

Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XVI, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

November 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Those of you who attended our October meeting heard an excellent talk by Meldon Wolfgang regarding the use of newspapers in genealogical research (see page 5). He pointed out the many ways in which this rather time-consuming research can lead to information not available from any other sources. Darien Library will assist in this type of research by borrowing newspaper microfilms that can be viewed (and copied) on the library's microfilm readers.

On another subject, one suggestion that I can offer to our readers is to revisit Internet web sites that you may not have visited for a while. The exponential increase in the available information continues to be astonishing. Cyndi's List now has links to about 80,000 genealogical sites!

One of the categories of information that has increased dramatically is compiled genealogies on the Internet. Just to name three of these sites, the Family-Search site has its Ancestral File; RootsWeb has World Connect; and Ancestry.com has World Tree Search. I use these sites to locate distant cousins who are researching a particular branch of my family.

In addition to the compiled genealogy sites that offer third- or fourth-hand information, there has been a definite increase in data such as transcriptions of primary or secondary sources to the Internet. Every week I seem to notice newly added indexes to marriage and death records for several counties. The number of cemetery listings has increased rapidly, too, as has the number

of census records. You probably noticed in our September *Newsletter* that Ancestry.com has promised to put the United States Federal Census records (1790-1920) online, and that we now make

available the PSMEDIA collection of city directories through the online computer in the Genealogy Room at Darien Library. Most of this information has already been available, but the computer and the Internet make it more conveniently accessible.

The search programs for online data have become faster, more powerful and more efficient. These programs can often compensate for the fact that original documents were prepared without an index, or with a poor index. None of this obviates the need to look for less common sources, but it should certainly help you to spend your time more productively.

For all of these reasons, you may want to consider going back for a new look at some of the Internet sites that are now enlarged with more information.

David L. Mordy

2001 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Although membership renewal is not due until 1 January 2001, early renewal is helpful to all of us. If renewals are received before that date, MGS will save the considerable expense of copying and postage that

sending out renewal notices imposes. That saving translates directly into more money that can be used for such things, as new books and CDs, speakers' fees, Family-Search maintenance, subscriptions (e.g., Ancestry.com, PSMEDIA), etc. You may use the form on the last page of this Newsletter to renew your membership—or to become a new member. If you are one of

our many readers that save *Newsletters*, feel free to copy the form or use a separate piece of paper. If you wish, you may bring your renewal to our next meeting on 18 November.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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 \$15 per individual and \$20 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.lib.ct.us/mgs

E-mail: dbowley@concentric.net

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS MARK YOUR CALENDARS

18 NOVEMBER 2000: FREDERICK C. HART JR., CG, of Guilford will be our speaker. Focusing on the Colonial period, his talk is entitled "CRUISING LONG ISLAND SOUND: TRACING ITS EARLY FAMILIES WITH A REGIONAL VIEW." Specific group and individual migrations will be discussed, and appropriate sources and techniques for researching the early families of Long Island Sound communities will be presented.

Fred Hart is a lifelong resident of the Long Island Sound area, and is also a professional genealogist specializing in Connecticut families. He has been a Certified Genealogist since 1993, is an active member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, and is a Governing Board member of the Connecticut Ancestry Society. His genealogical articles have appeared in The American Genealogist, The New England Historical and Genealogical Register, The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, and Connecticut Ancestry.

27 JANUARY 2001: ANNUAL WORKSHOP and INTER-NET WORKSHOP jointly sponsored by MGS and Darien Library.

31 MARCH 2001: MGS's March meeting will be cosponsored by the Darien Historical Society and the Connecticut Ancestry Society. The subjects are DARIEN RECORDS and THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

19 MAY 2001: HARLAN R. JESSUP, will present "WHEN SOURCES ARE WRONG—DEALING WITH ERRORS IN PRIMARY RECORDS." Any genealogist beyond the novice level knows that published records are subject to error and that it is always a good idea to check primary sources. But what if primary sources (or those we assume to be primary) are also incorrect? How do we recognize and make allowances for such errors? This presentation will give some interesting examples of errors in primary sources and will suggest strategies to compensate for them in our conclusions.

Harlan Jessup has been a professional genealogist specializing in Connecticut for about six years. Although he covers all areas and all periods in Connecticut research, he is especially fond of Colonial research in western Connecticut towns. He spends much of his time at the State Library in Hartford and is on their list of accredited researchers. He is also president of the Connecticut Ancestry Society and a member of many others.

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

BACK TO BASICS

by Donna Moughty

From time to time, a review of the basics of genealogy can be invaluable, not only to those whose efforts have just begun, but also to those with significant experience in searching for relatives long gone.

Probably the most frequently asked question I get when talking with people about genealogy is, "Where do I start?" In the past few decades with nuclear families and high mobility, people have lost touch with their extended families, and many have little family information beyond their grandparents. That was clearly my situation when I started my exploration.

The answer to this is pretty simple—start with yourself. In the number one box of a simple pedigree chart put in your name (maiden name if a woman), as well as your date and place of birth. Then move to boxes two and three and do the same for your mother and father. Boxes four and five represent your paternal grandparents, while six and seven represent your maternal grandparents. Continue filling in information as far as you can go.

Right at the start it is wise to form good habits! For each bit of information you write down, add a footnote that indicates where you obtained the information. This is your source. You are probably the source of all of the information so far, but as you continue in your quest your sources will expand to include family members, primary source documents (such as birth or baptismal certificates, marriage and death certificates), and secondary source documents (compiled genealogies, cemetery books, local histories). When you have conflicting information it is very important to know where you obtained that information. Noting your source will also help you to avoid wasting time looking in places you have already searched. Probably all of us have had the experience of finding that something we know to be true (i.e., we always celebrated Pop's birthday on 19 October) is proved wrong (when, for example, we obtain a birth certificate and discover that Pop's birthday was really 23 October).

The next step is to begin talking with other family members to see what they know. Siblings, parents, aunts, uncles and, if you're lucky enough, grandparents, great aunts and great uncles. (Start with the oldest ones first!) As you begin to move to more extended family, you will need to add Family Group Sheets to your collection in order to capture information about a particular individual's family, including spouse and children.

Each piece of information you collect will lead you to another question or place to look, and before you know it you will be hooked! Your family tree will sprout roots and grow leaves as you put each piece of your family's puzzle in place.

Resources:

You can obtain copies of Pedigree Charts and Family Group Sheets in the Business/Genealogy Room to the left of the Information Desk at Darien Library. You can also review many "how to" books, both in the reference area and in the general circulation section of the library. Forms can also be found online at:

- Ancestry: http://www.ancestrycorner.com/Pages/ forms.shtml
- Roots Web: http://www.rootsweb.com/~cokids/ forms/findex.htm
- Haller: http://www.io.com/~jhaller/forms/forms.html

CSG LITERARY AWARDS 2001 CONTEST

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435, telephone (860) 569-0002, has announced its Literary Awards 2001 Contest. *Please note:* Entry is *not* restricted to CSG members. Everyone and anyone is encouraged to submit a publication that was published in or after 1993 for evaluation in the categories of:

- Genealogy (usually begins with the native or immigrant ancestor and comes forward in time, \$1,000 grand prize).
- Family History (begins with someone living today—or recently—and goes backward in time, \$500 first prize).
- Other (a work of interest that usually pertains to a specific entity/instance of historical and/or genealogical interest, including but not limited to such topics as compilations of cemetery inscriptions, bible records, "how to" suggestions for doing research in New England, new findings

which may correct and/or add to previously published materials regarding New England, and transcripts of oral histories pertaining to New England; \$500 first prize).

Entries will be evaluated on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to: the quality of the title page; table of contents, index, format (logical, readable, interesting arrangement) use of primary source material, illustrations, New England content (of paramount importance), sentence structure, grammar and presentation. Where applicable, evaluation will also be based on: numbering system, quality of references, bibliography, and narrative. Books should be bound (both hard- and soft-cover books acceptable).

Entries must be received by CSG by 15 February 2001, and must be accompanied by an application form, two copies of your publication (not returnable), and a \$20 entry fee. All entries will be permanently retained in the Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library and will be available to visitors to the library.

There is also a "Fledging Essay" category (\$250 first prize) for students in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12. Essays must not be more than five pages, doublespaced with a 1" margin all around each page, and must be printed/typed/word-processed in12-point (or 10 characters to the inch) type. Two copies (not returnable) must be submitted, along with an application form and a \$5 entry fee. Essays must have some relevance to New England, but essay writers are encouraged to use their imagination when deciding on a topic. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: transcription of an excerpt from an ancestor's journal/ diary, oral history of a person older than the writer of the essay, transcription of cemetery markers, family history/traditions, and socio-economic background surrounding/affecting an ancestor.

MGS has a single set of application forms. Please see a board member at our 18 November meeting if you would like to have one of these copied—or get in touch with CSG directly.

Pride thyself on the humbleness of thy family, and scorn not to say that thou comest of peasants. Blood is inherited, but virtue is acquired.

Don Quixote (to Sancho Panza), Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616)

FGS NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT SALT LAKE CITY, SEPTEMBER 2000

by David V. Bowley

I represented Middlesex Genealogical Society at the Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference, which was held this year in the Salt Palace Convention Center, within easy walking distance of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The conference, which was entitled "A World of Records," certainly lived up it's billing and was superbly run by the sponsor—The Utah Genealogical Association. Attendance was close to 2,000, and I found myself almost overwhelmed when I walked into the opening session, at which Richard E. Turley, Managing Director of the Family and Church History Department of the LDS Church did a masterful job of tracing the story of the Family History Library and it's future in linking the world family.

It is clear from this and other presentations at the conference that the Mormons have taken a giant step forward in improving the search capabilities of their website and in marketing inexpensive CD ROM disks such as the recently released *Vital Statistics of Western Europe*.

The Conference ran for four days and the presentations and seminars were divided into seven tracks that ran concurrently. The 600-page syllabus is available to MGS members, and you will find it, along with copies of the FGS Forum Journal, in a hard plastic container at the left-hand end of our library shelves.

It was interesting to see that three separate organizations were promoting "Molecular Genealogy." The primary objective of these groups is to determine the genetic composition of major populations throughout the world. The Molecular Genealogy Research Group at Brigham Young University had a stall at which people were lining up to donate a blood sample (luckily the line was too long, so I did not donate my blood!).

Briefly, they take a blood sample and use two DNA elements to assist them in analyzing genetic characteristics. The first is the "Y chromosome" inheritance which follows the surname, being only passed down from father to son. The second is the "Mitochondrial"* inheritance, which is inherited by all children but only

^{*}Mitochondrial DNA is more numerous and is situated outside the nucleus of the cell in the mitochondria.

passed down through daughters. Those interested in following up on these developments should contact the B.Y.U. group at their website: http://molecular-genealogy.byu.edu

The proximity of the Conference Center to the Family History Library allowed attendees to visit the library between sessions and also at night as the library was kept open until midnight Wednesday through Friday especially to accommodate conference attendees.

It was my first visit to the Family History Library. As almost all my ancestors were born in the U.K., I spent most of my time in the basement where the British records are located. They have copies of so great a number of Parish Records that, amazingly, it is easier in some respects to search in Salt Lake City than by visiting the appropriate County Record Office in the British Isles! They also have pretty good census records, including the 1881 British Census CD disks. Even the 1851 Census, however, can be searched if you know the Census District, and this can be quite useful if the area that you are researching is a small town.

All in all, this was a most enjoyable visit, with sunshine all week long. Then, on Sunday when of course the library is closed, I was able to attend a Mormon Church and learn more about Brigham Young and the terrible struggle that underlies the establishment of Salt Lake City.

USING NEWSPAPERS FOR FAMILY RESEARCH

Our 14 October meeting drew a sizable crowd to hear Meldon Wolfgang's superb presentation on "Using Newspapers for Family Research." His purpose was not to provide a laundry list of solutions, but to make us think of ways in which newspapers can provide clues and help us to understand the daily lives of our ancestors. Personal experiences illustrated his points.

Newspapers have existed in this country since *Public Occurrences* appeared in Boston in 1680—and ceased publication the following day. In 1704 there was only one newspaper, but in 1720 there were three, in 1740 about six, and by the end of the Revolutionary War 23. Then, in the early 1800s, cheaper newsprint and a stronger subscriber base caused rapid growth. By 1840 there were 2500 newspapers around the U.S. and in the 1880s there were 11,300.

Early newspapers were all fine print, multi-column,

with no illustrations and few pages. They contained primarily political and shipping news, but also a few "vital records," i.e., deaths and marriages of important people. To increase circulation, however, newspapers strove for a more pleasing format, printed somewhat sensational items, and made an effort to include names of potential subscribers by giving more attention to local events, including social events and out-of-town visitors. (Newspapers strove to mention each subscriber's name in editorial text at least once a year.) Also, there were growing numbers of ethnic, religious, trade, and special-interest publications, which contained information about the members of their specific communities.

Major newspapers have been microfilmed, and some indexes exist. Local newspapers may have been microfilmed, but can be difficult to access at a distance and are unlikely to have been indexed. Specialized publications are the most difficult of all to find and access. For example, librarians rarely saved foreign-language publications because they did not think them of interest to the community they served. Many newspapers deemed unnecessary to keep were donated to scrap drives and pulped during wartime. Old newspaper issues continue to surface from time to time, however. If told that something of interest no longer exists, keep checking. Start your search with:

- Gregory, Winifred, ed. American Newspapers, 1821-1936: A Union List of Files Available in the United States and Canada. New York, 1937. Reprinted by Klaus Reprint, NY, 1967.
- Willging, Eugene P. and Herta Hatzfield. Catholic Serials of the 19th Century in the United States: A Descriptive Bibliography and Union List. Washington, Catholic University, 1961-1966. (2nd Series, 13 vols.)
- Milner, Anita Cheek. Newspaper Indexes: A Location and Subject Guide for Researchers. 3 volumes. Metuchen, NJ, 1977-1982.
- Brigham, Clarence. History and Bibliography of American Newspapers: 1690-1820. Worcester, Mass.: American Antiquarian Society, 1947.
- Kellerman, Lydia S. and Rebecca A. Wilson. Index to Readex Microopaque Collection of Early American Newspapers. Harrisburg, Pa., State Library of Pennsylvania, 1990.
- Hoornstra, Jean. American Periodicals, 1741-1900: An index to the Microfilm Collections. Ann

Arbor, Mich.

There is a United States Newspaper Program (also known as the Newspaper Project) with a Website at: http://www.neh.gov/preservation/usnp.html This is a cooperative national effort among the states and the federal government to locate, catalog, and preserve on microfilm newspapers published in the United States from the 18th century to the present. Through this site, links are available to the states (usually the state library), and information is provided on what newspapers are available and in what form. Microfilmed newspapers are often available on interlibrary loan, and the Information Desk at Darien Library can help you with this process. It is worth remembering that some states, such as New York, have borrowable microfilms of newspapers printed *outside* their borders.

Think regionally, not locally, as multiple newspapers may have been printed in the same locality in the same year. Look for small clues that will suggest your next step.

Do not neglect advertisements. "My wife has left my bed and board," or "My indentured servant/apprentice has left," can be significant clues. If your ancestor was a craftsman or manufacturer, you might find advertisements for his services or products. And personal ads inquiring about what happened to individuals (as exemplified in the seven volumes of *The Search for Missing Friends* reprinted from a Boston newspaper) may prove very informative. Legal notices, too, are a rich source of information.

Newspaper research is not easy. It is hard, time-consuming and labor-intensive work, but the rewards are great. There is information in newspapers that can be found nowhere else.

CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

4 November 2000, Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm, at New Canaan Historical Society Library, 13 Oenoke Ridge Road, New Canaan. Panel Discussion: "What's Really New in Genealogy?" Panelists: Frederick C. Hart, C.G.; Nancy Malling; and Phoebe Kirkham.

24 February 2001, Saturday, 9 am to 4 pm, at Stamford Historical Society, 1508 High Ridge Road, Stamford. Genealogy 101 On-the-Road with Marcia Melnyk of the NEHGS.

Call (203) 270-7887 for more information.

CREATIVE SPELLING

by Dorothy Shillinglaw

Indexes are wonderful, but errors within them can mislead and frustrate users. While at the Family History Center in New Canaan recently, I searched the index on the 1881 British Census CD disks for my great-grandmother Janet (Gilfillan) Shillinglaw who was a life-long resident of Edinburgh. (Janet's husband, Thomas Shillinglaw, had died in 1876.) I was surprised to find that she was not listed. I next searched for John Millar, who had married Janet's daughter Dora Shillinglaw in 1878. There were a lot of John Millars, but Dora's husband had two middle names, Alexander Stevenson, which made him easy to spot in the index as John A. S. Millar in Edinburgh where I expected to find him. When I went to the disk for Scotland and brought up his record, I found the Shillinglaw family, too. The head of the household that John Millar was in at the time of the census was his mother-in-law, listed as Janet "Gilzillan Shillinglass," age 54. All Shillinglaws within the household had their surname similarly misspelled.

The other Shillinglaws were Janet's only son, George, age 21, and her daughters Mary, age 31, and Janet, age 18. Daughter Dora was there as Dora "Shillinglass or Millar," age 30, along with two Millar children: John S. L., age 1, and George W. R., age 5 months. There were five boarders, including William M. G. Monilaws, age 23, who would marry the youngest Shillinglaw daughter, 18-year-old Janet, in this house on 11 April 1882, by which time he would be living and working in Newcastle-on-Tyne. Two domestic servants rounded out the household—a total of 15 people.

Without the productive shortcut that I was able to use, finding the Shillinglaw household would have been very difficult. (We're accustomed to having our name misspelled, but Shillinglass was a new variation.) When using a transcribed index, it is important to remember that a transcriber has to make only one spelling error to place your quarry out of reach. You, as the seeker, on the other hand, may have to come up with two, four, perhaps ten variations on a single name in order to overcome a flawed index entry. It's worth doing, however, because the extra time invested in this creative effort can produce valuable results.

QUERIES

Instructions:

Genealogical queries will be published in the MGS Newsletter, space permitting, and at the editor's discretion, giving preference to Fairfield County, other Connecticut counties and nearby Westchester, Putnam and Duchess Counties in New York. Queries that are too vague or general will not be used. Make queries brief, but include known dates, places and other identifying information. Don't abbreviate, as we will do that.

Query Fee: Member queries under 50 words, free. Over 50 words, or nonmembers, \$5.

Address: Query Editor, MGS, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820-1111. Please include your name, address, and e-mail address, if any.

Please note: All locations are in Connecticut unless otherwise specified. Queries are also posted on the MGS Website.

115. DOTY. Seek parents of Keziah DOTY (b 1760 in Coventry, Tolland Co.) who m Elias CADY (b about 1756 in Coventry). His parents were Ebenezer and Prudence Palmer CADY. Keziah and Elias lived in Florida, Orange Co., NY and/or Canaan, Columbia Co., NY, and had nine children. Their daughter Rhoda Ann CADY m Daniel JACKSON and had a son named Samuel Doty JACKSON. (LDS AF gives Samuel DOTY and Zerviah LOVELL as Keziah's parents, but no confirmation found.) Jane Edmundson, 35 Bridge St., #302, Westport, CT 06880.

116. BURNAP. Seek parents, birthplace and birth date for Mary BURNAP who married Samuel HI-BARD (1710-1792) 27 Sept. 1748 in Windham, Windham Co. Mary and Samuel had seven children in Windham: Abel (b 1749), Mary (b 1750), Lucia (b 1753), Asa (b 1755), Diah (b 1756), Lyma (b 1760) and William (b 1762). Dorothy Shillinglaw, 27 DuBois St., Darien, CT 06820; e-mail: sd-shillinglaw@prodigy.net

117. REED/READ/REID. Capt. John REED (b Cornwall, Eng., abt 1633; Capt. in Oliver Cromwell's army) came to Providence, RI, in 1660, where he m widow Ann Derby in 1666. They settled in what is now Darien where they had six children: John (m Elizabeth Tuttle), Thomas (b 1672), William, Mary (m David Tuttle in 1698), and Abigail (m Mr. Crozier). Second wife Mrs. Scofield of Stamford. He died here in 1730, age 97, and was buried on his farm. A great-grandson, Newton Reed, placed a granite marker on the site of his grave in 1886. Seek informa-

ion about family, Reed Farm, and what life was like here in the late 1600s/early 1700s. Russell A. Read; e-mail: raread@mail2.ncn.com

118. MILLIKEN. Seek information about Thomas K. MILLIKEN and/or Hugh Kennedy MILLIKEN who resided in Stamford, Fairfield Co., from approximately 1880 through 1919. Debbie Denaple, 31 Roxy Ave., Edison, NJ 08820.

119. CARROLL. Michael CARROLL died 14 June 1851. Michael C. CARROLL, probably his son, came from Ireland in 1846/47, m Mary Mulrooney Oct. 1850 in Middlesex Co., and settled in Middletown and Portland, Middlesex Co. Twin sons, Michael and James Patrick CARROLL, were b July 1851, and a daughter, Anastasia (Annie), in 1853. Seek any available information on this family. Jackie Carroll Ozment, 340 Cheyenne Court, Vacaville, CA 95688-2408; e-mail JAKEEOZ@aol.com

120. BOW/BOWE. James C. BOW/BOWE was born in Connecticut in 1788. By 1814 he was in Botetourt Co., VA, where he married Sarah (Day) McCahan. Their children were Lucinda, Ozias T.J., Nancy, Amanda, Susannah, Cornelius Henderson, and Joseph D. He was in the 1830 and 1850 Federal Censuses for Montgomery Co., VA. Seek birthplace, parents, and siblings. Mrs. Wertie B. Gibson, 759 Goodrich St. SW, Port St. Lucie, FL 34983; e-mail dwgibs@aol.com

AN EXAMPLE OF THE GENEROSITY OF GENEALOGISTS

Hanging on the bulletin board at Darien Library is a note from Mrs. Eleanor Evans Borkenhagen of Huntington Beach, CA, along with some obituary clippings from her local newspapers about people with Connecticut origins. These include Ted M. Kollar, Stratford; Dorothy H. Polak, Bridgeport; Milo A. Spiriglio, Greenwich; Wilson Meredith Haff, Stamford; and Arthur Henry Cooke, Darien. The note explains that she clips and sorts obituaries, then sends them to the appropriate genealogical society. Thank you Mrs. Borkenhagen for your generous efforts!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER
9 JANUARY 2001

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

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MEETING SATURDAY, 18 NOV. 2000, 2 PM DARIEN LIBRARY

