission of the Institute as defined by the courts is "to document and interpret American immigration history and other ethnic life." To carry out this requirement a research library was established, as was a museum. Although the library will probably be the goal for most genealogists, the museum, too, will be of much interest.

Lest you get the idea that this is a small, unknown and unimportant research source, look at the following. It is an independent, non-profit research, educational public service library/museum, affiliated with the Center for Immigration Research at Temple University.

Fields of interest for this library are immigration and ethnicity, with special emphasis on documenting and interpreting the American multicultural experience, as well as the labor movement in America.

Holdings of the library are impressive and new materials are constantly being added. At present there is a file of some one million names of immigrants who came to this country in the 19th century.

There are at least 5,000 linear feet of manuscript materials, over 6,000 reels of microfilm, plus some 19th century ship manifests. These pertain to about 35,000,000 immigrants. Also, the libary has about 50,000 volumes, plus newspapers, on various ethnic groups in America. Add to this several hundred sound recordings of oral history by immigrants and 12,000 or more photos and you have quite a source to tap for genealogy.

Among special collections are many volumes on the American labor movement, and the Ethnic Heritage Studies Clearinghouse Collection, and it is the home for the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center.

As most of the materials being collected by the Institute deal with immigrants, this naturally includes or pertains to ethnic groups. However, there is also quite a lot of data on blacks, including microfilm copies of the Works Progress Administration's unpublished Slave Narrative Collection done in the latter 1930s.

Other collections in this library concerning blacks include the microfilmed records of the American Colonization Society (1792-1964) and the Maryland and Colonization Society (1827-1902).

The library has an extensive collection of ethnic newspapers and periodicals. Among many thousands of these are over 150 ethnic newspapers (on microfilm, by the way). The predominant ethnic groups for which such publications are available are blacks, Germans, Italians, Lithuanians, Jews, Norwegians, Poles, Slovaks and Ukranians.

A unique collection of the Institute is the American Friends Service Committee Refugee Case File Collection covering the period 1933 to 1952. This pertains to more than 20,000 political refugees and displaced

persons who emigrated from Nazi areas of Europe from 1933 to the end of World War II. Due to the sensitivity of these materials, access to them is restricted and permission to use that data must be obtained from the Balch Institute and the American Friends Service Committee.

Many of the collections center around one specific nationality or ethnic group. Of most interest and/ or potential use to genealogists are the following:

a. DUTCH: A small collection includes the papers, genealogical notes, charts and other data of Henry C. Lukas, a 20th-century Dutch genealogist. The records of the Netherland Society of Philadelphia (1892-1982) are also housed here and are being added to from time to time.

b. GERMAN: A fairly large collection with little widespread genealogical material. However, their microfilm collection of German language newspapers and other works may be of use.

c. GREEK: A good collection of which the microfilm copies of *Atlantis*, a Greek language newspaper (1894-1973) may be helpful.

d. IRISH: A large collection, but one which would not seem to be of much widespread interest to most genealogists, except as background data.

e. ITALIAN: A large collection with many photographs and quite extensive material on Philadelphia families, thus rather limited for genealogical researchers.

f. JAPANESE: A small collection with photographs, mostly about the unfortunate victims of the World War II relocation of Japanese families in America.

g. JEWISH: A hugh collection which includes the papers of the Jewish Archives Center, mostly concerning Philadelphia Jewish families.

h. LATVIAN: A fine collection of books and periodicals and some church records (Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John, Philadelphia - 1897-1936). i. MIDDLE EAST: A tiny collection of very limited interest or use to most genealogists.

j. POLISH: A good-sized collection of papers, etc. Of possible interest to genealogists are records of the American Relief for Poland, Philadelphia Chapter.

k. SCOTCH-IRISH: A very useful collection which consists of the Scotch-Irish Foundation Library and Archives.

1. SLOVAK: A large collection which includes some records of the Slovak lodges and workingmen's

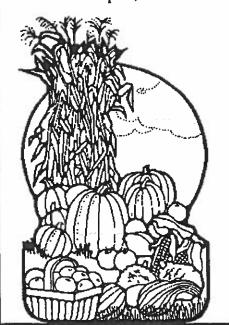
groups.

m. SWEDISH: A large collection which may be of much value to genealogists, especially those seeking data on very early Swedish immigrants to this country (such as the 17th century).

n. SWISS: Mostly microfilmed, this collection includes records of various Swiss-American societies which might be of use genealogically.

 o. UKRANIAN: A good collection of materials, but of doubtful use to genealogists, except as background.

To take advantage of this exceptional library and museum complex, visit The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 S. 7th St., Philadelphia, PA 19106, phone (215) 925-8090. It's open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it's free. ■



AND THE SEARCH GOES ON...

I am ashamed to admit it, but in spite of having been semi-actively pursuing my "passion" of genealogy for 12 years, I had never taken full advantage of the easily accessible information known as Vital Records.

One of my excuses was that when you checked with the various states regarding the dates of births, marriages and deaths on file, they were fairly recent, i.e., 1905+. Upon checking my pedigree charts, I found I had all my "spaces" filled in for those ancestors. So even though I knew it was necessary for me to get copies of these important records one day, I put it off.

Put it off that is, until I bought Tom Kemp's book Vital Records Handbook. This would be a good summer project and, anyway I felt sure I wouldn't need to send for more than 10 - a relatively inexpensive operation! So I sat down with the book and started the simple process (of course, we all know NOTHING is EVER simple or inexpensive!).

The process was not difficult, but lengthier and more involved than I anticipated. I identified ancestors and their states of death grouping them together by states. Copies were made of the forms from Tom's book, filled out and recopied (for my records), checks written or money orders obtained and envelopes and SASEs addressed. By now my 10 turned into 27 and my inexpensive turned into \$138.

In case by now you are thinking better her than me, I will tell you that the results have been very rewarding. Out of the 27 I mailed September 2, I received 7 back within 5 days, then 5 more 2 days later and so forth. I was pleasantly surprised by the fast turnaround and thrilled at the information I received. Each death certificate provided information I did not have including, of course, the cause of death. I also found that most of the death dates I had were close but not accurate. I found that one ancestor died in a "military home" which I did not know. And I found a special closeness to these ancestors that did not previously exist. Now that I have been privileged to have "known" them at their time of death, I have a stronger desire to know them during their time of life.

One word of caution, death certificates are filled out by receiving information from an "informant", usually a close relative. The "informant" most probably is in a state of grief and shock. Although trying to answer questions to the best of his/ her ability, they may not really know the answers to questions like where was your mother's father born. Therefore, I would be careful about this sort of information. You can probably count on is the date and cause of death, and the town, county and state they died. The rest should be double checked.

I hope your luck is as good as mine. I can hardly wait to get the birth certificates under way! SO HERE'S SEARCHING WITH YOU!

The Middlesex Genealogy Society and

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The Darien Historical Society offer their Fall Tour to Historic Deerfield Tues. & Wed., Nov. 1 & 2, 1988

Enjoy museum house tours, textile and costume exhibits, early American silver collection and the hospitality of the Deerfield Inn

Reservations by Fri., Oct. 14th 655-9233

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Middlesex Genealogy Society 45 Old Kings Highway North Darien, CT 06820