



The Newsletter of

Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

December 2019

President's Message

Dear Fellow Genealogists,

Have you ever wished you could turn back time? I'm sure most of us have, but for some that has been when they came to understand the results of their DNA test.

With the holidays around the corner many of us will be giving or receiving a DNA test. But are they always a gift? I have come to learn the answer is "not always". What starts out as a fun way to learn about our ethnicity can quickly turn into a family trauma.

Recreational DNA testing has created a unique situation. In the past, people could have affairs, adopt children, donate sperm or be artificially inseminated and feel confident that no one would find out. In the future, people will not try to keep a secret they know cannot be kept. Right now, however, with the advent of inexpensive DNA testing, family secrets are coming to life... literally.

As genealogists, we are excited and intrigued by the idea of furthering our research with DNA testing. Few of us think about the unintended consequences. Many of us have seen the books, articles and TV shows about situations often referred to as Misattributed Paternal Events (MPE) or Non-Paternal Events (NPE). This is when the person that was assumed to be the biological father turns out not to be.

There's a disclaimer on all DNA tests which most people read and think "Well, that doesn't

apply to me" until it unexpectedly does. The issues that arise when someone discovers that their father, grandfather, sister or brother is not biologically related to them are emotionally charged but, ironically, are also another avenue for discovering family. Hopefully, you were able to attend MGS's November presentation where Jennifer Armstrong Zinck, spoke about using DNA in adoption and misattributed paternity cases.

Some people decide not to test just to avoid any "unwanted discoveries," but with more and more people testing that's no guarantee. One family member's DNA test can reveal another's secret. This has been illustrated in the Golden State Killer case and the other cold cases solved using [GEDmatch](https://www.gedmatch.com), the DNA matching site.

Unexpected revelations can also present ethical issues, particularly when you ask the family member to test for your own genealogical research. Do you try to keep the revealed secret or tell them? I think this is especially sensitive when the person tested is elderly and the people who might have provided answers have passed on. There is no one right answer.

Don't get me wrong, DNA is a powerful tool and an exciting addition to a traditional tree. DNA testing can sometimes be the only way to break down a genealogical brick wall. I am just raising issues that I wish I had thought about before testing. Although I probably would have thought "that won't apply to me!"

Pamela White Shea

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2019-2020

OFFICERS &

BOARD MEMBERS

Tara Finn Forschino	Co-Pres., Social Director & Facebook Administrator
Pamela Shea	Co-President
Mary Lavins	Vice-Pres. Programs & Email Communications
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Ed.
Steve Haywood	Secretary
Rob Martinelli	Membership Director
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Sara Zagrodzky	

PAST DIRECTORS

Peter Biggins	Past President
Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs
Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President

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 publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494) and co-sponsors, with Darien Library, at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year. Annual membership dues vary from \$25 for 1 yr or \$45 for 2 yrs. per individual and \$30 for 1 yr. or \$55 for 2 yrs. per couple or family, as well as a lifetime option at \$300. Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

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

Annual Meeting Report

The Annual Meeting of MGS was held on November 9, 2019 at the Darien Library, before the presentation by the speaker, Jennifer Zinck. Co-President, Pamela Shea, presided. Secretary, Steve Haywood read the minutes of the previous annual meeting. Treasurer, John Driscoll read the financial report for the twelve

In this Issue

- Presidents Message pg. 1
- MGS Annual Report pg. 2
- Upcoming MGS Presentation pg. 2
- Member Suggested Books pg. 3
- Upcoming Regional Events pg. 3
- The Man Who Saved Plymouth Rock pg. 5
- Membership pg. 6
- Connecticut Cemeteries pg. 7
- Darien Library Obit Project pg. 7
- Tips pg. 7
- Leave Them Smiling pg. 8

months ending October 31, 2019. Pamela reminded attendees that dues are due on Jan 1st and all paid members by that date will be entered into a drawing for a free Ancestry DNA test. She asked if there were any nominees put forward for MGS board positions. There were none. After the meeting adjourned, Pam announced our next two presentations and our latest board member, Sara Zagrodzky announced that we will offer Research Discussion Groups, meeting on a Thursday evening and a week day time (dates still to be determined) and could contact her at skzagrodzky@gmail.com

Upcoming MGS Presentation

Saturday, February 1, 2020, 2:00 pm. "DNA 201 -- Segments, cMs, and SNPs." Presented

by Nora Galvin, CG.



You've had a DNA test and now you have a list of genetic relatives. How do you find out who they are and how they are related? Come learn the best practices for getting the most out of your testing dollars.

Nora Galvin, CG, is a professional genealogist specializing in Irish and Connecticut research and Genetic Genealogy. A former secondary-school science teacher and laboratory scientist, she started her family-research business in 2005. She is editor of the quarterly journal *Connecticut Ancestry* and is active in Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council.

MGS Members' Suggested Books

Here is a summary of two more member recommendations. If you have any books that have helped you understand your ancestors' experiences, please email

pamelashea2@aol.com



Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey

by Lillian Schlissel

Through the diaries, letters, and reminiscences of women who participated in this migration, *Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey* gives us primary source material on the lives of these women, who kept campfires burning with buffalo chips and dried weeds, gave birth to and cared for children along primitive and dangerous roads, drove teams of oxen, picked berries, milked cows, and cooked meals in the middle of a wilderness that was a far cry from the homes they had left back east. Still (and often under the disapproving eyes of their husbands) they found time to write brave letters home or to jot a few weary lines at night into the diaries that continue to enthrall us.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

by Betty Smith

The beloved American classic about a young girl's coming-of-age at the turn of the century, Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* is a poignant and moving tale filled with compassion and cruelty, laughter and heartache, crowded with life and people and incident. The story of young, sensitive, and idealistic Francie Nolan

and her bittersweet formative years in the slums of Williamsburg has enchanted and inspired millions of readers for more than sixty years. By turns overwhelming, sublime, heartbreaking, and uplifting, the daily experiences of the unforgettable Nolans are raw with honesty and tenderly threaded with family connectedness -- in a work of literary art that brilliantly captures a unique time and place as well as incredibly rich moments of universal experience.

Upcoming Regional Events

Saturday, December 07, 2019, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Genealogy Club - Godfrey Memorial Library, 134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT - "Hidden Discoveries about Your Civil War Kin" with Clay Feeter

"Your Civil War ancestors' stories are always much deeper than the few lines about them that you might, or might not, find in your family genealogy book," says researcher Clay Feeter, who will give an informative talk and visual presentation on the subject.

Even if all your genealogy book says is "Killed in the War of the Rebellion," you will learn how to use those sometimes dry and hard-to-understand facts to bring your soldier-ancestor's story to life.

Learn about the challenges and hardships of the Civil War. Not only did our Civil War soldier-ancestors suffer during that great conflict, but their families at home had it just as hard ... running the farm and taking care of the kids, canning food or making socks to send to the boys on the front line.

Before attending the talk, you will want to re-search your family history. Most Civil War-age men were born between 1815-1847. Try to find out where they fought, marched, were wounded, captured, and even where they died. Many of our kin may have fought at the same famous battles, or maybe even side by side in the same

regiment! This is all valuable information to pass on to the next generations, so bring a pen and notepad.

Free to Godfrey Premium members. \$10 for all others. Open to the general public. Attendees will have time after the presentation to do research at the library. (860) 346-4375

**Saturday, December 14, 2019 10:30 a.m.
Middlesex Chapter, Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Marlborough Public Library
35 W Main St., Marlborough, MA "Recording the Past for the Future" presented by Dave Robison**

Who would like to sit down and talk with their great-grandparents? Who would like to allow their great-grandchildren to talk with them? Help your great-grandchildren to do just that, long after you're gone! A typical research trip to one of the relatives is often a matter of getting a list of names, relationships, dates and places. That's a start.

A better use of your time and your relative's time is to pull back the curtain on as many relatives as either of you can remember. Names, relationships, dates and places are certainly important and an integral part of anyone's research. But what did your grandfather do for a living? Did your great grandmother grow up on a farm? Why did your great-grandfather move his family from the "old homestead" to Ohio? Or Canada? Or Michigan?

Scratching below the surface may seem a daunting task, but for most it can be easier than simply firing off question after question. You'll get bored very quickly. And worse, your "interviewee" will get bored and stop working on remembering many of the interesting family stories, facts, myths, and embellishments that can be the interesting aspect of the effort you and your relative are going to include in the interview.

A carefully planned visit is a successful visit,

regardless of the amount of information your relative can pass on to you. We'll look at the steps involved, one at a time.

This program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Connecticut Ancestry Society and the Friends of the Cos Cob Library, 5 Sinawoy Rd., Cos Cob, CT 06807 - "Genealogy Story Slam"

"American Idol" meets "Finding Your Roots" A Genealogy storytelling competition in front of a live audience, for fun and prizes. No costumes, no visual aids, or special effects, just authentic tales of family history. Each storyteller will have five to ten minutes to tell a personal Genealogy-related story. The stories must be told and not read, notes and props are not allowed.

There will be a maximum of 12 contestants, who can sign up in advance by writing to info@connecticutancestry.org, or, if there are still places available, at the Cos Cob Library on the day of the event.

Free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, February 15, 2020, 10:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Welsh Society of Western New England's Genealogy Workshop, Glastonbury, CT

The Welsh Society of Western New England's Genealogy Workshop meets monthly to learn how to research Welsh roots.

Come for the day or part thereof. Bring your family tree and a lunch dish to share.

Workshop may include a 12 noon-1PM presentation on a genealogy topic.

Members, \$5. Non-members - first Workshop complimentary, further workshops \$10 per session.

RSVP for Info & location to WelshWNE@gmail.com

Thomas Faunce: The Man Who Saved Plymouth Rock

The following article was printed with the permission of the New England Historical Society

<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/>

In 1741, Thomas Faunce of Plymouth, Mass., had grave concerns about the town's plans to construct a new wharf. It would, he feared, mar the very spot where the Pilgrims first set foot in America. So, at age 94, the old man was carted down to the shoreline, carried in a chair. He pointed to the very rock the Pilgrims had first set foot on. Then he wept at the prospect that the new wharf would cover the rock, losing it forever.

Thomas Faunce had served as town clerk, and he was

old enough to know what he was talking about. His father had arrived just three years after the *Mayflower* aboard the ship *Anne*. As a child, Faunce said, several of the first settlers had pointed out the rock to him, and he always remembered it. His grandmother even admonished him to never forget that first fateful step the Pilgrims made in America. Of course, the Pilgrims first landed in Provincetown, but they indeed chose to call Plymouth home.

Many questions arose over the years about Faunce's designation of the rock. The Pilgrims landed multiple times at Plymouth, and the early accounts of their arrival contain no reference to

any rock. Plus, how could anyone know for certain that Thomas Faunce remembered correctly what people had told him as a child?

Nevertheless, the Pilgrim journey in America had to start somewhere and the town gave Plymouth Rock the official designation. Thomas



Plymouth Rock

Faunce was wrong in assuming that it would be lost, but over the years the rock has traveled a rough road. After he pointed it out, the townspeople elevated the rock to signify its status.

In 1774, some rebel-

lious souls decided the rock would make the perfect platform for agitating against British rule. So they hauled the rock up from the shore to the town square, where they erected a Liberty Pole. There they used it as a stage to deliver speeches. In the process, they split the rock nearly in half. It was later dropped and broken again while being carted to a Pilgrim Hall museum.

In 1859, an architect named Hammatt Billings designed an elaborate Victorian canopy for the rock. The Pilgrim Society had it built at the wharf and in 1880 rejoined its two parts. A

Continued on pg. 8

REMINDER

2020 DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST

OUR PRESENTATIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY DUES AND
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME.

You can download the membership application from our website,

<http://mgs.darien.org/application.pdf>

Renewing members do not need to complete an application unless their information has changed. Payment can be mailed to PO Box 9, Darien CT 06820 (Make checks out to Middlesex Genealogical Society Inc.) or paid via our PayPal link [Click Here](#)

Membership fees are as follows:

<u>Membership Categories</u>	<u>One year</u>	<u>Two year</u>
Individual	\$25	\$45
Family	\$30	\$55
Lifetime	One payment of \$300	

If you wish to receive a paper copy of the quarterly newsletter, please add \$10 per year to cover the cost of printing and postage and a note stating you wish to receive a paper copy.



WIN A FREE DNA TEST!

TWO Family Tree DNA "Family Finder" tests are available!

All PAID members will be eligible for the FIRST DNA test

Winner will be announced at the MGS Presentation on Saturday 2/1/2020

The SECOND DNA test will be RAFFLED off.

To enter, send \$5 per chance or \$10 for three to:

Middlesex Genealogical Society, PO Box 9, Darien CT 06820

OR include with your dues. Drawing will be held on March 15, 2020

Winner will be notified by mail/email/phone

Winners need not be present

The following article is printed with the permission of New England Historic Genealogical Society
AmericanAncestors.org/twg

Spotlight: Connecticut Cemetery Databases

by Valerie Beaudrault, Assistant Editor

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library, Coventry, Connecticut



The town of Coventry is located in Tolland County in east central Connecticut. Coventry's Booth & Dimock Memorial Library has made two volumes of cemetery records available on its website.

Both books were published in 1941. Book I contains records for Nathan Hale Cemetery. The records are presented alphabetically by surname. Basic grave location information is provided, in addition to names, birth and death dates, and inscriptions. Book II contains burial records for four Coventry cemeteries: Strong Yard, South Yard, North or Flint Yard, and Center Yard. The gravestone inscriptions are presented alphabetically by surname.

Bradford-Marcy Cemetery, Woodstock, Connecticut

The town of Woodstock, located in Windham County in northeastern Connecticut, has provided an online database for Bradford-Marcy Cemetery burials. The earliest burials occurred during the first decade of the nineteenth century. Scroll to the end of the cemetery history and description for the database search link. Conduct a basic search by name (last name, first name) or year of birth or death. Click Advanced Search for more options, including veteran status, age, gender, and stone carver.

Volunteers Needed! Help your fellow genealogists. The Darien Library Obituary Index Project needs volunteers to catalog

every death that is listed in the Darien newspapers from 1902 to the present. It is an ongoing effort that will allow those seeking an obituary of a loved one to locate the newspaper it is in and then to come to the library and easily find it. Below is the obituary of Robert E. Fatherley, one of the founders of Middlesex Genealogical Society, which has been added to the index,

[Click here to enlarge obituary.](#)

DAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1995

Obituaries

Robert Edward Fatherley

Local town historian Robert Edward Fatherley of Darien died Sunday at his home. He was 89.

Born Oct. 20, 1905, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was a son of the late Rev. William Esmond Fatherley and Edna Weekes Johnson Fatherley.

A textile executive in New York City for more than 40 years, he was associated with H. Schweitzer, Springs Mills, Riegel Textile, Galey & Lord.

Fatherley later owned his own firm, Fatherley Fabrics, and was well-known throughout his career as a fabric stylist in the women's wear business.

He graduated from Oakwood School in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1924 and from Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., in 1928, where he was later inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame for his football and track accomplishments.

Fatherley was a licensed pilot and enjoyed flying in his earlier years.

During World War II, he skippered the U.S. Navy's V-5 program at Muhlenberg and Moravian colleges in Pennsylvania and as a lieutenant commander in 1945 conducted a survey of Naval Air Transportation Service routes in the Pacific. He also served at the Naval Air Station in Olathe, Kan.

A Congressional candidate in 1942, he was also chairman of the Fairfield County Young Republicans.

After World War II, he became chairman of the newly organized Darien Housing Authority, which constructed moderate income housing on the former grounds of the Fitch Home for Soldiers.

Fatherley was a founder and the first president of the Darien Historical Society and the Middlesex Genealogical Society.

He was a member of the Mayflower Society, the Sons of the American Revolution, and Founders and Patriots and the Ivanhoe Masonic Lodge.

Locally, he was a member of the Darien Senior Men's Association and the Kiwanis Club of Darien as well as the First Congregational Church of Darien.

Fatherley also held membership in the Manhasset Long Island Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

He is survived by his wife, Emeline Walker Fatherley of Darien; three sons, Robert E. Fatherley Jr. of Westport, Richard W. Fatherley of Kansas City, and John A. Fatherley of West Springfield, Mass.; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Congregational Church of Darien. Burial will be private at Spring Grove Cemetery in Darien.

Calling hours will be Friday from 7-9 p.m. at the Edward Lawrence Funeral Home, 2119 Post Road, Darien.

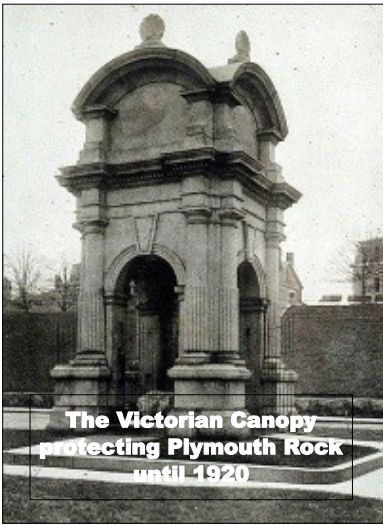
Memorial contributions may be sent to the Darien Historical Society, Old Kings Highway North, Darien 06820, or to Earlham College, Richmond, Ind., 47374.

Tips

- Remember to document everything you find on your ancestors. Undocumented genealogy is mythology!
- When writing a family history, read all you can about the era and place, so you can add color to the story.

Plymouth Rock continued from pg. 5
stonecutter chiseled 1620 into its top.

MAKEOVER



**The Victorian Canopy
protecting Plymouth Rock
until 1920**

The elaborate canopy fell out of fashion by 1920, when Plymouth celebrated the tercentenary of the Pilgrims' arrival. The town tore down the old wharves, created a waterfront promenade and moved the rock down to the water. McKim, Mead and White designed a simpler Doric portico to protect the

rock.

Over the years, the rock has lost a great deal of weight. It's estimated that souvenir hunters

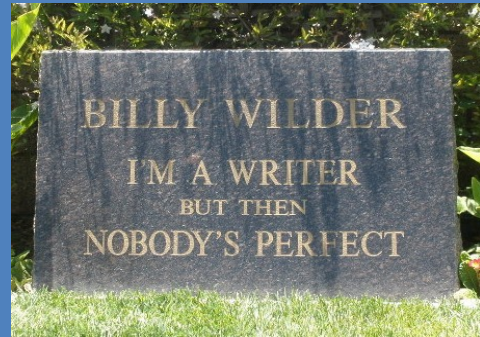
chipped or broke off as much as two-thirds of the rock. Yet Thomas Faunce's rock still survives, nearly 400 hundred years after the Pilgrims first stepped foot on it (or not).

This biography of the rock assembled from History of the Town of Plymouth by James Thacher and Pilgrim Hall Museum.

Image of Plymouth Waterfront: By Linear77 - Own work, CC BY 3.0,

This story about Thomas Faunce was updated in 2019. If you enjoyed it, you may also want to read about the 300th anniversary celebration of the Town of Plymouth [here](#).

LEAVE THEM SMILING



**2020
FEBRUARY 1,
NEXT MEETING**

**Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
Darien, CT 06820**