



# MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 3

September 1984

NEXT MEETING --- Wednesday, September 26, 1984

8:00 p.m. at the Darien Library

Mr. Marshall H. Montgomery, genealogist and local historian, will speak on the topic, "You as an Ancestor". He will address our members on ways they can prepare now to preserve, for future generations of their family and historical researchers, the knowledge and materials they have collected in the search for their personal family history.

Refreshments will be served following the program.

### LETTERS FROM THE EDITOR

I must admit, I have become a bit discouraged in putting out this Newsletter. I had hoped for more participation from other members of the Society but there has been only minimal response, at best. No one has offered any Queries or names for the Surname File for this issue and suggestions of what the readers would like to see contained in future Newsletter articles are non-existent!!

Please - if you feel the Newsletter is worthwhile (or isn't) - HELP ME!! I need your ideas! I welcome interested people to assist in producing future issues of the Newsletter.

Amateur genealogists are always searching for new ideas to aid in clearing up those "dead-ends". Tell me about problems you have faced in your research and how you overcome them (or didn't!). Share some exciting new "find" in your work. What libraries or other sources have you utilized and how do you feel they measured up? Have you ever done research overseas? Do you own any primary genealogical sources which we could print (Bible records, handwritten genealogies, cemetery records, etc.)?

Genealogy should not be a selfish hobby. The more we share the information

we have with others, the easier research becomes for everyone. I hope this Newsletter can become a medium through which all of our members can assist each other and, in turn, receive help themselves. Perhaps someone has just the answer to that research problem which has been plaguing you for so long. Remember, our members are doing work on families which lived in all parts of the U.S. and the world. Our sphere of genealogical knowledge is not limited to just the immediate Connecticut area!

So, please let me hear from you. Send anything you have for the Newsletter - articles, questions, problems or whatever - to:

Marianne Sheldon, Editor  
MGS Newsletter  
45 Old Kings Highway North  
Darien, CT 06820.

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### DID YOU KNOW...

The Middlesex Genealogical Society is one of only three genealogical societies in the state of Connecticut!

GENEALOGY PITFALLS

One of the problems that can occur in genealogical research was recently encountered by MGS member, George Cushman. He had procured a birth certificate for his grandfather which had listed what seemed like a bonus - the name of his great-grandfather, Arvid Cushman, and his place of birth, Turner, Maine. Unfortunately, a request for more information sent to the Town Office in Turner came back - "No one by that name listed here."

There may be various reasons for this unhappy response. (1.) Arvid was actually born in some other small town in the area and someone mistakenly thought the birthplace was Turner. Remember, often the information on birth and death certificates is provided by persons present at the event who have no real knowledge of the personal background asked for about the individual involved (e.g. distant relatives or friends) or it is such a traumatic event that the information-provider is too distraught to think clearly. (2.) No one ever registered the event with a public official. Perhaps the birth was only recorded in a church record or in a family Bible or other private method. This is common in rural areas where it was often too much trouble to make a special trip into town just to register a birth. Often the event was registered months or years later, whenever the family got around to it, and then the information might not have been recalled accurately. (3.) The record actually is in the town's vital statistics but whoever looked for it failed to discover it. Perhaps it was misfiled, misspelled or the dates or names given were incorrect. Maybe the clerk was busy and didn't have enough time to search properly - or didn't know how to (these are elected officials who often know very little about what their records contain until they have been there awhile!). A personal search, if at all possible, should always be done to insure that all sources in the town's records have been checked. Sometimes items which a public official, however interested in your quest they may be, feels are irrelevant to your need and so does not send you, may actually provide valuable information. A personal search should be done at some time even if your request for information was favorably answered - perhaps there is more there!

Moral: Never be satisfied until all your sources have been exhausted completely.

CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY

The Connecticut State Library has a wealth of information for researchers of genealogical and Conn. historical material. It is located at 230 Capitol Ave., Hartford, directly across from the Capitol building. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9-1 on Sat. (except Saturdays which fall on holiday weekends). A cafeteria is available for lunch.

If this is your first visit, you will find your first half-hour will be spent dealing with security - filling out forms and obtaining a photo ID. The librarians, who were all extremely helpful and pleasant, will then give you an 8-page booklet entitled "A Guide to Genealogical Materials in the Connecticut State Library" which includes a floor plan of the Archives, History and Genealogy Section. This guide shows you how to use their facilities and saves many wasted hours. All materials, except the archival documents, are in open stacks and call slips are only needed for some of the microfilmed data. Security for the Archives, however, is quite strict and there are only four retrieval times per day, with a maximum of three items per time (no documents will be retrieved on Sat. without prior approval).

Some of the collections available to researchers are: Town Vital Records (Barbour Collection), Church Records, Family Bible Records, Cemetery Inscriptions, Newspaper Notices (Marriage and Death), CT Federal Census Records, Probate Records, Special Genealogical Collection (Manuscripts), Land Records, Military Service Records, Court Records, Maps, printed Genealogies and Town Histories. Photocopying machines are available for use by patrons but archival documents can only be photocopied by the staff.

The big problem at the State Library is lack of parking facilities. Two-hour parking is available on the street, but almost impossible to obtain after 7:30 a.m. There is a privately-owned parking garage a few blocks away but this is very costly. So, be aware of this problem before making the trip and allow for it.

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My Family History begins with me, but yours ends with you.

-Plutarch

WHEELER HELP

Descendants of Thomas Wheeler (wife, Elizabeth), who died in Bedford Co., Virginia in 1828, have formed a non-profit organization to locate "the Lost Wheeler Cousins" and to publish the family's history. Their files contain 1000 family group sheets and their compiler, Mrs. Shirlee Hendrickson, Box 435, Bear River City, Utah 84301, answers all letters. If the information sent is not of their particular Wheeler line, she will try to connect it with others submitted.

The children of Thomas and Elizabeth Wheeler were: John, Lucy (Borden)\*, William, Benjamin\*, Peter, Thomas\*, Sarah "Sally" (Cundiff), Joel, Gabriel, Joicy (Craig)\* and James\* (\* means these lines are unknown). These children were born 20 June 1762 through 28 December 1788. They either stayed in Virginia or moved to Tennessee and "their descendants rapidly scattering to the South, or to the new frontiers in the North and West".

The information on this Wheeler organization is at least 1½ years old so the addresses may not be up to date. However, if you think you may have a relationship with this family it would be worth your while to contact them.

Apparently the group is also trying to determine Thomas' family background. It is a possibility that he was a native of Connecticut or some other Northern state since it has been ascertained that he was not of Maryland or Virginia stock.

The editor of the Wheeler Cousins organizational newsletter is: Mrs. Vivagene Handley, 2011 East Rosebrier, Springfield, MO 65804.

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CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA HELP AVAILABLE

A letter to the Darien Historical Society from Robert L. Finkey, President of the Shippensburg Historical Society, dated February 2, 1983, offers help to anyone working on genealogy in his area (central Pennsylvania). If you have a genealogical problem or need a research contact in that area of the country, address your correspondence to Mr. Finkey at the Shippensburg Historical Society, 73 West King Street, Shippensburg, PA 17257.

BIBLE RECORDS

The following Bible records are in the possession of the Darien Historical Society. They came from a Bible owned by William Rufus and Hannah Elizabeth Scofield, residents of Darien in the 19th Century.

Page 1, entitled Family Record, Parents' Register.

Father: William Rufus Scofield  
Born Sep. 5th, 1807

Mother: Hannah Elisabeth Scofield  
Born July 21st, 1809

Page 2, entitled Family Record, Births.

Oscar Scofield, May 22nd, 1835  
Albert Hoyt Scofield, Oct. 20th, 1837  
William Henry Scofield, Oct. 5th,  
1839  
Franklin Howard Scofield, July 9th,  
1841

(added in different handwriting)

Albert's children

Edith Mary Scofield  
Born August 2, 1871  
Helen Louise Scofield  
Born July 29, 1873

Page 3, entitled Family Record, Deaths.

William Rufus Scofield  
Died Dec. 29, 1887  
Hannah Elizabeth Scofield  
Died May 30, 1888  
Oscar Scofield  
Died March 10, 1864  
Albert Hoyt Scofield  
Died  
Franklin Howard Scofield  
Died August 11, 1864  
William Henry Scofield  
Died an infant.

Page 4, entitled Family Record, Marriages.

Albert Hoyt Scofield  
Married  
Sarah Louisa Mather  
November 18, 1869.

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A people without history is like the wind on the buffalo grass.

-Sioux saying.

SERIES PRESENTED TO HELP FIND ANCESTORS

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is presenting a series of five lectures on Finding Ancestors in France, Germany, Scotland, Canada and Ireland. These lectures will be held at the Society's Auditorium, 124 East 58th St., New York, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Dates are: France, Sept. 26; Germany, Oct. 3; Scotland, Oct. 10; Canada, Oct. 17; and Ireland, Oct. 24. The course costs \$20.00 for members, \$30.00 for non-members and it is asked that registration be made no later than Sept. 20. For more information, contact the Society at 212-755-8532.

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DID YOU KNOW...

The Barbour Collection, a compilation of abstracts of all Connecticut town vital records, is available on microfilm at the Ferguson Library in Stamford. These records, which go up to about 1850, include births, marriages and deaths. They are an invaluable source for those with any Connecticut ancestry. Ask at the Reference Desk upstairs in the Library. You will fill out a call slip and the material you need can be retrieved either by surname or town.

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POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

For anyone with Polish family ties there is now help in the form of the National Society for Polish Genealogy. There is quite a rich Polish heritage in this country with many descendants of Polish immigrants now trying to trace their roots. With Poland, as with other Eastern Bloc countries, any attempt at research from a resident outside its borders is usually met with red tape and frustration, if not actual denial of any assistance. For more information on this organization, write to Polish Genealogical Society, National Chapter, 984 North Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622. Dues are \$12.50 annually.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut was formed in April, 1984. It is connected with the National Society but dues are \$7.50 and are paid separately. Contact Jonathan D. Shea, PGS-CT, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053 for more information on this group.

MGS MEMBER LINEAGES WANTED

As a special project, the Society would like to assemble the ancestral charts of all members of the MGS. Forms will be available for all those members interested in participating (and we hope it will be all of you!). After the charts are filled out, the names contained on them will be indexed for easier access and the forms will then be displayed in notebooks at the Darien Library Genealogy section for use by researchers. As space permits, the lineages will also be printed in the Newsletter.

It is hoped that by sharing our information in this manner, our members will be able to help others who seek more data on the same families recorded on these ancestral charts and benefit themselves, in turn. Remember, even though you may feel that your research is not complete enough to be exhibited publicly (is it ever?), the information you already have could be of great benefit to others NOW! The charts can always be amended or added to at a later date.

Please help us expand our genealogical services and submit whatever research you have completed up to this time. We are also looking for volunteers to assist in compiling and indexing the material for this project.

A sample Ancestor Chart has been included in this issue of the Newsletter (next page). As you can see, the forms are very easy to fill out so we hope every one of our members will help us with this project.

Forms and instructions will be available Saturday mornings from the MGS volunteer on duty in the Genealogy room in the Darien Library from 10-12 or by contacting Marianne Sheldon, 3 Revere Rd., Darien, CT 06820 (tel. 655-6637).

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WINDSOR, CT ANCESTRY

Donna Siemiatkoski, 33 Hillcrest Rd., Windsor, CT 06095 (688-6822) would like persons who are descendants of the Founder of Windsor, CT to submit charts of their descent to her. The notice on the bulletin board at the Connecticut State Library requested these by March 1984 but the date had then been crossed off so there may now be no deadline.



OLD SAYBROOK 350th CELEBRATION

1985 will mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of Old Saybrook Colony, CT (which includes the modern towns of Lyme, Old Lyme, Chester, Deep River, Essex, Westbrook and Old Saybrook). The committee in charge of the event is looking for descendants of the founders and settlers of Old Saybrook Colony. If you have ancestors who lived there, contact: Mrs. Elaine F. Staplins, Chairman, Founders Day Committee, P.O. Box 1635, Old Saybrook, CT 06475. Founders Day Weekend will be held August 17-19, 1985.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The MGS Program Committee, under the leadership of Don Wentworth, has established the dates and tentative topics for the Society's meetings for the rest of the 1984-85 year. They are:

- November 14 - Census' and How to Use Them for Research
- January 9 - Migration Patterns and How They Affect Genealogy
- March 20 - How to Publish Your Research.

If you have further ideas on these programs, please contact Don.

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Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists.  
-Franklin Delano Roosevelt

TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR NAME

Whether or not they are our direct relations, we all stand a little taller when we hear of famous people who carry the same surname as ourselves. Somehow the glory - and sometimes the infamy - become a reflection of the pride we take in our family names. It matters not how distantly these people are related, if at all. One of our members, Don Wentworth, has offered these interesting historical notes with reference to his surname.

Bennington, Vermont was named for Royal Governor, Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire.

John Wentworth, mayor of Chicago, was Abraham Lincoln's political advisor in the 1860 Presidential Campaign.

The land for Cominsky Park, home of the Chicago White Sox baseball team, was purchased from the estate of John Wentworth.

Thomas Wentworth, the Earl of Strafford, best friend of Charles I, was hung in vain at Tyburn to avoid the English Civil War.

The mother of Jane Seymour, third wife of Henry VIII, was a Wentworth.

The mother of Anna Millbanke, wife of the poet, Lord Byron, was also a Wentworth.

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Each generation gathers together the imperishable children of the past, and increases them by new sons of light.  
-Bancroft

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(last name) (first name or names of couple)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(street) (town or city) (zip)

CLASSIFICATION: Single (\$10.) PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one) Couple or Family (\$15.)

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

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

MGS MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following is the list of members of the MGS, having have paid their 1984 dues as of Sept. 1.

- Adair, Charles H., 1 Fairmead Rd., Darien
- Ashman, Margaret L. (Mrs. Edward T.), 11 Davis Ln., Darien
- Bartlett, Ray & Dorothy, 15 Hillside Ave., Darien
- Berry, John & Louise, 41 Chester St., Stamford, CT 06905
- Blain, R. Geoffrey, 33 Indian Rock Rd., Stamford, CT 06903
- Block, Frank E. & Anne B., 7 Hathaway Common, New Canaan, CT 06840
- Boyd, Terry (Mrs. George), 22 Hillcrest Ave., Darien
- Brage, Carl & Barbara, 495 Sagamore Ave., Portsmouth, NH 03801
- Brown, Mrs. Burton, 54 Noroton Ave, Darien
- Cass, Philip H., Revonah Woods - 216 West Ln., Stamford, CT 06905
- Clarendon, Grace, 70 Brookside Rd., Darien
- Cushman, George & Mary, Box 527, Norwalk, CT 06852
- Dekker, Helen T., 12 Partridge Ln., Darien
- Droesch, Vigeo, 21 LaForge Rd., Darien
- Dunphy, Leo J. & Marcelle L., 10 Hamilton Ln., Darien
- Ellsley, Robert R. & Beverly J., 87 Red-coat Rd., Westport, CT 06880
- Evans, Robin, 21 Revere Rd., Darien
- Farwell, Fred W., 6 Pasture Ln., Darien
- Fatherley, Robert E. & Emeline, 9 Point O'Woods South, Darien
- Flanagan, William K. & Lynn, 41 Buttonwood Ln., Darien
- Gainer, Clifton J. & Elizabeth, 112 Camp Ave., Darien
- Glover, Mrs. Alice, 37 Hamilton Ln., Darien
- Gross, Raymond H., 32 Hillside Ave., Darien
- Harrington, Eileen, 26 Buckingham Pl., Norwalk, CT 06851
- Hart, Frederick C., Jr., 424 Route 147, Middlefield, CT 06455
- Hoff, Henry B., 745 Boston Post Rd., Darien
- Hollander, Doris W., 204 Rowayton Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853
- Holmes, David Bartlett, 74 West Ave., Darien
- Howe, Robert E. & Dorothy S., 17 Sherry Ln., Darien
- Hurty, Charles A. & Jeanne B., 14 McCrea Ln., Darien
- ler, Mrs. Margaret, 610 Williamson Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047
- Jainschigg, Mrs. Janet G., 25 Thomasina Ln., P.O. Box 906, Darien
- Kellogg, Alvah & Jeannette, 19 Bluff Ave., Rowayton, CT 06853

- Kleinhans, Elizabeth, 190 Scribner Ave., Norwalk, CT 06854
- LaFrance, Nancy, 96 Valley Rd., Westport, CT 06880
- Lemons, Charles & Virginia, 35 Holly Ln., Darien
- Lester, Herbert & Carol, 34 Edgerton St., Darien
- Makovsky, Catherine (Mrs. Joseph), 204 West Ave., Darien
- Martin, Anthony, 9 Edgehill Dr., Darien
- McElrath, George, 8 East Trail, Darien
- McLean, Louise H., 27 Sunset Rd., Darien
- Merchant, Jane C., 8 LaForge Rd., Darien
- Morehouse, Philip A., 18 Morehouse Ln., Darien
- Morgan, Edwin & Fernnette, 16652 Fruit Ridge Rd., Kent City, MI 49330
- Moses, Carl K. & Helyn R., 4 Glenwood Dr., Darien
- Muehlberg, Richard & Helen, 25 Point O'Woods Rd., Darien
- Mulock, Edwin & Neville, 20 Plymouth Rd., Darien
- Newing, Suzanne Davidson, 200 Aran Hill Rd., Fairfield, CT 06430
- Pierce, Edwin & Marie, 9 Tanglewood Trail, Darien
- Polett, David & Karen, 15 Heather Ln., Darien
- Radmall, Grant M., 12 Green Meadow Ln., New Canaan, CT 06840
- Riith, Robert A., Patricia E. & Michael, 8 Hillcrest Ave., Darien
- Ross, J. Robert & Betty, Salem Straits, Darien
- Scharmer, Ida T., 257 Noroton Ave., Darien
- Sheldon, Marianne W., 3 Revere Rd., Darien
- Sibiskie, Paul & Carol M., 7 Eric Ct., Norwalk, CT 06851
- Street, Gladys D., 10 Five Mile River Rd., Darien
- Thompson, Luther F. & Myrtle S., 16 West Elm St., Darien
- Warren, Edward L., 80 Five Mile River Rd., Darien
- Wentworth, Donald E. & Theresa, 12 Timber Ln., Stamford, CT 06905
- Wolfe, Valentine J., 50 Purdy Rd., East Norwalk, CT 06850
- Yates, Stephen Van Ness & Sherrill, 6 Edgerton St., Darien

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ACADIAN RESEARCH

For anyone interested in Acadian family ties, contact the Acadian Genealogical & Historical Association of New England, P.O. Box 668, Manchester, NH 03101. It is a subsidiary of the American-Canadian Genealogical Society.

45 Old Kings Highway North  
Darien, CT 06820

