



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Volume III, Number 1

March 1986

SPRING

10:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 10, 1986
at the
BISHOP HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS,
Bridgeport Public Library
925 Broad Street
(Parking garage in next block)

FLING

David W. Palmquist, City Archivist of Bridgeport, will conduct a workshop and research day, utilizing the Bishop Historical Collections, an extensive resource for genealogists. It's scope is not limited to the immediate area.

Reservations, which include a box lunch, should be made by May 1st and are \$5.00. Make your check payable to the Middlesex Genealogical Society and send to: Mrs. J.G. Jainschigg, P.O. Box 906, Darien, CT 06820.

Invite a friend. This promises to be a wonderful day.

MARCH ANNUAL MEETING

The second annual meeting of the MGS was held at the Darien Library on Wednesday, March 19, 1986. President Robert Fatherley presided over the meeting. A new Vice President, Doris (Nikki) Hollander, was elected to fill the vacancy left after the death of Leo Dunphy and three new directors, Norman Adams, Grace Clarendon and Ida Scharmer, were elected to three year terms. Treasurer George Cushman announced the balance at the end of 1985 was \$881.00 and as of that evening the society's membership was 129. The By-Laws are in the process of being updated and incorporation papers were filed March 13. Carl Moses, Publications chairman, spoke about the society's upcoming work on the compilation of the veterans' graves in the Spring Grove Cemetery to be published later this year. Nikki Hollander, Jane Merchant and Ruth Radmall were cited for their work on this project.

MGS

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Thirty-eight members of the MGS attended the Washington's Day Birthday Luncheon held at the Silvermine Tavern on Saturday, February 22nd. This event had been the dream of Leo J. Dunphy, who was the Society's Vice President until his death last year. The luncheon was held in his memory and in the memory of those of our other members who have passed away.

The committee, consisting of Ray Bartlett, Bob Fatherley and Walt Jerige did an excellent job of arranging the luncheon (with some help from their wives, I'm sure). Some members even drove up from New Jersey to attend! Hopefully, this pleasant occasion will become an annual event since it was a wonderful opportunity to meet other members.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Officers:

President: Robert E. Fatherley
 Vice President: Doris W. Hollander
 Secretary: Ray H. Bartlett
 Treasurer: George T. Cushman

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 a.m.-noon) at the Library and publishes a quarterly Newsletter.

Annual memberships are \$10 Individual and \$15 Couple or Family.

The Newsletter is published in March, June, September and December. We welcome original articles and notices of genealogical interest. The Editor is Marianne W. Sheldon.

Address all correspondence to the Society and the Newsletter to:
 Middlesex Genealogical Society
 45 Old Kings Highway North
 Darien, CT 06820.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Lisbeth Andrews-Zike, Reference Librarian at the Whitney Library of The New Haven Colony Historical Society spoke on January 22nd on the topic "Reference Riches to Explore". She began with the history of New Haven, from 1638 when 46 Puritan merchants and their families settled in New Haven with its good harbor. The colony became the New Haven Colony and included a large area, even Stamford. Donald Line Jacobus, one of the most famous names in genealogy, collected and published a book on the early families of the area. The Families of Ancient New Haven includes the towns of New Haven, East Haven, North Haven, Hamden, West Haven and Woodbridge. The early Wallingford and Cheshire families were mostly from New Haven and were also included. Milford families were being worked on separately and have been published by Susan Woodruff Abbott in The First Families of Milford. All of these books are available at the Whitney and at the Ferguson Library.

Most of the collections at the Whitney deal with the localized area of the New Haven Colony. There are lists of military and civil officials, lists of land divisions, cemetery records, the Records of the General Court (runs from 1638-1664), the Ancient Town Records (1649-1769), city directories, books published on New Haven's history and citizens, manuscript collections of unpublished material on New Haven genealogy, church records, education records - the list goes on. Many of the collections are unindexed at this point, but for the serious researcher, this should not be too big of a deterrent.

The library is open Tues.-Fri. from 10 to 5. Non-members pay a \$2.00 daily fee. Membership is \$15/yr. for a separate library membership and \$25 (individual) or \$35 (family) for a standard membership which includes the Society's publications. The library is non-circulating and is located at 114 Whitney Street in New Haven. Research here should definitely be worthwhile here for anyone with ancestry in the New Haven and New Haven Colony area.

GRAVESTONE CONFERENCE

The Association for Gravestone Studies has announced its 1986 Annual Conference and meeting. This Conference is being co-sponsored by the Bostonian Society and will feature a tour of Boston's early burying-grounds. It will be held June 27-29 at Pine Manor College, Chestnut Hill, MA.

For anyone interested in this fascinating subject, write for information on speakers, their subjects and the tour to Patricia Miller, Registrar, P.O. 1151, Sharon, CT 06069.

MARCH PROGRAM

The featured speaker at the March Annual Meeting was Antoinette Jones Seagraves, executive director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. Her talk, entitled "A Genealogical Tour of the Nation's Capital", was an extensive tour of three of the major repositories for information essential to American genealogists. She had so much information to give us that I'm afraid a month's stay would be too short in Washington, D.C.!

The first research center on the tour was the National Archives. This is the ultimate depository for non-current government documents. Before using the Archives, you should become familiar with A Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives, put out by the government to aid researchers. The Darien Library has a copy in the Genealogy section.

Any person who has ever had dealings with the federal government will probably be found in the Archives. The U.S. Census are all on microfilm here and the originals can also be consulted. The 1910 is the latest available, with almost all of the 1890 being destroyed by fire. For access to later census you must apply to the Bureau of the Census in Pittsburgh, PA. Passenger arrival records of ships arriving in U.S. ports are also found here. San Francisco lists were destroyed but other Pacific ports have recently been placed in the Archives. There is a catalog of what is available on microfilm and they will send information on indexed names. Military files on persons who served in the Revolution to the Philippine Insurrection are also here. Anyone can information on military service records (muster rolls, etc.), pension applications and bounty land files. These can all be seen in the original but must be requested at least one hour before and viewed in a restricted area. Passport records are also found here.

Upon entering the Archives, your identification is checked and a card is issued to you. You must sign in and out and your bags and briefcases checked. The staff is helpful.

The Library of Congress, second stop on the tour, was mind-boggling

in the amount of material available in a genealogical nature in its two buildings. The Library contains over 80 million items. Room 244 in the Thomas Jefferson building houses the main Local History and Genealogy collection. The staff will check any item for you and a limited amount of copies of material are free. There are seven specialized catalogs to work from. There are also a number of more specialized areas in which to direct your researches, including the Rare Book room, Maps and certain specialized collections. The resources here are so vast that a good guidebook to the Library would probably be a researcher's best buy. All the different areas have their own restrictions, rules and hours so knowing your plan of action is essential here.

The final place on her tour was the Library for the National Society Daughters of the Revolution. This vast library contains material not found anywhere else, as contributing chapters donate localized genealogical material (Bible records, cemetery records, etc.). Their book collection is also extensive and their membership rolls (all having been documented) go back to their earliest members proving their lineage back to a Revolutionary War ancestor. There is a fee here for non-members and a restricted amount of photocopying available.

This tour did not even attempt to touch on all the genealogical sources in Washington D.C. because there are so many. Most of the hereditary societies maintain headquarters here and many have small localized collections. A researcher in Washington could probably spend years searching through all the materials available. Our nation's capital is, as Mrs. Seagraves said, a Mecca for the genealogist.

WANTED!!

The Newsletter is always looking for contributions from members of genealogical material to print - Bible records, original articles, newspaper articles, upcoming events, research undertaken, problems, queries, etc. There is a wealth of information out there to share, so send it in!

UPDATE ON "GOOD DEEDS"

by Norman Adams

Members will remember recent appeals for "orphan" items of historical or genealogical significance for which appropriate homes are needed. There have been three responses so far, each involving a small batch of stuff. This is a progress report on the first batch.

The first batch was two items acquired in a sale or some such unmemorable event some time ago by one of our members. The only fact of significance remembered about the original acquisition was that the two items were a parcel.

Item 1 is a pension form, dated 10 May 1879, indicating that a U.S. pension is payable to Abby G. Everest as the "mother of William C. Everest who was a Corporal. Co. C, 12th Reg't. Connecticut vols.". There is no address given for Abby G. Everest. The effective date of the pension is stated to be 16 July 1862.

Item 2 is the will of "Eunice Everest of Cornwall in Litchfield County, and State of Connecticut", dated 4 September 1837. This document is handwritten in a smooth and well-formed hand. The signature is somewhat angular and less flowing, and gives the impression of age on the part of the signer. The will names several children, including "my Son Cornelius B. Everest", but does not mention a William.

Inasmuch as these two items came into view as a parcel, and since "Everest" is a fairly common surname, it seems likely that there is some connection between these items which has existed since before they left the hands of the Everest family.

The first step was to identify a plausible organization to write to. I selected the Cornwall Historical Society and wrote them describing the two items. They responded that they knew of and were interested in Everests, but that William was not known to them. After I received these comments, I thought that a little effort might turn up some helpful background.

First I looked in the International Genealogical Index to try to locate Connecticut Everests. There aren't very many - most are in Salisbury (not too

far from Cornwall). However, I found several in Cornwall, some of whom are easily associated with the people named in the will. In particular, there were several children of Daniel and Eunice Everest born in Cornwall, Connecticut. One of these children was Cornelius Bradford Everest, born 14 March 1789.

Next I tried to find out something about William C. Everest and his mother Abby G. Everest. I thought this would be a good excuse to try out the Bridgeport Public Library, which I had never previously visited. It has a collection of local history and genealogy material centered on Bridgeport particularly, but also extending to Connecticut generally. The collection contains quite a lot of good stuff and the staff was helpful. While pursuing the Everests I ran across a genealogy for which I had been looking for some time - but that's another story.

I found a reference to William in the Army, on page 480 of Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States during the War of the Rebellion which was prepared by the office of the Adjutant-General of Connecticut, and which was published in Hartford, Connecticut in 1889. He was said to come from Windsor, so I looked for him in the Accelerated Indexing Systems, Inc. index to the Connecticut portion of the U.S. Census of 1850. (The corresponding index to the 1860 U.S. Census is not available, at least not in the Bridgeport Public Library.) The closest entry was for William C. Everest in Windsor. In the Census itself that person turned out to be a 19 year old clerk, listed as born in Connecticut, living in a family not his own. The household in which he was listed (dwelling 259, family 264) was that of a merchant named Loomis, and contained also another young clerk who did not seem to be a member of the Loomis family.

I looked for an "Abby G. Everest" in the 1850 index with no clear success. The closest name was Abigail Everet, 69 years old in 1850, living in New Canaan, Connecticut, listed as born in Connecticut. She seemed possible but not too likely. A more likely possibility was a family in Windsor in which there was a female listed as A.C. Everest. The

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UPDATE continued

Census showed her as age 52 and born in Connecticut. The head of the household was a male listed as C.D. Everett, aged 61, born in Connecticut, Congregational Clergyman. It was very suggestive that Cornelius Bradford Everest was born in 1789 and therefore would be 61 in 1850. I suspected that "C.D. Everett" was Cornelius B. Everest, that his wife was Abby G. Everest, and that William C. Everest was their son. If all those suppositions are correct, the association of the will and the pension form is very plausible.

The next thing to look for was some support for the identity of the clergyman. I found useful data on several pages (indexed under the name "Cornelius B. Everest") in the book Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut, prepared by the General Association of the Congregational Churches in Connecticut and published in New Haven in 1861. Cornelius B. Everest was raised up as a minister from the church in Cornwall in 1813, served in Windham 1815-1827, in Norwich 1829-1836, in Bloomfield (Wintonbury) 1836-40 and in Poquonnock (Windsor) 1843-1852.

There is no other person of a similar name listed in this book for this general time. Therefore it seems pretty likely that the clergyman in the census was the son of Eunice. However, we have not yet got any real support for the possibility that William was the son of Cornelius, or for the possibility that Cornelius' wife was named Abby.

There seems little doubt that William entered the Army from Windsor, so I wrote recently to the Windsor Historical Society about William and the pension form. I expect their comments soon.

So, with respect to the first batch of "orphan" material, things are moving right along. Unless some unexpected obstacle occurs both of the items should be appropriately placed within a few months.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles E. Hofmann.....March 26, 1986

NEGHS LECTURE SERIES

If you are planning any trips to Boston in the near future, there are still a couple of lectures to be given in the New England Historic Genealogical Society's Winter/Spring 1986 Lecture Series. They held on Wednesday evenings at 5:30, following a reception at 5:00 in the Rotunda, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. Members are free, non-members \$3.00. The remaining lectures are:

April 29 - Gerald W. McFarland, "Tracing New England Ancestors and Their Migrations West: Identifying Individuals and Learning How They Lived".

May 14 - Marcia Wiswall Lindberg, "Genealogical Resources in Essex County, Massachusetts".

June 18 - Prof. Peter Knights, "Boston as a Magnet: Migration Patterns in Nineteenth Century New England".

MAYFLOWER DESCENDANT AGAIN PUBLISHED

The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants is publishing all new issues of the classic periodical, "The Mayflower Descendant". You do not need to be a descendant of one of these old families to benefit from the material found in this publication. Issued twice a year, "The Mayflower Descendant" contains transcripts of documentation from the Mayflower Society's files, Plymouth Colony deeds, Plymouth County deeds, Bible records, Suffolk County court records, Pembroke cemetery records, and much, much more. There are 100 pages per issue and the 8½"x11" acid-free paper is punched for 3-ring binders but is unbound so subscribers may file valuable source material by subject. Each issue is indexed. An annual subscription is \$10.00 (the new publication began with Vol. 35 (1985)). Write to:

The Mayflower Descendant
101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116.

(Editor's Note: I understand they also welcome contributions of original and as yet unpublished materials related to the area and its families.)

NEW MEMBERS

Please add the following names to update the membership list given in the September 1985 issue. We extend a warm welcome to all those who have recently joined.

Beyer, Edward F.; 7 Knollwood Lane,
Darien, CT 06820.
Bishop, Richard E.; 212 Taconic Road,
Greenwich, CT 06831.
Butler, Seth & Dee; 510 Princeton
Terrace, Paramus, NJ 07652.
Eno, Stanley W., Jr. & Harriette P.;
700 Main Street, Branford, CT 06405.
Fort, Alan & Louise; 6 Devon Road,
Darien, CT 06820.
Hines, Gordon H. & Priscilla B.; 237
Middlesex Road, Darien, CT 06820.
Jacobson, Gail; 103 Norfield Road,
Weston, CT 06883.
Longley, Mary Ellen; 12 Oak Crest,
Darien, CT 06820.
Lord, Roy A. & Elizabeth F.; 116 Colony
Road, Darien, CT 06820.
Lundberg, C. Eric & Joan B.; 135 White
Oak Shade Road, New Canaan, CT 06840.
O'Malley, C. Hooker & Beverly B.; 25
Rockwell Lane, Darien, CT 06820.
Robidoux, Joseph T., Jr. & Joan G.; 5
Dairy Farm Court, Norwalk, CT 06851.

He that has no foals, knaves not
beggars in his family must have been
begot by a flash of lightning.

-Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

SOME ENGLISH LEADS TO YOUR ANCESTORS

by Margo Cobb

(This is a reprint of an article in
the April/May 1981 issue of "Maine Life")

If you have traced back to an ances-
tor who sailed from England to America
in the 17th, 18th or 19th century, there
is a great sense of accomplishment.

But it becomes difficult from then on.

Let's say you know that your immig-
rant ancestor's name was John Brown,
who sailed from England to America in

1750. The passenger list gives us his
name, perhaps age and port of embarka-
tion. However, just because he sailed
from Bristol, does not mean that we
can assume he was born in that city.
He could have come from a dozen differ-
ent counties in that area of England.

So, how do you find the information
you need. Where do you start? Here
are some aids to your search.

First, go to a library where you
inquire about the Domesday Book. This
was compiled in 1086 and lasted as a
record of the landowners of England
until a century later, when Henry II
ordered a new survey. Between the
taking of these two surveys, another
set of records is available. These are
the "Feet of Fines" and "The Pipe
Rolls". Both contain records concerning
land and taxation. Even in the depths
of the Middle Ages some records were
kept, but it wasn't until the 16th cen-
tury that national records began to take
in every citizen.

Other available records for resear-
ching English ancestors are the parish
registers. Thomas Cromwell was respon-
sible for ordering in 1538 that in each
parish there should be kept records of
baptism, marriage and burial. The order
was only partly obeyed in the early
years so unfortunately only a few of the
parish records in England go back as far
as 1538. By 1600 most parishes had begun
to keep the records.

It wasn't until July 1, 1837, that
records of births, marriages and deaths
registered in England and Wales were
ordered to be kept by an act of Parli-
ment. Even then it took about twenty
years for the system to catch on and
there are some instances much later than
1857 where a birth has not been recorded.
However, all records that are saved are
at Somerset House. For information you
may write to:

The Registrar-General
Somerset House
The Strand
London, England

There is a charge for the search of
any document you may wish to find -birth,
marriage or death certificate. However,
if you do find the birth certificate of
an ancestor, it will also show the names
of his parents, his occupation (?father's)

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ENGLISH LEADS continued

where he lived and his mother's maiden surname. The births or deaths at sea dating back to the first of July, 1837 are also kept in the General Registrar's Office. In addition, there are records of births, deaths and marriages which have been kept by British consuls from 1849 in regard to British subjects abroad.

Another source for English genealogy is the census. The census was first undertaken in England in 1801. Unfortunately, it was not until 1841 that the enumerators thought of preserving it. Between 1801 and 1841, all that they did was keep a record of the number of the people. However, in 1841, they did start to keep all records and these records are preserved in the Public Record Office.

Census returns are taken in the United Kingdom every ten years except during the Second World War. Consequently no census returns were made in 1941. In 1931, there was a census but there was not another until 1951. The returns from 1861 to the present are kept at Somerset House. You may write to Somerset House, state what you are looking for and the officials will look it up for you. There is a fee.

Census records of 1841 and 1851 are available for your inspection for a small charge at the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London. A valuable research book on this subject is "A Guide to the Manuscripts Preserved in the Public Record Office" by M.S. Giuseppi. Many libraries or bookstores can order it for you. It includes information of "The Close Rolls" which

extend from the time of King John, 1199-1216 to 1903. They are letters and documents addressed to persons from the sovereign. They were folded and closed up - hence the name. Patent Rolls, on the other hand, were open for all to see.

And at the British Museum-Library in Bloomsbury, London WC1, are kept many medieval records including "The Hundred Rolls". These constitute a survey of the rights and revenues of the Crown under Edward I and are very valuable in giving evidence as to names of families. There are no fewer than 70,000 persons mentioned in the indices of names for "The Hundred Rolls".

And, for additional help you might write to:

Society of Genealogists
37 Harrington Gardens
South Kensington, London S.W. 7.

This society has something like 35,000 to 40,000 volumes and is able to give a clue to many who seek help.

So, an American who wishes to trace his ancestry to England does face some difficulties, but information is available. Perhaps these tips will be helpful.

(Editor's note: Since this article is five years old, some of the addresses and information it contains may have to be updated. However, I printed it as a starting point for those of you interested in attempting some English research. I would recommend Angus Baxter's book, In Search of Your British and Irish Roots. If any of our readers have had experience in doing English research, either by mail or in person, we would like to hear about it.)

I am (We are) interested in joining the membership of the Middlesex Genealogical Society.

NAME _____
(last) (first - both names for a couple)

ADDRESS _____
(street) (town or city) (zip)

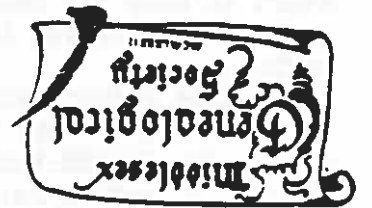
CLASSIFICATION: Single (\$10/yr.) PHONE _____
(circle one)

Couple/Family (\$15/yr.) Yes, my company will match my amount.

Mail form and check, made payable to Middlesex Genealogical Society, to:

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

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Darien, CT 06820



Middlesex Genealogical Society
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Darien, CT 06820