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# Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Spring 2019

Vol. 12 No. 1

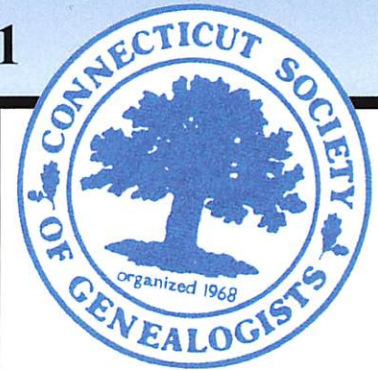
## *In This Issue...*

**Genealogical Pioneers: Royal Ralph Hinman**

**Genealogy and the Internet: Getting Acquainted with Revised Find-A-Grave.com**

**Spotlight on Ledyard**

***Plus Much More ...***







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# Connecticut Genealogy News

*A Quarterly Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.*

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## President's Message



We've talked about conferences many times. We've even had presentations about why you would want to attend a conference. My shortcut answer is this: "You don't know what you don't know."

Regardless of how long any of us have been researching our own families or the families of others, there's always something new to consider. Especially now in the electronic age. Don't misinterpret that statement about the electronic age because "...it's not all on the internet." As a matter of fact, it has been estimated that only about 10% to maybe 15% of what's available has been digitized and indexed to make it searchable at the dozens of websites that are available to us today. And the list includes straight-up commercial sites that charge a fee for membership, free websites such as FamilySearch.org, privately uploaded trees, and many others. In a nutshell, with the exception of FamilySearch, you get what you pay for. Many offer month-to-month subscriptions or 6 to 12 months at a time. In addition, sites like Ancestry.com further blur the options by offering graduated levels of access. European websites often offer a per-document fee where you can buy a certain number of points to "spend."

Why is the internet data so scarce? First, you are mostly blocked from seeing documents and records that haven't been indexed. Indexing is the process handled mostly by volunteers where the words on the image are transcribed into specific fields. First name, middle name, last name and all the rest of the pertinent data that we're accustomed to filling in on the search pages of various websites has to be made available so a computer can "read" the words. Now computers don't read words, they interpret complex arrangements of zeros and ones and convert that into the words that we mere mortals can read! And only digitized documents and records can be indexed in bulk. Once a record

is indexed, you can type in data that can be matched against the electronic index and have it shown to you in the comfort of your own home.

Now, consider the millions upon millions of documents that are generated each and every day! Babies are born, couples get married, folks die, people join the armed forces, apply for pensions, and so on, creating a myriad of records that we will be searching for someday. Can you imagine the size of the backlog of paperwork we're creating in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

So what does all this all have to do with conferences? Searching websites is mostly a self-taught process. Conferences offer the knowledge and advice of professionals who can dispense a wealth of knowledge to large groups of interested people. At genealogical conferences, there is a very broad range of topics and speakers to deliver the messages. Lots to learn! From internet search strategies to off-line sources such as libraries, repositories, archives, DNA (WOW, that's a hot topic these days), courthouse research, interviewing relatives, cemeteries, European research as well as other foreign countries, military records, the list goes on and on. There is so much interest in certain topics that the classes or workshops offered with the best of intentions often fill up the first- or second-day registration is open!

The whole point here is to encourage you to seriously consider registering for as many conferences that would be reasonable for you. They're not free, of course, and they're not always in the next town over! So there are many considerations, especially with regard to time and expense.

Some of the largest conferences are held in the larger cities in larger venues than what is generally available to us here. RootsTech is a good example. Last year, over 25,000 people showed up! The initial registration is a little pricey and attendance would require an airline ticket and hotel accommodations for us folks here in New England.



But there's an important, well-attended "bargain" of a conference right here in New England, the New England Regional Genealogical Conference.

Featured speakers at the 2019 conference include Thomas D. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL; Blaine Bettinger a/k/a "The Genetic Genealogist;" and Cyndi Ingle, manages "CyndisList" a comprehensive web site with links to over 70,000 genealogy web sites.

The 2019 conference is being held in Manchester, New Hampshire at the Manchester Downtown Doubletree Hotel at 700 Elm Street. Many more details including registration information is available at [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org). Registration will be open until March 30, 2019.

~ *Dave Robison, President*

## Editorial

In this issue, we're featuring Royal Ralph Hinman, a Connecticut Statesman among other things as our Genealogical Pioneer. What a fascinating life this person led. Thank you to Dick Roberts for sharing a little bit about this pioneer's history and his contributions to Genealogy.

Thank you to Jenny Hawran for sharing the article with us about how to navigate the new Find-A-Grave website written by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D. and used with permission.

Once again we thank Russell DeGrafft for his faithful contributions to *Connecticut Genealogy News*. In this issue, he has contributed more book reviews and shines our spotlight on the Connecticut Town of Ledyard. Just a reminder, the "Spotlight" articles are just meant to be brief overviews of each of the Connecticut towns that include what the genealogical resources are and where to find them. If you would like to do a "Spotlight" article on a Connecticut town that has not yet been done, please let us know. The CSG Office can provide a list of the towns that have already been done if you call 860-569-0002 or email [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org).

This issue includes entry forms and rules for the 2019 Literary Awards and "Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contest. See pages 17-20 for more details. To see past contest winners, visit the CSG website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org). The contest opened March 1, 2019.

Check out the blue pages, pages 13-16 for the CSG calendar and news. We're really excited about the upcoming NERGC conference being held in Manchester, New Hampshire. CSG will have a booth in the vendor hall. If you are attending the conference, stop by and

visit us.

We're also really excited to have Damien Cregeau intrigue us with "Spies and Traitors of Connecticut During the Revolution" on May 18, 2019 for the CSG 51st Annual Meeting. See page 16 for more details.

As always, both *Connecticut Genealogy News* and *The Connecticut Nutmegger* are looking for articles. Guidelines for writing for either publication can be found at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under links, or CSG members can look under the Members tab. There is an honorarium paid for those articles that are selected for publication - see page 14 for more details.

Wishing everyone a very happy Spring!

~ *Stephanie Hyland, Editor*

## About the Cover

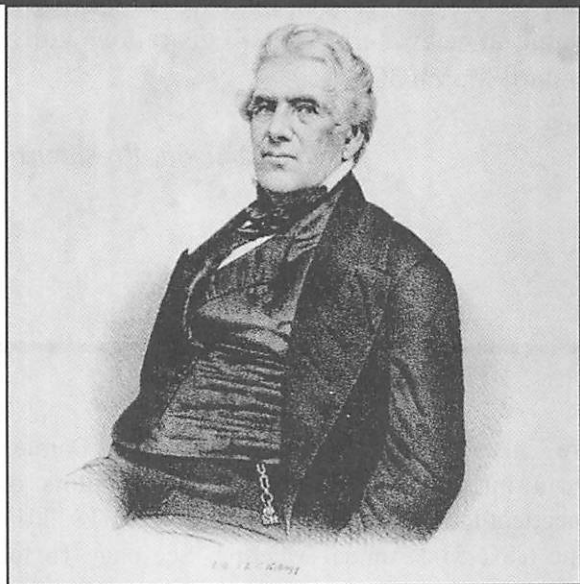
The cover photo depicts the CSG booth at NERGC 2017 in Springfield, Massachusetts. Conference attendees are being helped by Charles Vasas, the son of CSG Board Member, Lisa Vasas and the CSG Office Manager, Stephanie Hyland.

~ *Photo courtesy of Richard C. Roberts*



## Connecticut Genealogical Pioneers: Royal Ralph Hinman

by Richard C. Roberts CSG # 8680



Royal Ralph Hinman was born 20 July 1785 in Southbury, Connecticut the son of General Ephraim Hinman, a Revolutionary War veteran and successful Connecticut merchant, and Sylvania (French) Hinman. He was a descendant of Edward Hinman, an early settler of Stratford, Connecticut.

Although named “Ralph” by his parents, a Yale classmate added the name “Royal.” As Hinman himself described it, “A catalogue of the freshman class, as was the custom, was to be collected by a committee of the class, and published alphabetically. [John Chester] was one of the committee, and wishing to pay his friend a compliment and without his knowledge, published the name of Royal, as his first Christian name which has ever since been used as one of his names, when before it was only Rafe [*sic.*]” Royal graduated from Yale College in 1804 in a class that included John C. Calhoun.

Between 1804 and 1805 Hinman taught at an academy in Richmond, Virginia. Returning to Connecticut, he studied law with David Sherman Boardman and Noah B. Benedict in 1805 before entering the Litchfield Law School in 1806. As a law student he worked in the law office of Tappan Reeve and J. Gould in Litchfield. In 1807 he was admitted to the Litchfield County bar and practiced law in Roxbury, Connecticut for over 20 years.

Hinman married Lydia Ashley, the youngest daughter of Major General John Ashley of Sheffield, Massachusetts September 14, 1814. She died August 27, 1853 in New York. They had five children: Jane Ashley, born March 11, 1816; Royal A., born March 7, 1818; Lydia Ann, born April 17, 1820; Mary Elizabeth, born March 20 [between 1823-1828?], and Catherine E., born Sept. 15, 1826.

In 1814 Royal Hinman was elected a Connecticut State Representative and supported the recommendations of the “Hartford Convention” at which New England Federalists outlined their concerns concerning the conduct of the War of 1812 and the increasing power of the federal government under the presidency of James Madison. He was elected again in 1825 and 1831. He was brigade major and inspector in the Fifth Brigade, Connecticut Infantry in 1819 and served as Roxbury’s Postmaster from 1823 to 1833.

In 1833 he removed to Southington, where, in addition to establishing a law practice, he served as a judge and clerk of probate. About that time, he switched party affiliations. An unsuccessful Democrat candidate for the U.S. Congress in 1834, the following year he ran for Secretary of the State of Connecticut. A notice in the April 6, 1835 issue of the *Hartford Times* shortly before his election to that office described him as a gentleman who was “frank, courteous, liberal and independent. Upright in all his actions, he is without fear and without reproach” and “a firm believer in the principals of Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson.” During his term as Secretary of the State from 1835 to 1842, the General Assembly hired Sylvester Judd, author of the *History of Hadley, Massachusetts*, to arrange, bind, and repair its records and papers through 1790, now known as the Connecticut Archives First Series. The 122 volumes remained in the custody of the Secretary of the State until the first State Librarian was appointed in 1854.

In May 1835 Connecticut’s House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing the printing of the state’s private acts. While serving as Secretary of the State, Hinman, along with Lemman Church and Elisha Phelps was appointed by the General Assembly to the Committee to Revise Public Statutes of Connecticut.



The resulting publication was *The Public Statute Laws of the State of Connecticut, Compiled in Obedience to a Resolve of the General Assembly, Passed May 1835*. Between 1835 and 1836 they compiled and published 1,640 pages of the private or special acts of the state. In 1838 Hinman and Thomas Clap Perkins revised and published the 717-page *Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1838*.

Hinman was a political maverick. By 1838 he had again switched parties and ran for Secretary of the State as a Whig. Many of his former Democratic supporters were not pleased. One notice in the March 24 issue of the *Hartford Times* described him as “his treachery and baseness towards his party and friends that brought him forward, has disgusted men of every description.” It went on to state, “Again we ask, can any man vote for Mr. Hinman? *What reason* can be given by any whig for supporting him? Is it for violating friendship, for betraying confidence, for disregarding social and political virtue? He was opposed by every whig last year, and what has there been in his public life that they should support him now?” Although approved by the General Assembly, the cost of publishing Connecticut’s public and special acts became another target for his political opponents. One wrote, “This leech upon the Treasury has made the most exorbitant charges—has received the most extravagant prices—has manifested no regard for the public interest, and though placed in office by the democrats to reform and economise, he has pursued a system of extravagant plunder.” Opponents also charged him with the loss of the original Roll of the 1814 Hartford Convention, which was under his care as Secretary of the State, and which would have contained the evidence showing his support. Hinman went on to handily win re-election. However, when, in 1840 he considered running for the U.S. Senate he was unable to gain support from either the Whigs or the Democrats.

Switching parties once again, In May 1844 Hinman was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Baltimore. That year he was nominated to be Hartford’s Postmaster but was ultimately rejected because he neither supported Martin Van Buren, a Democrat, or Henry Clay, a Whig. That September, during the administration of President John Tyler, a Whig, he was appointed Collector of Customs and superintendent of the light houses for the Port of New Haven but was replaced six months later with the

change of administrations to that of Democrat James K. Polk.

Hinman’s role as Secretary of the State provided him with ready access to Connecticut’s earliest records, and he became deeply interested in Connecticut history and genealogy. In 1836 he published *Letters from the English Kings and Queens*, a compilation of letters between Connecticut’s colonial governors and English monarchs. In 1842 he published *A Historical Collection from Official Records, Files, &c., of the Part Sustained by Connecticut During the War of the Revolution*. At the time of original publication, the cost of the volume was \$2.50. A notice in the June 29 issue of the *Hartford Daily Courant* notes that “The labor of collecting, arranging, and conducting through the press such a world of papers of all descriptions, relating to the War of the Revolution, must have been immense, and to have executed the task so well evinces no ordinary talent for the compilation of historical documents.” The notice went on to state that “he has produced a volume of great value; one which will be indispensable to a knowledge of the history of Connecticut.” In 1853 the General Assembly unanimously voted to distribute a copy to each of Connecticut’s towns and to each state and territory. He published additional historical works including the *Antiquities of Connecticut*.

Hinman was an original member of the Connecticut Historical Society and was also a member of the Massachusetts and New Jersey state historical societies. He contributed many Connecticut articles to the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* during its early years.

His best-known work is *A Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut, from 1635 to 1665*, which was published in five “numbers” between 1846 and 1852. In his introduction, Hinman wrote that “The object of the writer is to issue several Numbers, giving the names of such of the settlers as can be found on record, who came into the Connecticut Colony previous to the Union of the Colonies of New Haven and Connecticut in 1665, together with their standing and condition, as far as can be ascertained.”

By publishing the *Catalogue*, Hinman was truly a genealogical pioneer, pre-dating James Savage’s *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (1860-1862) by almost a decade and a half. As a pioneering work, Hinman’s *Catalogue* does



not include many of the features we expect of today's genealogical publications such as citation of sources and an index. Further, the final book is not as much an organized catalog as a series of lists. The original three "numbers" include an "Introduction" (pages 2-9), essentially an historical overview of the early years of the Connecticut Colony with a focus on the court system; a description of the role of chimney viewers (p. 10) a listing of the "First Puritan Settlers of Windsor" (pg. 11); and "First Sttlers [*sic*] of the Colony" (pages 12-109). An "Appendix" (pages 110-158) contains additions and corrections.

Number 4 includes:

- A listing of the officers of the first session of the General Court (p. 161)
- List of names on Hartford's Founders Monument (p. 161)
- List of additional Hartford settlers by 1640 (p. 162)
- List of Windsor settlers 1642-66 (p. 163)
- Location of house lots of some early Windsor settlers (p. 163)
- List of first settlers of Wethersfield (p. 164)
- Proprietors of the Undivided Lands in Hartford, 1639 (p. 165)
- List of persons supposed to have come from England with Rev. Warham in 1632-3 (p. 166)
- List of persons who came to Hartford from Massachusetts (p. 166)
- List of early Saybrook settlers (p. 167)
- List of first settlers of Enfield with descendants still in that town (p. 167)
- List of first settlers of Enfield with few or no descendants still in that town (p. 177)
- Continuation of the Catalogue of names (p. 182)
- Passengers on the "May Flower" in 1620 (p. 248)
- Tobacco Law of Connecticut in 1647 (p. 250)
- Interesting events which occurred in Connecticut during its early settlement (p. 252)
- Errata (p. 256)

Number 5 includes "A Part of the Early Marriages, Births, and Baptisms, in Hartford, Ct., from Record" (pages 257-269) followed by additional "First Puritan Settlers" (pages 270-332); Addenda including information on the Dixwell family (pages 332-3); epitaph of David Gardiner in Hartford's Burial Yard (p. 334), and "A few Families of Windsor, from Record" (p. 334-5).

In his "Remarks" at the end of the Catalogue (page 336)

Hinman wrote that "This Number ... closes the volume, which perhaps may at some future day, be better arranged and corrected, with such additions as may be found worthy of publication." That rearrangement emerged as *A Catalogue of the Names of the Early Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut*. This work was a massive undertaking. As Hinman wrote in his preface, "I have devoted the five past years entirely to this subject, and now feel as though I had only commenced a task of twenty years." In the end, it was never completed. It was originally issued in six "numbers," totaling 884 pages, between 1852-1856. Number 5 ends with "Danielson." The sixth number was issued in 1856 but only covers the Hinman family. Rather than consisting of a series of lists as in the original *Catalogue*, there is one alphabetical catalog. In addition, while the original catalog focused on settlers of the Connecticut Colony prior to 1665, the later work includes additional families, bringing many of them down into the 1700s. As with the original *Catalogue*, there is no index (although the strict alphabetical arrangement by surname helps with navigation), and although he consulted town, court and probate records in Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, Hinman does not cite sources in conjunction with each entry.

Hinman died October 16, 1868 in New York, aged 83, and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford. He bequeathed his genealogical manuscripts to the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. They were organized by Anson Titus, a Universalist minister and genealogist, into eleven large folio volumes, which contain valuable information "obtained from manuscripts since lost, and some of it from the recollection of persons now dead."

#### **Bibliography:**

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"First Settlers of Connecticut." <https://vitabrevis.americanancestors.org/2015/06/first-settlers-connecticut/>.

"A Historical Collection from Official Records, Files, & c....." *Hartford Daily Courant* June 29, 1842, p. 2.

Royal Ralph Hinman, *A Catalogue of the Names of the First Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut*,

from 1635 to 1665: Collected from State, Town, and Probate Records (Hartford, Conn.: E. Gleason, 1846). Reprint editions are available, including a facsimile reprint with an introduction by Christopher Child which was published 2015 by the New England Historic Genealogical Society as *The First Puritan Settlers of Connecticut*. It is also available online through Internet Archive.

Royal Ralph Hinman, *A Catalogue of the Names of the Early Puritan Settlers of the Colony of Connecticut: With the Time of Their Arrival in the Country and Colony, Their Standing in Society, Place of Residence, Condition in Life, Where From, Business, &c. as Far as is Found on Record* (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Tiffany, 1852-1856), 884 pages. It was originally issued in six "numbers". Number 5 ends with "Danielson." The sixth number was issued in 1856 but only covers the Hinman family. Reprint editions are available, and it is available online through Internet Archive.

Royal Ralph Hinman, *A Family Record of the Descendants of Sergt. Edward Hinman: Who First Appeared at Stratford in Connecticut, About 1650. Collected from State, Colony, Town and Church Records: Also, from Old Bibles and Aged People* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of Case, Lockwood, 1856). Available online from Internet Archive. This book is a stand-alone version of Number 6 (pages 803-884) of *A Catalogue of the Names of the Early Puritan Settlers (1852-1856)*.

Royal Ralph Hinman, *A Historical Collection from Official Records, Files, &c., of the Part Sustained by*

*Connecticut During the War of the Revolution: With an Appendix, Containing Important Letters, Depositions, & c., Written During the War* (Hartford, Conn.: E. Gleason, 1842).

Royal Ralph Hinman, *Letters from the English Kings and Queens, Charles II, James II, William and Mary, Anne, George II, &c.: to the Governors of the Colony of Connecticut, Together with the Answers Thereto, from 1635 to 1749: and Other Original, Ancient, Literary and Curious Documents* (Hartford, Conn.: J. B. Eldredge, 1836).

Dwight Loomis and J. Gilbert Calhoun, *The Judicial and Civil History of Connecticut* (Boston, Mass.: The Boston History Company, Publishers, 1895).

"Mr. Editor: Royal Ralph Hinman; Manufactured." *Hartford Times*, January 18, 1840, p. 3.

"Obituary: Royal S. Hinman" *Connecticut Courant*, October 24, 1868, p. 1.

"Royal R. Hinman, Esq.," *Hartford Times*, Monday, April 6, 1835, p. 1 Online GenealogyBank.com.

"Royal Ralph Hinman," *Hartford Times*, Saturday, March 24, 1838, p. 1 Online GenealogyBank.com.

"Royal Ralph Hinman." [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_Ralph\\_Hinman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Ralph_Hinman).

### Please note the following corrections:

From *Connecticut Genealogy News*, Volume 11 No. 4, Winter 2019, page 12 -

The author has indicated that *The Ancestors of Con James Baker of Des Moines, Iowa and Chicago, Illinois*, Vols. 1-3, are also available at Amazon.com. The author will provide autographed copies if ordering directly from him.

From *Connecticut Genealogy News*, Volume 11 No. 4, Winter 2019, page 22 -

Please note that the contact information for Rhonda Forristall at the Deep River Historical Society should be: 860-526-5086 and the email address should be [reforristall@gmail.com](mailto:reforristall@gmail.com).



## Getting Acquainted with Revised Find-A-Grave.com

by Ted Bainbridge, Ph.D.

<https://www.findagrave.com> is a website that collects individuals' cemetery and other information, whether a grave marker is present or not. The site's database includes over 165 million people's memorials, and adds about 1 ½ million per month. It contains information from almost half a million cemeteries around the world. This free site can be searched in several ways, and its information is easy to download onto a home computer. The site is menu-driven and intuitively easy to use. Registration, which is optional and free, gives the visitor access to features that are not otherwise available. Everybody should explore the tutorials.

Think of the home page as being organized into four areas:

1. the main menu, near the top of the page and filling its entire width
2. the search panel for individuals' graves, which dominates the background photograph
3. the link to findagrave tutorials, a blue oval button near the bottom right of the page
4. other less-frequently used items, occupying the rest of the screen below the background image

Welcome to the new Find A Grave! Learn more about the changes or go back to the old site for now.

MEMORIALS CEMETERIES FAMOUS CONTRIBUTE REGISTER SIGN IN

### Search Millions of Grave Records

First Name Middle Name Last Name (required)

Year Born Exact Year Died Exact Cemetery Location: City, County, St

SEARCH More search options

Photo of Beachmount Cemetery by Alison

**On this day**  
Penny Singleton died on this date in 2003.  
Search famous graves, newly added graves, most popular graves.

Add a Memorial Upload Photos Transcribe Photos Forums

Find the graves of ancestors, create virtual memorials or add photos, virtual flowers and a note to a loved one's memorial. Search or browse cemeteries and grave records for every-day and famous people from around the world.

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Tutorials Send Feedback

### Hunting A Person

By far, the most common use of findagrave is hunting individuals. The simplest search is done as follows: Enter a first name in the box provided near the center of the background photo. (This is optional, but if you don't do it you will get an enormous hit list for all but the most unusual surnames.) I recommend leaving the box for middle name blank, because grave markers usually don't show middle names. Put a surname in the appropriate box. (This is required.) There is no option for "similar spelling" or "similar sound", so do separate searches for each variant spelling of the first name and surname. Click the search button. A hit list appears, showing records that match your request and headed with the count of how many records are on the list. Search the hit list for the person you want, then click that person's name. You will see that person's information page. (If a picture of the grave stone exists, look at it in detail. Sometimes this will show that the typed information on

the page contains an error.) To save the information on that page, you can command a “print” from your computer’s operating system. Alternatively, you can scroll to the top of the page, click “save to”, click “copy to clipboard”, open the program you will use to save the information, paste the clipboard’s content into that program, and save within that program. To save the source citation scroll to the bottom of the person’s page, click “source citation”, copy the text of the cite, paste that text wherever you want it to be, and save that destination’s content within the appropriate program. The person’s page might include links to findagrave pages for relatives. Click those links to see their information.

Typing only the first and last name probably will produce a hit list that is too long to read. If that happens, search for that name again but narrow the search by using the pull-down menus next to the “year born” and “year died” boxes below the name boxes you used. In addition to or instead of those restrictions, you can use the location box next to those date boxes. As you type a place into that box, an auto-fill list appears. When you see the appropriate place, select it from the list. (Typing the name and clicking the “search” button instead won’t give good results.) If you use all three restrictions and the new search doesn’t find the person you want, remove one of those restrictions and search again. If that search fails, replace that restriction and remove another one. If you fail again, repeat. If all those searches fail, use only one restriction at a time and do all three restricted searches. Repeat this process until you are successful. (But remember that not everyone is in findagrave, so all your searches might fail. In that case, try again later, remembering that findagrave adds about 1 ½ million records per month.)

Next to the “search” button you can see “more search options.” Clicking that makes the following available:

- “Famous” separates a famous person from others who have the same name. (Asking for Marilyn Monroe creates a hit list of 29 people. Going to the top of the list, clicking “refine search”, pulling down “more search options”, clicking “famous”, and then clicking “search” shows only the movie star we all know.)
- “Sponsored” shows only pages that have no advertisements because somebody paid to remove them.
- “Nickname” must be checked if you ask for somebody by nickname instead of given name.
- “Maiden name” must be checked if you ask for somebody by maiden name instead of married name.
- “Partial last name search” lets you search by putting only the first letters of a first or last name in the appropriate boxes. (Requesting “wana” shows Wana, Wanamaker, Wanabaker, and other surnames that begin with those four letters; but it doesn’t list Wannamaker.)
- “No grave photo” gives only people who have no grave photo on their information page.
- “Grave photo” gives only people who have a grave photo on their information page.
- “Flowers” gives only people who have virtual flowers attached to their page. (Asking for Clarence Bainbridge without this option clicked gets five names, but clicking this option reduces the list to two.)

### Hunting A Cemetery

The next most common use of findagrave is hunting cemeteries. There are three ways to find a cemetery:

1. On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a name in the box provided. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Click “search”. A hit list appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery’s page of information appears.
2. On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a place in the other box. (This also is auto-fill.) Click “search”. A hit list appears. Click the name of the cemetery you want. That cemetery’s page appears.
3. On the main menu click “cemeteries” and type a place in the appropriate box. (This is an auto-fill box. Use it as above.) Don’t click “search” or press the “return/enter” button. Instead, look at the map. If the map doesn’t show any location markers, click the “+” button near its lower right corner. Zoom in or out and pan in any direction until you see the area you want. Click any marker to see the name of that cemetery, then click the name to see its information page.



### Favorite Cemeteries

If you registered as a member, you can create a list of your favorite cemeteries. Go to the information page of the cemetery you want to put on your list. Near the top right corner of that page, click “add favorite” and proceed.

You can create virtual cemeteries by linking interesting individuals to a collection that you create. (For examples, you might link all of your Blankenship relatives’ information pages to a group called “My-Blankenships”, or you could gather all your relatives who served in the Civil War.) Go to the page of a person you want to add to a virtual cemetery. Near the top right corner of that page, click “save to,” click “virtual cemetery”, and then proceed. At this location you can create a new v.c. or add this person to an existing v.c.

### Other Features

The main menu at the top of findagrave’s home page includes an item called “famous”, which allows a search for a famous person, as was described above. That menu also has an item called “contribute,” which people use to add information to findagrave’s database.

Between the home page’s background photograph and the button for tutorials is a large white space that offers links for these items:

- read about a random person
- famous graves
- newly added graves
- most popular graves
- add a memorial
- upload photos
- transcribe photos
- forums
- search cemeteries
- browse cemeteries
- search grave records
- browse grave records
- famous people
- log in
- memorials
- cemeteries
- contribute
- famous
- help
- about
- forums
- store
- facebook
- twitter
- language
- mobile apps
- privacy statement
- terms of service
- end feedback

Most people probably can ignore most or all of those items, but feel free to explore and experiment as you like.

## Queries

*CSG Members may submit up to three queries per issue or as space allows. Contact the CSG Office at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) for more details.*

Stephen **MUDRY**, b Austria-Hungary 28 JUL 1863, d Brookfield CT, 7 NOV 1943; m abt 1892 to Anna **FALLETT** b Austria-Hungary, 06 JUL 1866, d Danbury, CT, 04 MAR 1961. Need marriage location, parent’s information and any other available data.

Anna **FALLETT**, b Austria-Hungary, 06 JUL 1866, d Danbury CT, 04 MAR 1961, m Stephen **MUDRY** abt 1892, b Austria-Hungary 28 JUL 1863. Need marriage location, parent’s information and any other available data.

*Lori Eaton # 20733  
[loreato@snet.net](mailto:loreato@snet.net)*

# Book Reviews

by Russell A. DeGraff  
CSG # 19174

**Thomas Leffingwell, *The Connecticut Pioneer Who Rescued Chief Uncas and the Mohegans*, by Russell Mahan, published by Historical Enterprises, Santa Clara, Utah, 2018. 6X9, softcover, ISBN 9780999696223, 143 pages, The cost of the book is determined by the publisher plus shipping and handling. To order, contact Russell L. Mahan, 2780 Bella Sol Drive, Santa Clara, Utah 84765 or call 801-718-2492.**

The author has provided us with a dynamic book that is one of its kind. I am delighted to read a novel that presents such a positive and decisive portrait of Leffingwell. Norwich, Connecticut should revel in the light of this patriot who proved his loyalty to the native Mohegan tribe in their struggles and misfortunes. He was an English immigrant, an early settler of Old Saybrook, a co-founder of Norwich, a Puritan, a family man, a soldier in the Pequot and King Phillip's Wars, and a surveyor of the Connecticut wilderness. His association with the workings of Connecticut Legislation gave him the opportunity to observe the hiding of the colonial charter in the famous oak tree. This small history book is a pleasure to read with its numerous charts, maps and photographs. A simple Table of Contents leading the reader to an extensive set of Endnotes, Bibliography and Index provides a simple roadmap of events. As a native Connecticut resident, I would want this material available on my library shelf.

***The First 24 Hours of the American Revolution: An Hour by Hour Account of the Battles of Lexington, Concord, and the British Retreat on Battle Road*, by Jack Darrell Crowder, published for Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211, 2018. 8 1/2 X 11, softcover, ISBN 9780806358826, 129 pages. Order directly from the publisher at the above address or call, 600-296-6687. The cost of the book is determined by the publisher plus shipping and handling.**

The author of this book has provided the reader with a thorough and complete timeline of one of America's

greatest historical challenges. Simply and clearly written, this book is not only a valuable resource for the researching genealogist, but a valuable tool for educators of American history and geography. The author has provided us with an unique approach in assisting the seasoned researcher or the novice in their understanding of the warning, "The British are coming." The simplicity of the book, its easy to understand timeline of events and multiple photographs set an easy pace of comprehending the events that led to America's Independence. The many guidelines, starting with a simple of Table of Contents and ending with an Index and rich Bibliography, guide the reader to satisfying success.

***The Babson Genealogy 1606-2017, Descendants of Thomas and Isabel Babson, Volume 1 and 2*, by Alicia Crane Williams, FASG, published by King Printing Company, Inc., 181 Industrial Avenue E., East Lowell, MA, 2017. 4 1/2 X 9 1/2, hardcover, ISBN: 078-0-692-91345-1. Please direct all correspondence to: Babson Historical Association, 225 Washington Street, Gloucester, MA 01930. 1376 pages. The price of these two volumes is \$50.00, which includes shipping and handling. Order books from Robert G. Babson 34 Indian Hill Road, Medfield, MA 02052.**

These two massive volumes are a testament to the dedication and diligence of this dedicated author/researcher. Not only do these scholarly volumes transport us throughout ten generations this family's genealogy but they include many short notes of personal historical significance, assisting the user in becoming more clearly familiar with each family member's contributions to society. If I were a Babson descendant, this excellent portrayal of the family's history would be a valuable tool in my own research. Beginning with an all-important key to abbreviations, colorful maps and photographs, and boasting a huge Name Index, these books assist the researcher in seeking out their much desired data.

***Women Patriots to the American Revolution, Stories of Bravery, Daring and Compassion*, by Jack Darrell Crowder, printed for Clearfield Company by Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD, 2018. 8 1/2 X 11, softcover, ISBN 9780806359741, 101 pages, Order directly from the publisher at the above**



address, or call Joe Garonzik, Marketing Director at 410-837-8271, ext. 215, or email at [jgaronzic@genealogical.com](mailto:jgaronzic@genealogical.com). The cost of this book is determined by the publisher, plus shipping and handling.

This reference book highlights the dedication and bravery of eighty-nine Women Patriots who were the secret weapons in Colonial America's war efforts. These "Daughters of Liberty" were unimpressed by the British and were instrumental in helping gain America's Independence by working covertly as secret spies. This is a book that has many uses for the genealogist who is

refreshing his/her memory about the war's participants and how they are significant in their family tree. This is also a thoughtful reference book for school children to use to remember those who struggled to help our country gain independence. From the very simple table of contents to its significant bibliography and index, the reader, whether an adult or young student, will enjoy the simplicity of the format. I endorse this book and would want it on my library's reference shelf.

## 2019 NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Between April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> genealogists, local historians, teachers, and librarians will be gathering at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire for the 15th biennial NERGC (New England Regional Genealogy Consortium) Conference.

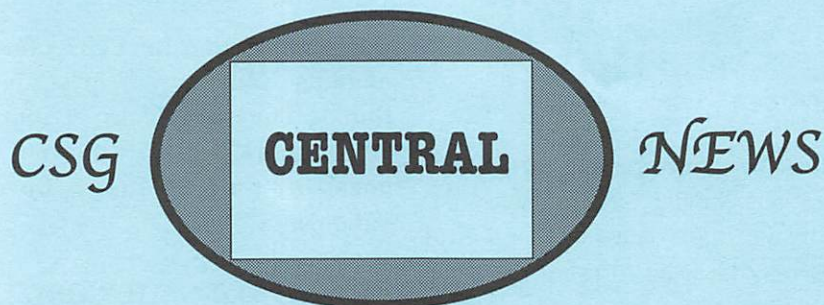
The NERGC 2019 Conference theme is "Family ~ a Link to the Past & a Bridge to the Future." Wednesday April 3 is a Pre-Conference Day with six special interest tracks: Military Day, Beginner DNA Day, Professional Genealogist Day, Librarians and Local Historians Day, Technology Day, and Society Management Day plus a Manchester genealogical research bus tour.

There are also five Wednesday workshops. Regular Conference sessions start on Thursday morning and run until Saturday afternoon. There will also be a Society Fair, Ancestors Road Show, Exhibit Hall, and much more.

This is a great opportunity to learn something new, sharpen old skills, meet up with other genealogists, and make new friends. To see or download a pdf version of the Conference brochure (which contains the full Conference schedule, summaries of lectures, speaker biographies, and information on available luncheons, banquets, research tour and special events) or to register online, go to [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org). To register by mail, see the last page of the brochure.

**CSG Members: CSG, as a sponsoring organization must provide a certain number of onsite volunteer hours. If you are attending the conference and would like to volunteer, please contact the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 for more information.**





CSG **CENTRAL** NEWS

**From the CSG Programs Committee**

*Save the Dates for Upcoming CSG Programs*

*All programs are*

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**NEED RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?**

Experienced family history researchers will continue to be available at the CSG library from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except for holidays and snowstorms) to help you with your research. Questions about brick walls, where to find sources on-line and information about how to get started on your family history will be some of the topics the researchers will cover with you. If you are curious about a lineage society such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Society of Mayflower Descendants, our researchers have some experience with researching for these societies.

Judith Bowen and Olivia Patch, members of the CSG Board of Governors, will be the researchers, but they welcome other volunteers from CSG's membership to help with this program. Other commitments as well as possible illnesses may interfere with the schedule unless we have a few more volunteers. Think about contacting Judith Bowen at [easterndr13@yahoo.com](mailto:easterndr13@yahoo.com) or Olivia Patch at [olivia42539@aol.com](mailto:olivia42539@aol.com) to volunteer!

Dates for these help sessions are:

March 14 and 28  
 April 11 and 25  
 May 9 and 23  
 June 13 and 27  
 July 11 and 25  
 August 8 and 22

**3-6 April - See you at the 2019 NERGC. See page 12 and the outside back cover for more details.**

**18 May - 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting** featuring Damien Crageau presenting "Spies and Traitors of Connecticut During the Revolution."  
 See page 16 for more details.

**Time:** 10:30 a.m. Registration

11 a.m. Business Meeting and election of  
 2019-2020 Officers & Board of  
 Governors

12 Noon Luncheon

1:15 p.m. Program featuring Damien

Crageau

**Place:** Sans Souci Restaurant, 2003 North Broad  
 Street, Berlin Turnpike, Meriden, CT

**Cost:** \$29

Please pre-register by Friday, May 10, 2019. Pre-registrations accepted by mail to CSG, Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033. Please make checks payable to CSG, Inc. or call the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 with a MasterCard, Visa or Discover.

You may also pre-register online at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under Events, then choose this event.

For questions, call or email: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org).



## CSG News

### DUES TIME IS HERE!

CSG Members: It's time to renew for the 2019-2020 year, and by now members should have received the membership renewal in the mail. The online renewal system is updated and may be used to renew as well. We can only accept MasterCard, Visa or Discover if calling the office. For questions or for more information on joining The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, please contact the CSG Office by calling 860-569-0002 or emailing [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org).

### From the Publications Committee

#### ATTENTION POTENTIAL AUTHORS

Effective in 2019, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. is providing an honorarium for published articles - \$50 per *Nutmegger* article and \$25 per *Connecticut Genealogy News* article. The honorarium is not available to CSG staff and the current/sitting CSG Board of Governors or their immediate families. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is not required. For guidelines for writing for either publication, go to the CSG website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under "Links." See also "Creating Footnotes" on page 26 of the winter issue (Vol. 11 #4). Articles submitted for either publication will be reviewed by the CSG Publications Committee. After the article is reviewed, you will be advised of any suggested modifications. The honorarium will be paid only after final revisions have been made and the article has been approved for publication by the CSG Publications Committee.

### From the Library Committee

#### COME IN AND CHECK US OUT

CSG will be renewing its subscription to Ancestry.com and Fold3 for access within the CSG Library, located at 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, Connecticut. Patrons to the library may use those databases as well as all the resources at no charge. No need to be a CSG member to use the library. The library has a collection of over 5,000 titles. All the books are donated and are a mix of Genealogies, Family Histories and Genealogical Resource publications. Some of our collection is listed on our website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org). The library also owns information stored on microfilm/microfiche. While most of that can be found online now, if you don't have access to the internet, feel free to come in to use ours.

Don't forget that the CSG Library is offering FREE ongoing Genealogy help sessions every second and fourth Thursday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. See page 13 for more details. You may email your questions ahead of time to Judith Bowen at [easterndr13@yahoo.com](mailto:easterndr13@yahoo.com).

### NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

#### Godfrey Memorial Library Names New Director

The Godfrey Memorial Library is pleased to announce that Carol Ansel has been appointed Library Director as of January 1, 2019. Carol has been the Reference Librarian at the Library since July 2018. She has over 35 years of experience in various libraries in Connecticut and is a Board member of the Connecticut Library Consortium. She holds a BA degree from Connecticut College and a MLIS degree from the University of Rhode Island. In addition, she holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University.

Godfrey Memorial Library, established in 1947, is a major repository of genealogical and family history research materials and is the home of the American Genealogical and Biographical Index. The Library is located in Middletown, Connecticut and has members from across America. Further information on the Library can be found at its website, [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org).

#### Connecticut Gravestone Network Spring Symposium is March 30

The Connecticut Gravestone Network's Annual Spring Symposium will be held Saturday March 30, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Saint Sebastian's Church, 155 Washington Street, Middletown, CT 06457. Admission is \$15 for general public or \$10 for CGN members - pay at the door.

As always there will be a room full of vendors and displays - all on cemetery topics from genealogy to conservation issues; and four lectures with a lunch break in the middle. This annual event promotes preservation of historic cemeteries, earning and partnering to save our outdoor museums for future generations to appreciate.

For more information or to be on the list to receive Connecticut Gravestone newsletters and event information, contact Executive Director Ruthie Brown at [ctgravelady@cox.net](mailto:ctgravelady@cox.net) or 860-643-5652.



**CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS**

**51<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL MEETING on Saturday,  
18 May 2019**

**Sans Souci Restaurant**

**2003 North Broad Street, Berlin Turnpike,  
Meriden, CT**



**10:30 a.m. REGISTRATION**

**11:00 a.m. BUSINESS MEETING**

**NOON LUNCHEON**

**1:15 p.m. PROGRAM FEATURING DAMIEN CREGEAU**

**presenting**

**“Spies and Traitors of Connecticut during the  
American Revolution”**

The talk includes interesting information on why Nathan Hale failed as a spy, the famous Culper Spy Ring of New York, Long Island and Connecticut, General Benedict Arnold’s treason, and lesser known spies from Connecticut. It also includes a fascinating look at the techniques used by spies as well as General Arnold, including invisible ink, ciphers and codes.

Historian Damien Cregeau earned his B.A. in history from Hillsdale College in Michigan and his M.A. in history from Colorado State University. After teaching history for several years at independent schools, Mr. Cregeau has since 2007 given lectures on colonial American history throughout the northeast, including dozens of PowerPoint slideshow presentations on spies during the American Revolution.

**- OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - COST: \$29 PER PERSON -**

**CSG 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting with Damien Cregeau - 18 May 2019**

**Registration Form - Cost: \$29 per person**

Please make checks payable to and mail to: CSG, Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

MasterCard, Visa & Discover also accepted at 860-569-0002

or go to [www.csgetc.org](http://www.csgetc.org) to register online

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ CSG # \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ CSG # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

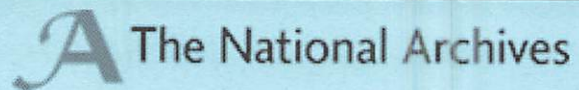
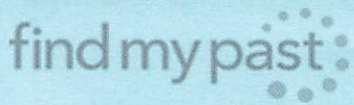
Telephone/E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Meal Choice (please circle one per person - please indicate whose meal is whose):

Grilled Salmon or Chicken Francaise or Denver Steak or Pasta Primavera (vegetarian)

Pease let us know if you have special dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_





## Findmypast Announces Project to Digitize & Publish 1921 Census of England & Wales

***The National Archives in association with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has awarded leading British & Irish family history website Findmypast the contract to digitize and publish the 1921 Census online.***

In the most anticipated family history development since the online publication of the 1939 Register, Findmypast has been selected as The National Archives' commercial partner to make the 1921 Census of England & Wales available online.

The census, which was the first to be conducted following the introduction of the Census Act of 1920, will be published online by Findmypast in January 2022.

The project will see Findmypast capture digital images and transcribe the records in a way that will enable family historians across the globe to conduct meaningful searches of these important records when they are opened for the very first time.

Taken on 19th June 1921, the census consists of more than 28,000 bound volumes of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals.

It provides greater detail than any previous census as, in addition to the questions asked in 1911, the 1921 returns also asked householders to reveal their place of employment, the industry they worked in and the materials they worked with as well as their employer's name. Those aged 15 and older were required to provide information about their marital status, including if divorced, while for those under 15 the census recorded whether both parents were alive or if either or both had died.

The 1921 Census also included detailed questions on education, and was the first in which individual householders could submit separate confidential returns.

Tamsin Todd, CEO of Findmypast, says: "This announcement is important for all family historians tracing their ancestors living in Britain in the early

twentieth century. It provides a fascinating snapshot of how people lived and worked in the years following World War 1, and it's all the more important because there's no surviving census for the next two decades until 1951."

Neil Curtis, Finance and Commercial Director at The National Archives, said: "This is the most significant digitization project The National Archives has undertaken to date, with the 1921 census containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals. As home to more than 1,000 years of history, we are delighted to be working with Findmypast to open up this unique record collection to the world."

Pete Benton, Census Operations Director at The Office for National Statistics, said: "The 1921 Census records are a unique opportunity to uncover details of how your family lived and worked in a period of massive socio-economic change in post-World War One Britain. They give greater detail than any previous census and are eagerly anticipated by genealogists the world over. At ONS, we keep census records under tight security for 100 years and we are very much looking forward to enabling this invaluable source of history to be made available to the public in January 2022."

Collections previously digitized by Findmypast in association with The National Archives include the 1939 Register, Prisoners of War 1715 to 1945, Easter Rising & Ireland under martial law 1916-1921, Crime, Prisons and Punishment; outbound passenger lists; British Army Service records; Merchant Navy Seamen's records; Maritime Birth, Marriage and Death indexes; and the 1911 Census.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>.



**LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019  
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.**

**Entry Rules**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118  
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

**THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST**

**The Grand Prize of \$500 is awarded to the overall best publication!**

**Two First Prizes of \$250 each may be awarded for the best in each of the remaining two categories!**

Categories are “Genealogy,” “Family History,” and “Resource Publication”

- 1.) The Contest opens March 1, 2019 and Entries must be received in CSG’s Office by July 15, 2019.
- 2.) Entry Categories are:
  - a.) Genealogy (begins with someone in the past and moves forward in time through all of his/her descendants).
  - b.) Family History (begins with someone living today or recently and moves backward in time, usually in a direct line).
  - c.) Genealogical Resource (might include cemetery abstracts, compilations, court records, etc.)
- 3.) Entries must have been published after 2013 and have some relevance to Connecticut and/or New England.
- 4.) An Entry Fee of \$20 and TWO copies of the publication must be submitted with each Entry Form. One copy will be added to the CSG Library and the other donated to the Connecticut State Library. On the Entry Form, the author may designate one copy to be donated elsewhere or be returned instead.
- 5.) Entry is open to anyone except CSG staff, the current/sitting CSG Board of Governors and their immediate families. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is NOT required to enter.
- 6.) Submit completed Entry Form to CSG at the mailing address above.
- 7.) Photocopies of the Entry Form are welcomed.

Entries will be evaluated on a variety of criteria including, but not limited to, the quality of: relevance of title, format (logical, readable, interesting arrangement); sentence structure; grammar; and presentation (spelling counts and typographical errors are noted). All entries should include title page, table of contents, index (Name & Place), and page numbers. Where applicable, evaluation will also be based on: numbering system (was it easy to follow); quality of references; bibliography; and narrative. Books should be bound (both hardcover and softcover are accepted. Spiral-bound accepted). Presentation is considered.

CDs are acceptable entries; however, all entries must have a fully searchable and easy-to-follow names index with page numbers. A searchable place index is also encouraged. All entries will be retained in our library and available for research. The second copy, unless specifically requested back by the entrant, will be offered to the CT State Library. Content on CD entries must be in a commonly used format. Pdf is preferred.

Winning entries will be formally announced at CSG’s Annual Family History Seminar in October; winners will be notified by September 1, 2019.

**SEE REVERSE FOR ENTRY FORM**



Entry Form For

LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019  
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST

*Sponsored by*

**CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

Please Print or Type

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Publication

Category (Circle one): GENEALOGY      FAMILY HISTORY      RESOURCE PUBLICATION  
(Note: CSG reserves the right to reclassify Category)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Author's/Authors' Name(s)      Year of Publication

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address(es) (including PO Box(es) if applicable)      Date Submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town/City, State, Zip+4      Purchase Price

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number(s)      E-mail Address(es)      CSG Member Number(s) (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Person(s) Submitting This Entry [if different from Author(s)]

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address(es) (including PO Box(es) if applicable)      Town/City, State, Zip+4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number(s)      E-mail Address(es)      CSG Member Number(s) (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Publisher

\_\_\_\_\_  
Publisher Address(es) (including PO Box(es) (if applicable)      Town/City, State, Zip+4

\_\_\_\_\_  
Publisher Telephone Number(s)      E-mail Address(es)      Contact Person

Please indicate disposition of second copy after contest (circle one): Donate to Connecticut State Library

Donate To \_\_\_\_\_ or Return to author

**PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS ENTRY FORM ARE WELCOMED SEE REVERSE FOR ENTRY RULES**

## LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019

### EIGHTH ANNUAL “TELL ME YOUR FAMILY STORY” ESSAY CONTEST

#### CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

#### OPEN TO ALL

#### THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE \$100!

- 1.) Entry is **open to anyone** except for CSG staff and current/sitting CSG Board of Governors or immediate family thereof. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is NOT required.
- 2.) **Contest opens March 1, 2019. All entries must be received in CSG's Office by July 15, 2019.**
- 3.) Essay must have some relevance to New England (including at least one of the six states which are: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont).
- 4.) Essays must be well written, not more than ten pages, double-spaced and typed. Supporting documentation may be included if available but will not be counted as part of the essay's text.
- 5.) **TWO** paper copies of the essay (which will not be returned), including supporting documentation, must be submitted with each Entry Form. If submitting copies of supporting documentation, please include for **both** copies. If selected to be published, an electronic copy in Microsoft Word format will be required.
- 6.) Submit completed Entry Form to CSG at the mailing address above. Entries may be hand-delivered.  
**We cannot accept emailed entries.**
- 7.) Photocopies of the Entry Form are welcomed.
- 8.) Currently there is no entry fee!

Essays may include family stories; oral histories; excerpts from an ancestor's journal/diary; transcriptions of Bible records or cemetery markers; family histories/traditions and socio-economic background surrounding/ affecting an ancestor. Each essay needs to include how it pertains to the author. Genealogical summaries should be easy to follow. Essay writers are encouraged to use their imagination when deciding on topics. Please bear in mind that essays must have some relevance to New England (see #2 above).

Essays will be evaluated on a variety of criteria, including but not limited to: the relevance of the title page; page numbers (very important); format (logical, readable, interesting narrative or arrangement); New England content (this is of paramount importance); spelling (this counts); sentence structure; grammar and presentation. All entries will be permanently retained in the CSG Library and will be available to anyone who visits. The winner and selected entries may be published in *The Connecticut Nutmegger*. Authors are asked to sign the Copyright and Ownership Conditions on the entry form.

Winning entries will be formally announced at CSG's Annual Family History Seminar in October. Winners will be notified by September 1, 2019.

#### SEE REVERSE FOR ENTRY FORM

**Entry Form for**  
**LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019**

**EIGHTH ANNUAL**  
**“TELL ME YOUR FAMILY STORY” ESSAY**  
**CONTEST**

**THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF**  
**GENEALOGISTS, INC.**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118  
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

**Please Print or Type** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Essay:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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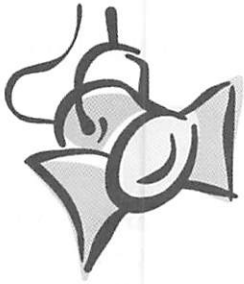
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# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities

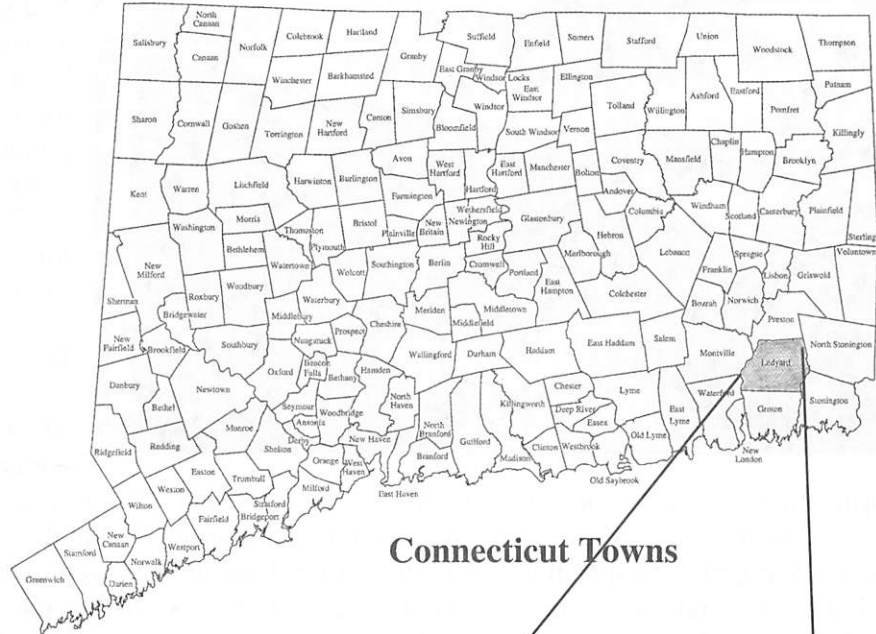


## Spotlight on Ledyard

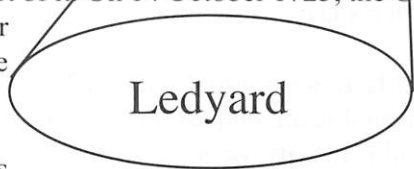
by Russell A. DeGrafft  
CSG # 19174

### History of Ledyard

The first English settlers at New London arrived in 1645. The following year John Winthrop, Jr., with a number of additional original settlers, considerably increased their numbers and added the authority of the Colony of Massachusetts. A few years later, a few pioneers moved up the Thames River to what is now Ledyard. When Groton was set off from New London in 1705, what is now Ledyard was part of it. On 14 October 1725, the General Assembly permitted the formation of the Groton North Society or The Second Society in Groton. The settlers were farmers and the river their transportation.



Connecticut Towns



Monument to William Ledyard

In 1836, this section was incorporated as the town of Ledyard. It was named for William Ledyard of Groton, commander of Fort Griswold, who was run through with his own sword after he surrendered the fort to the British on 6 September 1781.

The principle communities of Ledyard are Ledyard Center, also called Ledyard Village, and Gales Ferry. The town also contains the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation in the northeastern part of the town.

To mention the history of Ledyard and not write briefly about the Native American Pequot influences on the land would be ignoring a huge part of Ledyard's early formation. Native American scholars of today suggest that archaeological language and documentary evidence shows that the Pequots were indigenous in the Connecticut Valley for centuries before the arrival of European settlers. The Mashantucket Pequots are descendants of the historic Pequot tribe, an Algonquian-speaking people who dominated

the coastal area from the Niantic River, east to the Pawcatuck River and south to Long Island Sound. During Colonial years colonists recorded many changes of power among the tribes.

### Places and Events of Interest



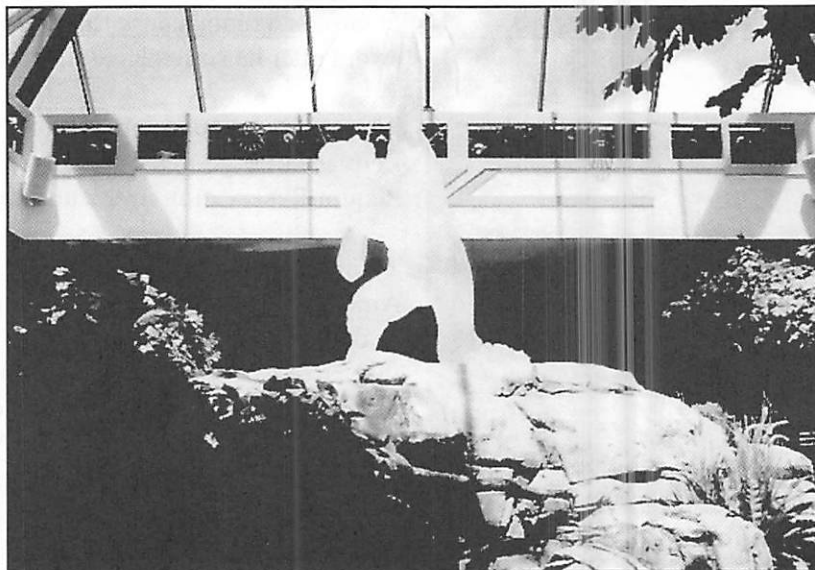
**Maugle Sierra Vineyards** (825 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Connecticut Route 117, Exit 88 off Route 95, Ledyard): Here the visitor can sample a taste of coastal New England in the heart of Ledyard country. Vineyard touring is always a fun activity for the young at heart and this area is lovely in a comfortable, homey kind of way. The staff is friendly and attentive. Don't miss your edible milk chocolate cup. Summer hours are 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Plan on spending one-two hours for your visit.

### **Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center** (110 Pequot Trail,

Mashantucket): The Pequot Museum, located in an ancient cedar forest just minutes away from Foxwoods Resort Casino, is the largest Native American museum of its kind in the world. Because there is so much to see and learn, plan on spending two to three hours touring this magnificent attraction. This is an amazingly well done museum, beginning with the ice age and progressing into our current times. There are beautiful displays about the land, the people and animals. They are well-presented and well-balanced. The research center is available for study through appointment and has a vast collection of materials available for the researcher's use.

**Foxwoods Resort and Casino** (Pequot Trail, Mashantucket): After being federally recognized in 1983, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation constructed one of the largest resort casinos in the world. This spectacular facility, opened in 1992, is a drawing card for vacationers and "hopefully lucky" visitors from all over the world. With major theatrical talents, excellent restaurants and a world class museum to attract its guests, it is one of the major attractions in the Northeast. Tanger Outlets Foxwoods, located at 455 Trolley Line Boulevard, is the latest addition to the Foxwood Casino complex. For the shoppers, there are over seventy stores at Tanger Outlets.

**Rainmaker Statue** at Foxwoods Casino: For many years this centerpiece for the Foxwoods Resort and Casino, has been a preferred meeting spot of both young and old. People stand and watch in amazement as the light show begins its awe-inspiring performance. Fog rolls in, mist settles upon the

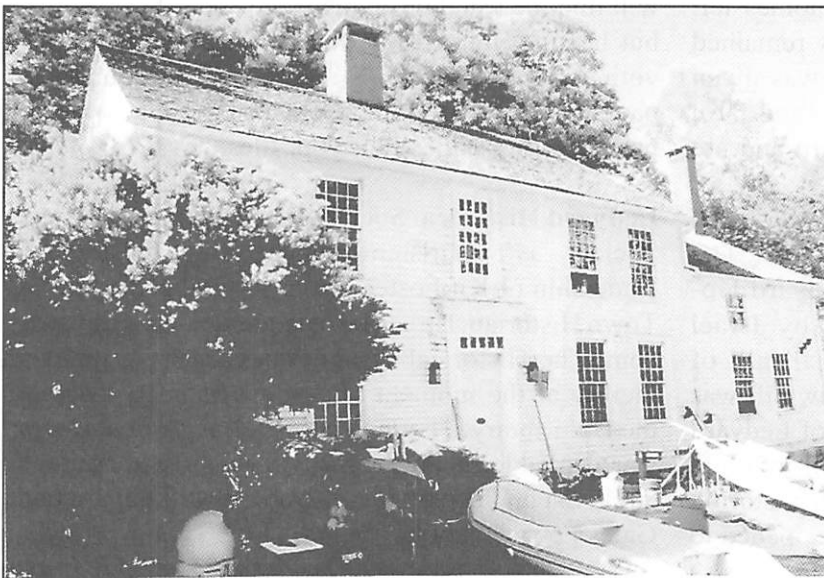


watchers and lightning flashes. Located just outside a number of shops and casinos, the statue features a translucent sculpture of a Pequot Indian on his knee that is illuminated by a laser show every two hours. With a thunderstorm and brief narration, the unique Rainmaker statue provides us with a brief glimpse into the Pequot story.

**Holmberg Orchard and Winery** (12 Orchard Lane, Gales Ferry): Located in the Thames River Valley of southeastern Connecticut, Holmberg Orchards and Winery is a working fourth generation farm. The fifty acres of vineyard and fruit trees, as well as acres of berries and vegetables, are a must see for anyone who can get to their vegetable displays. The beauty of their blossoming fruit trees in the Spring is only surpassed by the fruit-laden apple trees in the Fall. To determine vegetable stand hours and wine tasting times and to guarantee that your choice of fruit is in stock, call Amy Holmberg at 860-464-7305. Allow 2-3 hours for your visit.

### Old Structures Worthy of a Visit

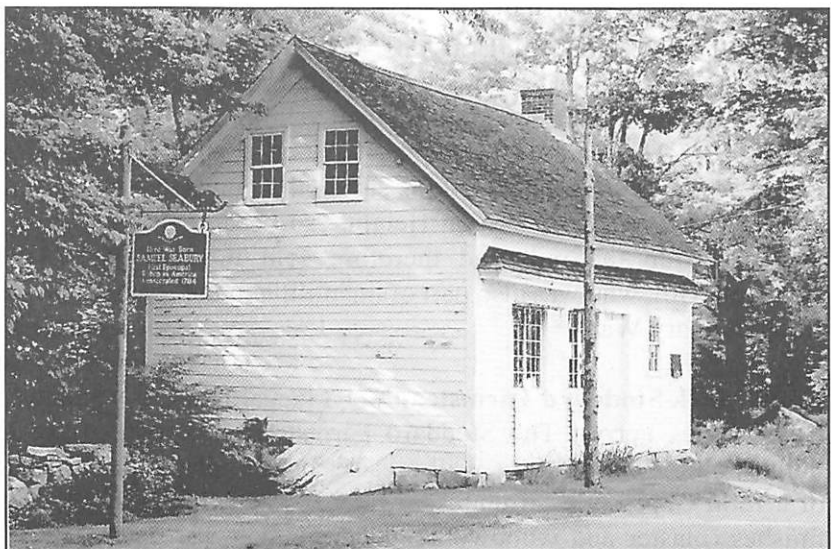
*Author's Note:* It is recommended that anyone wanting to tour any of the old structures listed below visit the Bill Library and purchase, for a nominal fee, a map of historical locations.



**Applewood Farm** (528 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard): Applewood Farm has served as a farm for over a century, with an 1850 census reporting it produced butter, cheese, rye, Indian corn, oats, wool, Irish potatoes and hay. The farmhouse was constructed in 1860 by Russel Gallup, who served as a member of the Connecticut Militia in the War of 1812 and volunteered for many other Ledyard civic duties until his death in 1869. It is of colonial center chimney design with Federal style details that were modernized to meet the needs of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The farm was named after the apple orchards planted by Russel Gallup. In 1987, the property contained five outer structures; beside the farmhouse, there is a corn crib, barn, silo and chicken coop. A machine shed was added in the 1960s.

**Gurdon Bill Store** (15 Church Hill Road, Ledyard): The store was named for Gurdon Bill, who was born in 1784. It is believed to be the best preserved early 19th century "Country Store" in Connecticut. It was noted for supplying items that local farmers needed and could not build themselves.



Locally, the Gurdon Bill store was rumored to have been a tavern or an inn. Although no record or evidence indicates such a use, it was also used as a waystation for stagecoaches. A historical marker in the immediate vicinity ties the Gurdon Bill store to the birthplace of Samuel Seabury, America's first Episcopal bishop; however no conclusive evidence of this claim exists.

**Nathan Lester House** (153 Vinegar Hill Road, Ledyard): The Nathan Lester House is located east of the village of Gales Ferry, on the east side of Vinegar Hill Road. The 110-acre property is mostly wooded with a long drive providing access to the farmstead. The house was built in 1793 by Nathan Lester on land originally purchased by his grandfather. It is one of the smaller 18th century homes in the town and one of the few homes left of that age left in the town. The property remained in the Lester family until 1908 when it was given to the town. The farmhouse, outbuildings and farm museum with tools are owned by Ledyard and are open to the public in the summer.

**Main Sawmill** (175 Iron Street, Ledyard): The Main Sawmill is also known as the Ledyard Up-Down Sawmill. It was built in 1869 by Israel Brown and is the only know operational mill of this type in the state. The first known sawmill was built on the site in the 1790s. The Town of Ledyard created Sawmill Park and bought the mill in 1966. Volunteers donated nine years of their time restoring the mill and dam. The park and mill were opened to the public in 1975.

**Perkins-Bill House** (1040 Long Cove Road, Gales Ferry): The Perkins-Bill House is a 1 ½ storied gambrel-roof Cape. The house was built between 1773 and 1777 by John Jones, who sold it to Solomon Perkins Sr. The Perkins family also operated the nearby sawmill. The older Perkins suffered wounds in the nearby Battle of Groton Heights, so became unable to run the mill and therefore sold it to Benjamin Bill, who was also part of the militia in the Revolutionary War.

**Capt. Mark Stoddard Farmstead** (24 Vinegar Hill Road, Gales Ferry): The Stoddard Farmstead was built about 1770 and is a well-preserved example of a rural Cape style farmhouse. Many of the wall finishes (plaster and woodwork) are original to its

construction. The original Stoddard served in the Revolutionary War, and one of his grandsons served as the Captain of a ship during the Civil War. The property remained in the Stoddard family until 1919.

### Genealogical Resources

**Ledyard Town Hall** (741 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard): Before you enter the Ledyard Town Hall, be sure you have a driver's license (or another form of identification) as well as your Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. membership card. These two pieces of identification are strictly used by some Town Clerks, so it is best that you have them with you before asking for copies of records. Also, it is best to call for an appointment at 860-464-3257. The Town Clerk maintains records back to 1836. You will find the usual birth, marriage and death records, but be sure you explore their ancient land records, voting records, veteran's records and of course tax payments. For a nominal fee you may be able to have copies produced for your files.

**Ledyard Historical Society:** The Ledyard Historical Society is flourishing under the presidential leadership of Kit Foster who also retains the title of Town Historian. He can be reached at Kit@KitFoster.com. The Historical Society does not have its own facility at the moment but enjoys sharing space at the Bill Library. The Janice W. Bell Historical Room was named to honor the former Town Historian and Archivist and contains vast amounts of Ledyard and Gales Ferry History.

To view the digital collections from the Bell Room, visit the Ledyard's Historical Society's web page. You may also submit a research request via Email or by bringing it to either library. To do so, complete the Bell Room Research Inquiry Form. The Historical Society research volunteers will contact you concerning your inquiry.

### Ledyard Historical Society Publications

- ~ Volume I: *Gales Ferry Village*, printed in 1976 and reprinted in 1997.
- ~ Volume 2: *Ledyard Center*, printed 1987.
- ~ Volume 3: *Seven Families*, printed in 1998.
- ~ Volume 4: *Gales Ferry Revisited*, published in 2000.



- ~ Volume 5: *Long Lots and Land Grants*, printed in 2006.
- ~ Volume 6: *Quakertown*, printed in 2012.
- ~ *The Bluff* a small volume, printed in 1994.
- ~ *Ledyard, Connecticut Historic Cemetery Inscriptions*, printed in 2000.
- ~ *Images of America: Ledyard and Gales Ferry*, published in 2004.
- ~ *September 6, 1781, North Groton's Story*, published in 1981.
- ~ *Map of the Old Houses of Ledyard built before 1800*.
- ~ *Bill Family History and Heritage Booklet*, published in 1975.
- ~ *Recipes from Yesteryear*.
- ~ *Nathan Lester House Cat's Meow*. Collective wooden commemorative.
- ~ *Beers 1868 Map of Ledyard and Gales Ferry*. Copy of the original map.

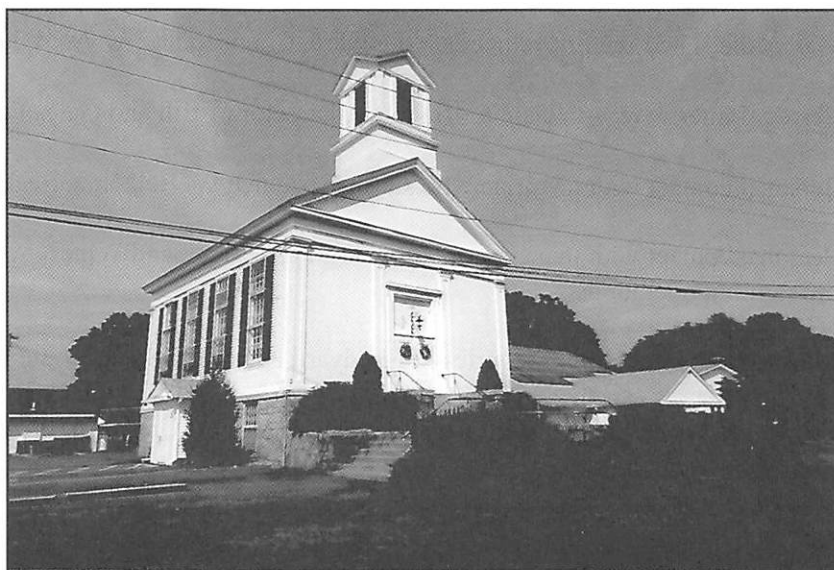
The above items may be purchased within the Bill Library.



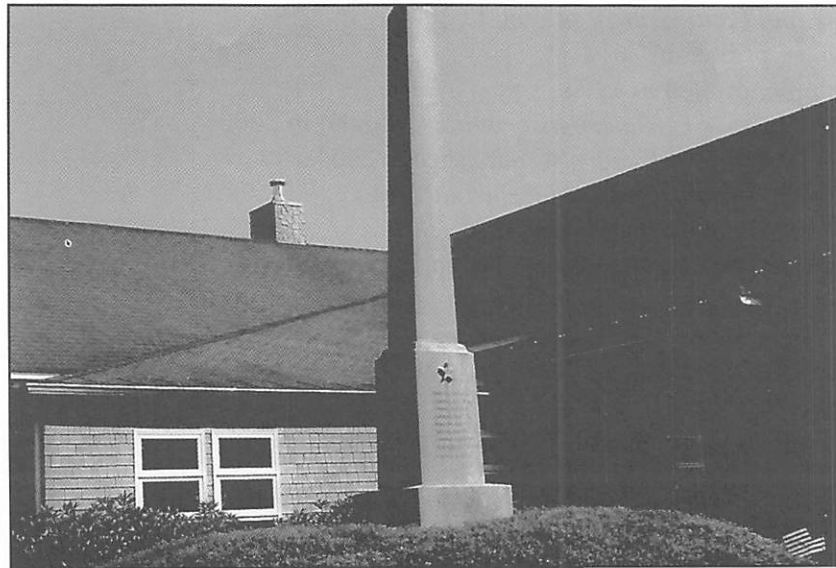
**Ledyard Public Library**

**Ledyard Public Libraries** (718 Colonel Ledyard Highway, Ledyard): Sitting high on a hilly plot of land that is shared with the Ledyard Congregational Church, overlooking the Ledyard Fair grounds and shared with a military monument honoring those who fought in the Civil War, the Bill Library holds a wealth of information for the genealogist. The Gales Ferry Library, located on Hurlbutt Road, Gales Ferry also contains information about the history of the Ledyard and Gales Ferry communities. Both are under the Directorship of Gale F. Bradbury.

Ms. Bradbury can be reached at P.O. Box 225, Ledyard, CT 06339 or call 860-464-9917. The Bill Library has an extensive collection of materials dealing with the history of Ledyard. Call ahead and Ms. Bradbury will be happy to assist you. Summer and Winter hours remain the same, with hours being extended in September. Any desired book or material can be ordered from your local library, through Lion or Inter-library Loan.



**Ledyard Congregational Church**



Civil War Monument

### **Bibliography of Additional Information About Ledyard**

John Avery, *History of the Town of Ledyard 1650-1900* (Norwich , Conn.: Noyes and Davis 1901).

Janice Wightman Bell, *The Bluff: Gales Ferry Village* (Ledyard Historical Society, 1994).

*The Connecticut Magazine, An Illustrated Monthly*, Connecticut Magazine Company, 1903, p. 332.

Ledyard Historical Society, *Historic Ledyard: Gales Ferry Revisited* (Ledyard Historical Society, 2000).

James Zug, *An American Traveler: The Life and Adventures of John Ledyard, the Man Who Dreamed of Walking the World*, Basic Books: Google Books.com, p. 272.

### **Sources**

Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, "Ledyard, Connecticut," [www.Wikipedia.com](http://www.Wikipedia.com).

Personal interview with Gale F. Bradbury, Director of Bill and Gales Ferry Libraries

Personal contact with historian who staffs the Janice W. Bell Historical Room in the Bill Library

Personal contact with manager of Holmberg Farm Stand and Winery who provided me with information about the farming operations.

Map of Historical Homes, courtesy of Ledyard Historical Society, and provided by Bill Library.

Erica Moser, "88 Flames Burn for 88 Lives Lost at Fort Griswold," *The Day*, 5 September 2018, p. B1.

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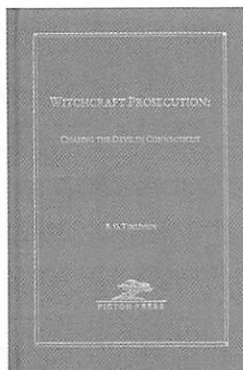
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Tom is an award-winning writer, board-certified genealogist, editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, recipient of honors from genealogical organizations, and author of the textbooks *Mastering Genealogical Proof* and *Mastering Genealogical Documentation*. Using his nearly lifelong career in education as a springboard, he enjoys teaching at weeklong genealogy institutes, weekend seminars, and local, national, and international genealogy conferences.



#### **Cyndi Ingle**



Cyndi Ingle is the owner and webmaster of *Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet*, [www.CyndisList.com](http://www.CyndisList.com), a categorized index to over 336,000 online resources. Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 37 years, is the recipient of the 2016 National Genealogical Society President's Citation and Britain's Society of Genealogists 2018 Prince Michael of Kent Award. She is a past-member of the National Genealogical Society's board of directors. Cyndi is the author of a best-selling book for genealogical research on the Internet titled, *Netting Your Ancestors*, a printed version of her web site, *Cyndi's List*, and *Planting Your Family Tree Online: How To Create Your Own Family History Web Site*.

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For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Summer 2019

Vol. 12 No. 2



## *In This Issue...*

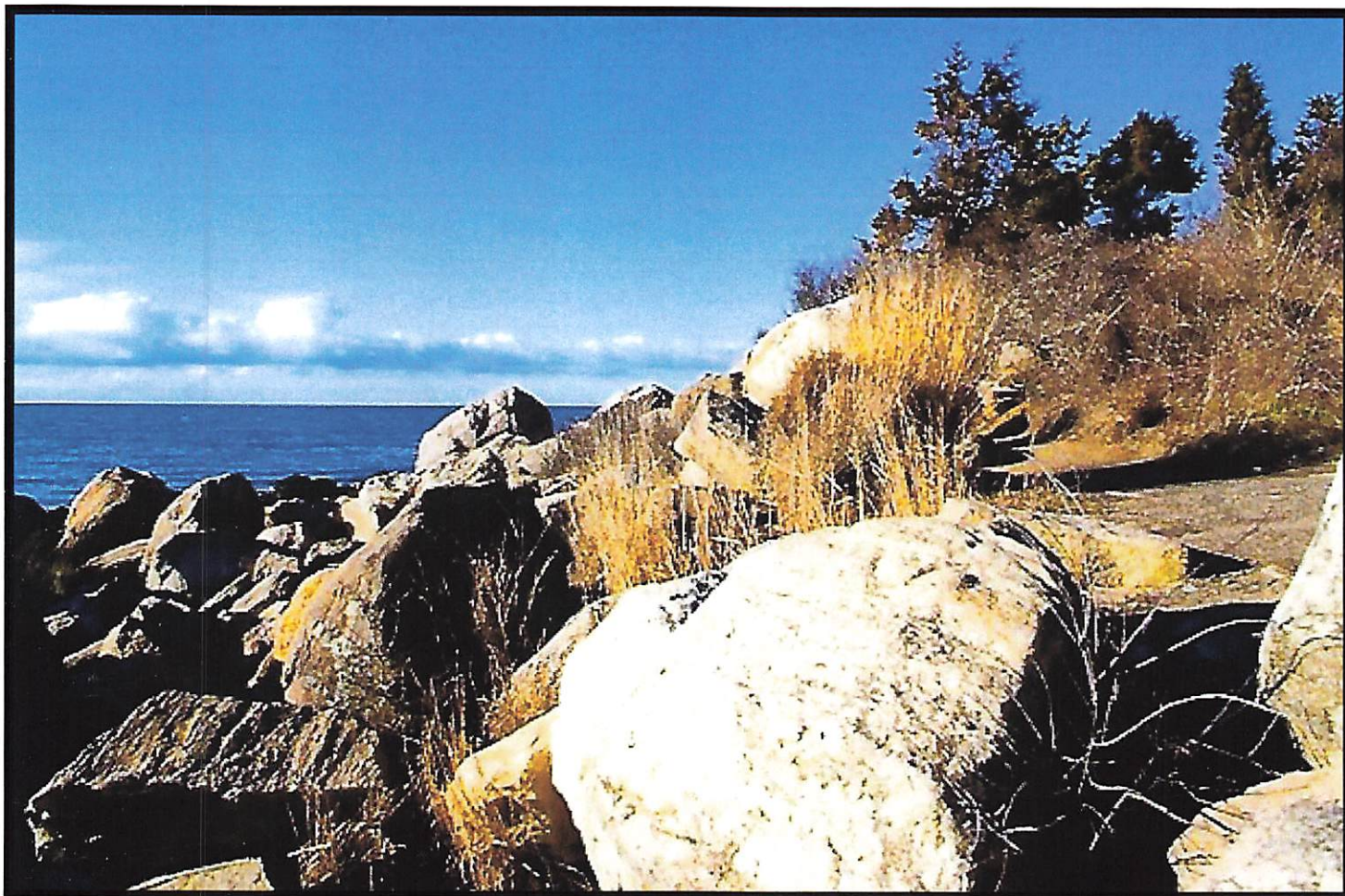
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## President's Message



The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) has just completed their 15<sup>th</sup> regional Conference. As in the past, I can't say enough about the value of a well-run, well-attended genealogy conference. Aside from the education, the camaraderie of "rubbing elbows" with friends old and new is invaluable. In addition, it's almost impossible to avoid meeting new friends who will likely become old friends as the years go by.

While many think of "NERGC" as a Conference, it is really much more. Originally formed over twenty years ago, NERGC is an association of genealogical societies seeking to bring affordable, cutting edge, national quality genealogical education within the reach of New England genealogists and family historians at an affordable regional price.

Our 2019 Conference was supported by 23 individual genealogical societies, including CSG, and was held 3-6 April 2109 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire. Wednesday was filled with special tracks and events. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were the featured days of the conference with many presentations, a large exhibit hall with 72 vendors, society fair, Ancestors Road Show, a genealogical tour, meals, networking and plenty of "cousin finding!"

Well-respected genealogist, lecturer and author Thomas W Jones; Cyndi Ingle, owner of the very popular "Cyndi's List;" and a top genetic genealogist, Blaine Bettinger, were our featured speakers – presenting several times throughout the conference and at banquets. Each brought unique expertise to the event.

To date, NERGC has produced fourteen conferences in every state in New England. Attendance at each of the past six conferences has exceeded

700, with 720 attending the 2005 Portland, Maine conference; 745 in Hartford, Connecticut in 2007; 739 in Manchester, New Hampshire in 2009; and 830 in Springfield, Massachusetts in 2011. The 2015 conference in Providence, Rhode Island and the 2017 in Springfield, Mass had just under 1,000 attendees, speakers, and exhibitors on hand.

With over 70 professional genealogists delivering 130 presentations in subjects ranging from beginning genealogy to more advanced topics and 72 genealogy product vendors, NERGC 2019 drew over 1,000 registrants. The Exhibit Hall was on the first floor and the public was invited to visit the vendors at no cost. Conference registration was not required.

Visit [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org) to read more about the wide variety of topics including Polish, Irish, Jewish, Portuguese, and Scandinavian research strategies; DNA; technology; software; the speakers who presented them and more. Photos from the conference are posted on the NERGC Facebook page.

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc (CSG) has been and will continue to be a very active supporter and contributor to future NERGC conferences.

Finally, it has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve in the capacity of President here at CSG. I believe we've accomplished a great many projects as we continue to grow. I plan on continuing with the Board of Governors so that I might still offer my opinions and expertise in various areas. I certainly plan on being involved with annual meetings, conferences, maybe a committee or two, and especially NERGC 2021 as it will be taking place practically in my back yard in Springfield, Massachusetts.

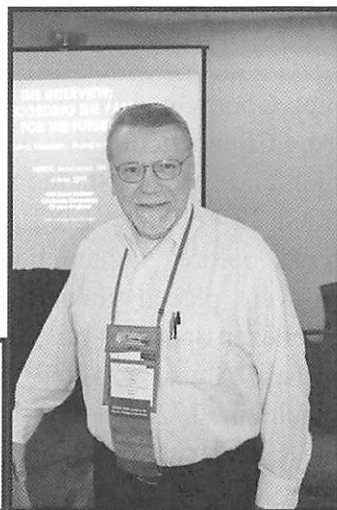
So, thank you for your support. I hope I've been a positive contributor to the ongoing success of such a well-established society with a history to be proud of!

~ Dave Robison, President

## CSG at NERGC 2019, Manchester, New Hampshire

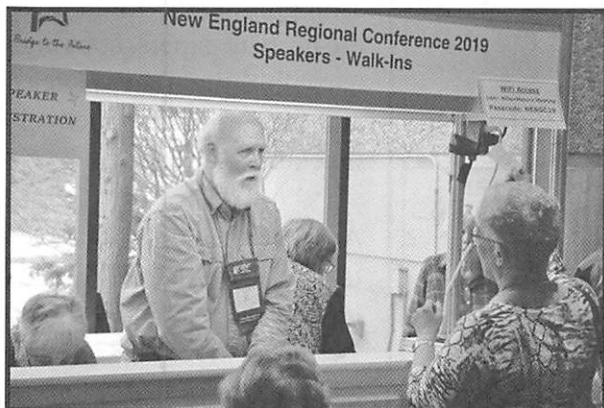
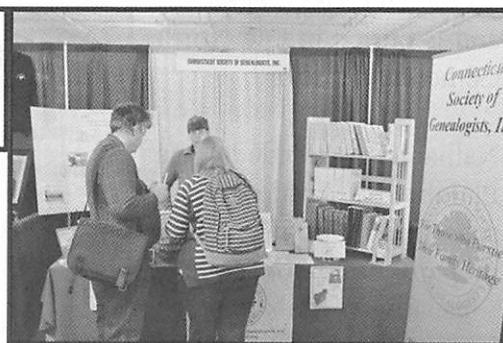


NERGC conferences are run completely by volunteers. CSG Board member, Linda Carlson (pictured left), helped stuff tote bags before registration began.



CSG sponsored lecture session T-113. Our President, Dave Robison presented "The Interview: Recording the Past for the Future."

CSG booth in the NERGC Exhibit Hall.



CSG Board member Keith Wilson spent time checking in attendees at the NERGC registration booth.

### Editorial

"Happy New Year" to all CSG members. Thank you all for your continued support of CSG as we enter the Society's new fiscal year.

Thank you to Dave Robison for the time he has served as CSG's president. We are happy that he will be remaining on the CSG Board of Governors so it is not goodbye. We look forward to many great new ideas and positive contributions from him in the future.

Thank you to Dick Roberts for another fine article continuing the series of Genealogical Pioneers and to CSG members Cheryl and Christopher Klemmer for their article on "Researching Connecticut County Temporary Homes."

Thank you to Russ DeGrafft for the Spotlight on Madison, Connecticut and for his review of the book: *Clara D. Noyes, R.N. Life of a Global Nursing Leader* by Roger L. Noyes. Our thanks also go out to Linda Carlson for her review of *The Family Tree Toolkit, A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy* by Kenyatta Berry, the host of *Genealogy Roadshow*.

All of us at CSG wish everyone the best of luck in your researching this year.

~Stephanie Hyland, Editor

### About the Cover

The photo on the cover, taken by Russ DeGrafft, is of the shoreline at Hammonasset State Park in Madison, Connecticut. It is truly a beautiful part of this great state.

## Connecticut Genealogical Pioneers: Nathaniel Goodwin

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680

Nathaniel Goodwin was born 5 March 1782 in Hartford, Connecticut, the youngest child of Nathaniel and Anna (Sheldon) Goodwin. His father died 22 February 1782 at the age of 38, a few weeks before Nathaniel was born, and the children were placed under the guardianship of Capt. Ebenezer Barnard (1725/6-20 August 1799). His mother, Anna, was the daughter of Capt. Isaac Sheldon (1723-28 April 1786) and Anna Marsh (18 January 1730-5 November 1802). She died 4 February 1823, aged 73, and is buried in Old North Cemetery, Hartford.

Nathaniel attended the Plainfield Academy, a school founded in 1770 to prepare boys for college – usually Yale. Nathaniel, however, instead served for two years as an apprentice to printer Edward J. O'Brien of New Haven and later for three years with Charles R. and George Webster in Albany. The Websters, originally from Hartford, were Albany's premiere printers and publishers and, in addition to publishing the *Albany Gazette* newspaper, did printing under contract for the city government.

Leaving the Webster shop in 1803, Nathaniel briefly joined the business of John Barber, printer to the State of New York, "at very handsome wages."

Returning to Connecticut, Nathaniel initially worked as a teacher and in his brother James's business. By 1814 he was deputy collector of

revenue for Connecticut's fourth collection district. In May 1818 he was elected Hartford's City Treasurer, a position to which he was re-elected for the next 35 years. In 1833 he was appointed County Treasurer and in 1835 elected Town Treasurer. He also served as an administrator of intestate estates. In 1827 he was one of the executors of the estate of his stepbrother, Ebenezer Barnard Jr., and received \$300 as one of the beneficiaries. He was

Judge of Probate for the Hartford Probate District in 1832-1833, later serving as the District's clerk, and has been credited with arranging and classifying the probate papers, copying partially illegible pages, and preparing alphabetical indexes.

A man of diverse talents, Nathaniel also learned surveying. On 24 December 1823 he received a patent for a rectangular protractor. He worked with Daniel St. John to produce a map of the City of Hartford, which was engraved by Asaph Willard and published in 1824 as "Plan of the City of Hartford from a Survey made in 1824." In 1827 and 1830 he prepared surveys

from which maps of portions of Hartford were prepared, including the area now known as State House Square. In 1833 he was appointed Deputy Surveyor for Hartford County.

In 1838 Hartford charged "that the Selectmen be authorized to procure a Survey of our Town as originally laid out, with reference to its ancient

### Real Estate for sale.



**FOR SALE**, a valuable tract of Land situated in the South-East part of this city, and abutting North on the road leading to the South Meadow, it being part of the homestead of the late Ebenezer Barnard, deceased, containing eight acres.

**About four acres of valuable Land**, in a lot near the above, abutting North on the Little River, and South on the highway.

**A Lot in Sheldon-street**, having a barn and good well on it.

**A Lot abutting South on Charter street**, and North on a road leading from Cole to Sheldon street, containing about two acres.

**A Lot in the South Meadow**, next East of the late Mr. Benton's abutting North on Connecticut river, and South on the Meadow road, containing about two acres.

**A Lot a few rods above Elley's wharf**, abutting East on Connecticut river.

**A valuable Wood Lot of eleven acres**, and two pieces of Land of about three acres each, on or near Stone-pit Hill, in East-Hartford, 3 1-2 miles from the State-House.

Apply to  
**NATHANIEL GOODWIN.**

October 1, 1827.

57



history and with the alterations in its public roads since that time, at an expense not exceeding three hundred dollars.” On 30 December 1839 Nathaniel Goodwin, along with James B. Hosmer, Alfred Smith, and James Ward, was appointed to a committee to oversee the project. William S. Porter of Farmington prepared the map. The result was “Hartford in 1640 Prepared from the Original Records by Vote of the Town and Drawn by William S. Porter.” At the time of its completion, it was described as enabling users to locate “the very spots ... [where] your ancestors stood, when the wilderness and the savage howled around them.” The map was later reproduced between pages 228 & 229 of the *Memorial History of Hartford County*, volume I.

*Geer's Hartford City Directory* for 1845 shows “Goodwin Nathaniel, county, town, and city Treasurer, h. 334 Main st., office 12 Pearl st.” However, the information available to him through those positions and through his probate work, and his research into land records while preparing surveys had led him to undertake another project on his own time. A descendant of many early Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor families, he had begun genealogical research with the aim of compiling a series of family genealogies. In 1845 he published *Descendants of Thomas Olcott, One of the First Settlers of Hartford*. (The second wife of Nathaniel's grandfather, Daniel Goodwin, was Abigail (Olcott) Bigelow (15 February 1704–26 December 1776). In 1849 he published *The Foote Family: or the Descendants of Nathaniel Foote, One of the First Settlers of Wethersfield*. However, health issues led him to abandon the preparation of additional volumes on early families of Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor. Instead, he concentrated on what his nephew Daniel termed “genealogical notes to assist others in tracing out their family histories.” He was able to review proof sheets through page 68 of what was to become *Genealogical Notes, or Contributions to the Family History of Some of the First Settlers of Connecticut and Massachusetts* before continued declining health forced him to abandon the project. Shortly before his death, Nathaniel requested that

his manuscripts be turned over to Henry Barnard, President of the Connecticut Historical Society. Barnard finalized some 50 additional pages as well as writing a “memoir” of Nathaniel Goodwin before turning the project over to State Librarian Charles J. Hoadly.

Goodwin was one of the original incorporators of the Connecticut Historical Society and served as a Vice President of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He died 29 May 1855 in the 74<sup>th</sup> year of his age and is buried in Old North Cemetery, Hartford. Poet Lydia Sigourney, the “Sweet Singer of Hartford,” wrote of him, “Antiquarian tastes had the predominance in his mind, and the genealogical works he has been induced to give to the press, are models of persevering research and accurate arrangement. Even his chirography might seem correctly to symbolize his character – plain, neat, upright, perfect in punctuation, rejecting all factitious flourish, and as legible as the clearest typography.”

Nathaniel Goodwin never married or had children but left a substantial estate. Some of the smaller bequests in his will included \$100 each to the Hartford Charitable Society, the Hartford Female Beneficial Society, and the Hartford Orphan Asylum. Among the larger legacies, he gave to “my good friend Miss Mary Ann Olcott now forming a part of my family, for her kindness & attention to my family and to me in my sickness the sum of three thousand dollars.” Bequests of \$1,000 were left to Sarah Goodwin Brown and to his niece Lucretia Ann Goodwin, daughter of his brother Daniel, deceased, who also received “all the furniture ... in the room she now occupies in my house.” He left his home in Hartford, personal property within or about the house (except for that which was given to Lucretia), and \$1,000 to his nephew Daniel, son of his brother Daniel, deceased. Daniel also received a wood lot “situated in the Town of Windsor and County of Hartford, being the same land which descended from my Grandfather to my mother [Anna Sheldon] and from my mother to me.”

Daniel Goodwin later donated Nathaniel's transcription of records of Hartford's Second Church of Christ, 1669-1731 to the Connecticut State Library, but the bulk of Nathaniel's surviving papers remain at the Connecticut Historical Society. They include:

**Map of Benton Place, 1832.** Map of two lots of land situated in the south meadow in Hartford called the "Benton Place." It belonged to the heirs of Roswell Bartholomew. The map is from a survey taken by Nathaniel Goodwin on January 27, 1832.

**Map of Pratt Street, Hartford, Conn.**

**Nathaniel Goodwin survey, 1824.** -- Survey map of a tract of land in Hartford, Connecticut, owned by Henry Seymour, called the Dutch and Boardman lots.

**Nathaniel Goodwin papers, 1796-ca. 1856.** A collection of Goodwin's correspondence, drafts, and notes relating to early Connecticut families for what became *Genealogical Notes*. The collection also includes several letters from his guardian, Ebenezer Barnard; an 1833 letter naming Goodwin as deputy surveyor of Hartford; and several writings by Charles Hoadley.

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## Researching Connecticut County Temporary Homes

by Cheryl and Christopher Klemmer, CSG # 19618S, 19618

The mystery was revealed on a small yellowed clipping from an undated newspaper she found among her mother's loose photographs – Rose and her brother at ages six and seven were sent to a children's home after their mother died. Could this be *Grandma* Rose? Here was the clue she wasn't looking for. Was it the shame of being committed to an "orphanage" that kept this story hidden for so long? Might there be records to confirm and explain the story?

Connecticut County Temporary Home records are among the forgotten resources for genealogists. In 1883 Connecticut ended indenture and almshouses for children and adopted a system of County Temporary Homes to provide care and protection for waifs, strays, and dependent, neglected, abandoned, and cruelly treated children until their placement could be secured in a "well-selected family home" (CT HB No. 359, 1883). However, there were never enough approved families, and children often lingered in the Homes. In 1911 the "total number of children admitted to county homes since their organization was estimated at 24,600, of whom it is thought that about thirty percent have been placed in families" (Foote, p. 106). By 1921 one out of every hundred children in Connecticut was in an institution (in New York City that ratio was one in 35).

### Temporary Homes

Children from families affected by parents' poverty, desertion, death, illness, character defects, or incarceration were typically committed to County Temporary Homes. This was done through a court order, often initiated by the State Board of Charities, Humane Society, or a town official. Such children were then under the guardianship of a County Board of Management. As a result, records were generated by town, county, and state governments, and newspapers.

### Children's Records

Although not all records of children created by the Homes were preserved, those that do exist can be invaluable. These may include basic facts about children – name, age or birth date, parents, and out-placements. Sometimes, they are supplemented with priceless news clippings, photos, medical issues, relatives, and perhaps

even anecdotes of runaways, generous communities, discipline and schedule, military records, marriage, or concerns about the effects of institutionalization. Some children arrived individually whereas others came with siblings. The stories are as unique as each individual child.

There is no simple search formula. Good places to start exploring are the Connecticut State Library, an historical society or library in the child's hometown, county home locations, or county seats. Be aware that, for various reasons, children sometimes were assigned their mother's or a "foster" family's surname.

### Connecticut State Library and Archives

The largest collection of Home records is at the State Library in Hartford. Each of these handwritten ledgers is unique and may contain information unavailable elsewhere. Example stories include:

A 1922 letter from Florence Crittenton League, New York City explains the birth name of Margaret D\_\_\_\_\_ was changed at New London County Temporary Home to Mabel M\_\_\_\_\_. She was placed with a series of families until joining Barnum & Bailey's Circus as a horseback rider. Shortly after marrying John G\_\_\_\_\_ in Worcester, Massachusetts she arrived at the Crittenton Home at age 19.

In 1919 Mildred D\_\_\_\_\_ was given in adoption by the New London County Board of Management to Mr. & Mrs. T\_\_\_\_\_ of Joliet, Illinois; and subsequently inherited \$100,000!

### Local Repositories

Local libraries and historical societies can be a source of unexpected finds. For example, Beardsley & Memorial Library in Winsted has very good county home resources which are supplemented by the nearby Winchester Historical Society's wonderful collection of memorabilia, including photos of children and life in The Gilbert Home. This Home was a private institution that also served as the Litchfield County Temporary Home. *The Real Diaries of Real Boys* contains camp stories written by Gilbert Home residents.



Examples from Tolland County Home archived at Vernon Historical Society include photographs, records, and interviews.

A personal interview with Marcia B\_\_\_\_\_ describes some of her first experiences as a resident in a County Home, beginning with her first ride in an automobile (to the County Home), indoor heating and plumbing, and witnessing the Hindenburg fly over the Home.

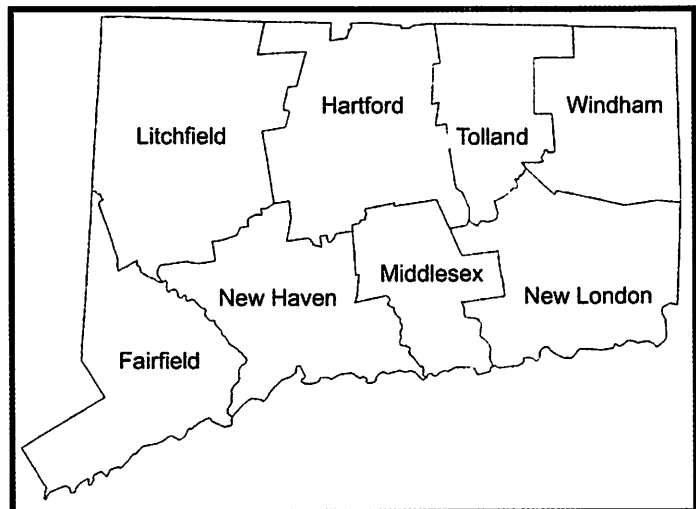
The following is an excerpt of a joyous picnic outing in July 1906 recorded in the Tolland County “Visitors’ Minutes” by Mrs. Tillinghast. “It was an all day affair and everyone went ... Imagine the jolly crowd all climbing into the ample wagons, then the long merry ride which of itself is a joy to any child. And when they reached their destination, then how they scrambled up those cherry trees, which soon seemed to bear two kinds of fruit, boys and cherries.”

### Cemeteries

It was a gravestone in the county home section of Springdale Cemetery in Warehouse Point, that led to the story of a boy who left the Hartford County Home with his father, was abandoned in Albany, New York, and returned on his own to the County Home where he died of illness, not abuse at the Home as the family speculated.

### County and Local Government

Although Connecticut and Rhode Island are the only two states without some version of county government today, this was not always true. Connecticut county government endured from 1666 until it was abolished in 1960. County Temporary Homes were the county’s largest program when they closed in 1955. Even though many county government records are lost, surviving records can be revealing. For example, invoices submitted to the county for reimbursement sometimes show expenses for specific children.



As county homes were closing, the State required superintendents to turn over children’s bankbooks.

Litchfield County Home Superintendent Van Why, like others, fought to protect the children’s money, knowing all the children’s savings over \$300 would be confiscated. A court summons and correspondence describe his battle; the threat of imprisonment ultimately forced him to surrender seven children’s bank books to the State.

Court records, especially probate, contain commitment documents explaining why parents lost and sometimes regained custody of their children. Until about 1924, commitments were often posted in the “court notes” section of newspapers along with other County Home news.

In 1889 The Connecticut Humane Society petitioned Eastford Probate Court on behalf of Amasa L\_\_\_\_\_, age 8, saying his parents were “drunkards and paupers,” rendering the child “deserted, neglected, cruelly treated, and dependent.” Two days later, without his parents present, he was committed to the “custody, care, and control of the County Board of Management of The Temporary Home for Neglected and Dependent Children” in Putnam, Windham County until the age of 16.

In 1898 Emma H\_\_\_\_\_ fought the Windham Selectmen’s attempt to commit her 11 and 14-year old children to the County Home and won their release.

## U.S. Census

The U.S. census provides names of County Home children and staff in residence at ten year intervals, 1900-1940. This unusual example from the 1920 U.S. census at The Gilbert Home, which also served as Litchfield County Temporary Home, makes an unusual distinction between “boarders” placed voluntarily and “inmates” placed via a legal process. (See Illustration 2-1920 Census Inmates + Boarders).

Children who were placed-out might be found with a family.

## Newspapers

Whereas governmental records provide mostly facts, newspapers contain stories, sometimes filling in gaps for which there are no records. Check area historical societies and libraries, good resources for local papers that are sometimes difficult to find. Page-by-page research, especially of Town News (“gossip column”) may reveal stories of county home graduations with children’s names and local events, like this photo of the Superintendent Hicks and Tolland County Home children in 1924. See Illustration 3.

## Other stories include:

At a 1989 reunion, Evelyn S\_\_\_\_, Robert C\_\_\_\_, and others described their experiences growing up at Gilbert Home/Litchfield County Temporary Home in an article that ran in a local newspaper.

In 1929 Raymond C\_\_\_\_, Grade 8, was awarded first prize at the speaking contest held Friday at the Vernon Center County Home and represented the Home School at the county contest.

Newspaper reports about the State Board of Charities sometimes contain lists of children placed in county homes across the state by Children’s Aid Society and similar agencies.

## Online Search

For more successful online searches, query for more than just an ancestor’s name. Search terms like County Home, the names of superintendents and staff, courts, or county agents may lead not only to stories about individuals, but also operation of the homes themselves.

On August 2, 1924 the circus was in town! Children far and wide looked forward to attending, and the Home children were invited guests. Unfortunately, measles had infected the Home that August and the children were quarantined. However, through the generosity of the circus employees and the ingenuity and kindness of the American Legion, the children

saw the circus, right in their own backyard! It required special arrangements to round up cars to transport the performers. Then the clowns, ventriloquist, acrobats and more put on a special performance for the children.

OTHER DIVISION OF COUNTY Litchfield County  
(Insert proper name and, also, name of class, as township, town, precinct, district, hundred)

NAME OF INSTITUTION The William L. Gilbert Home  
(Insert name of institution, if any, and indicate by lines on which the entries are made. See instructions.)

NAME of each person whose place of abode on January 1, 1920, was in this family. <small>Enter surname first, then the given name and middle initial, if any. Includes every person living on January 1, 1920. Omit children born since January 1, 1920.</small>	RELATION. <small>Relationship of this person to the head of the family.</small>	TIME		PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			Color or race.	Age at last birthday.	Single, married, widowed, or divorced.	Year of immigration or birth in this country.
		Days served or period.	If arrested, type or description.	Sex.	Height.	Weight.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Moncelli, Daniel	Inmates			M	W	15	D			
Moncelli, Julia	X			F	W	11	D			
Moncelli, Rena	X			F	W	12	D			
Morley, Vincent	X			M	W	12	D			
Murphy, Doratha	X			F	W	7	D			
Murphy, Frederick	X			M	W	8	D			
Orsabella, Barnum	X			M	W	15	D			
Powers, Arthur	X			M	B	15	D			
Rice, Julia	X			F	B	8	D			
Rice, Mary	X			F	B	6	D			
Root, Charles	X			M	W	11	D			
Smith, Burton L	X			M	W	6	D			
Stone, Lawrence	X			M	W	9	D			
Stone, Raymond	X			M	W	11	D			
Stone, Theodore	X			M	W	13	D			
Stone, Winthrop	X			M	W	5	D			
Teasdale, Isabel	X			F	B	12	D			
Turrell, Evelyn	X			F	W	6	D			
Upton, Edward	X			M	W	13	D			
Upton, Mary	X			F	W	15	D			
Walt, John	X			M	W	10	D			
Warner, Augusta	X			F	W	15	D			
Wilson, Marshall F	X			M	W	9	D			
Wilson, Pamela H	Inmates			M	W	11	D			
Allaire, David G	Boarder			M	W	7	D			
Allaire, Marion M	Boarder			F	W	4	D			
Bojain, Charles	Boarder			M	W	13	D			
Bojain, Edward	Boarder			M	W	9	D			
Bojain, Eugene	Boarder			M	W	14	D			
Bojain, William	Boarder			F	W	11	D			

These are all Charity Cases

Illustration 2-1920 Census  
Inmates + Boarders

The Legion added the finishing touch: every child had popcorn, candy, and peanuts! It was a day never to be forgotten by any one of those children or adults in attendance.

Frederick B \_\_\_\_\_, age 53, was killed in a highway accident. The newspaper account of the tragedy mentions he once lived at Gilbert Home/Litchfield County Home.

### Institutions and Geography

Children were not just placed in the local County Home. Sometimes they were placed in other counties or transferred to more appropriate institutions, in and out of State.

Robert O \_\_\_\_\_, born in Newark, New Jersey was sent to Saint Francis Orphan Asylum after his mother died; transferred to Hartford County Home in 1898; transferred again to Gilbert Home/Litchfield County Home in Winsted; and then back to Hartford. Paralyzed and barely able to move, he was released as ineligible for the County Home program and placed again at St. Francis.

In 1926 Antilo M \_\_\_\_\_, born in Niagara Falls, New York, was admitted to Hartford County Home after his father, a former strong man on the stage, was injured and could no longer find work. In 1927 Antilo's brother Carlo lost the ends of three fingers in a bread slicer at the Home. The next year the two boys and their sister, Malfada (Violet), were discharged to the Department of State for deportation to Italy with their father at 1:00 p.m. the next day.

### Research Guides and Indexes

Connecticut County Temporary Home history is not readily available, and the records, often scattered, handwritten, and unindexed, can be intimidating. In an effort

to facilitate this research, the Klemmers are developing research guides which, to date, cover Windham, Tolland, Hartford, and Litchfield County Temporary Homes. These guides provide an index to children's names gathered from County Home records at the Connecticut State Library and Archives and local repositories; records found in newspapers and other documents (but certainly not all); historical information on the

Home; research tips; and reference material. The Klemmer's books can be found at the State Library History & Genealogy reference section and select local historical societies and libraries.

There is no single resource that will answer every question and no guarantee you will find details for the person you seek. The County Temporary Home system evolved over its 72 years, so research methods must be flexible. Even when a specific child cannot be found, insight into the institution should be available. Hopefully,

your quest for stories and understanding of children who deserve to be remembered will be engaging and they can be returned to their rightful place on the family tree.

### For Further Research

Following are a few items to help research Connecticut County Temporary Homes and the children they served.

#### Connecticut State Library, Hartford

Connecticut Newspaper Project, *Newspapers in Connecticut Institutions: Updated Through June 1997*, Connecticut State Library, call number: QUARTO 016.07 C752n, 1997, is an incredible key to newspapers you will not see online and in repositories you might never suspect.



Illustration 3-Superintendent Hicks and children,  
*Rockville Journal*



Connecticut State Board of Charities annual reports list and describe other institutions for children including religious, reform, and medical; issued biennially 1883-1955.

Connecticut State Library Archive Finding Aids such as RG 061: County Government.

### Online Resources

Archive.org, also known as the Internet Archive, is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more.

FultonHistory.com has a wide variety of newspapers, free and in the public domain. It is surprising how many County Home stories got legs and traveled far and wide.

HathiTrust.org is an enormous digital library.

### Research Guides

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—. *Tolland County Temporary Home: History, Residents, and Resources, July 2017*, at Connecticut State Library, Vernon Historical Society, and Vernon Town Clerk's Office.

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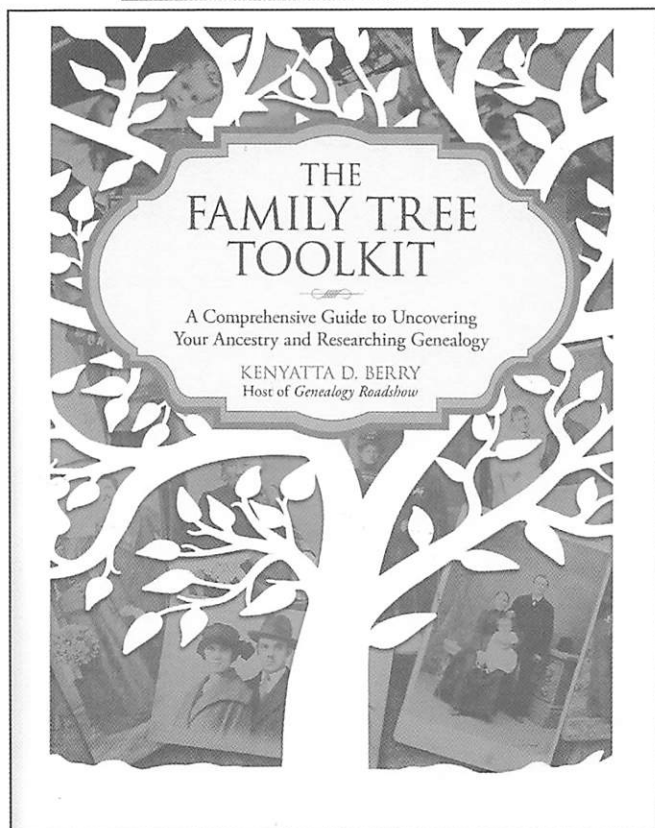
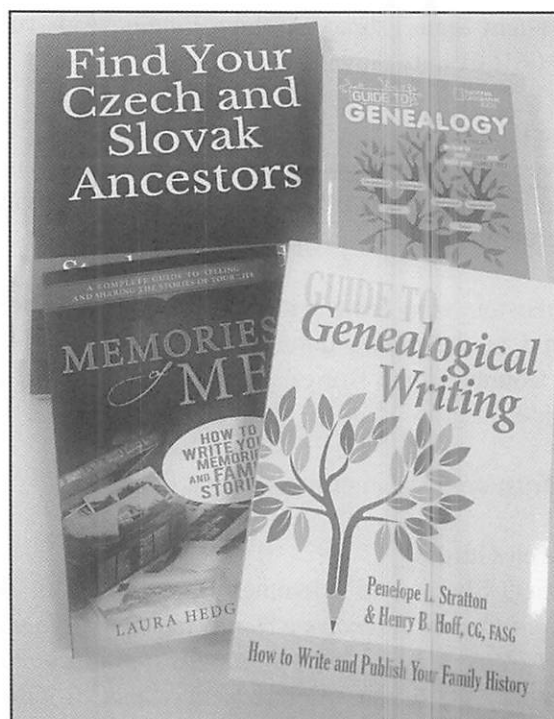
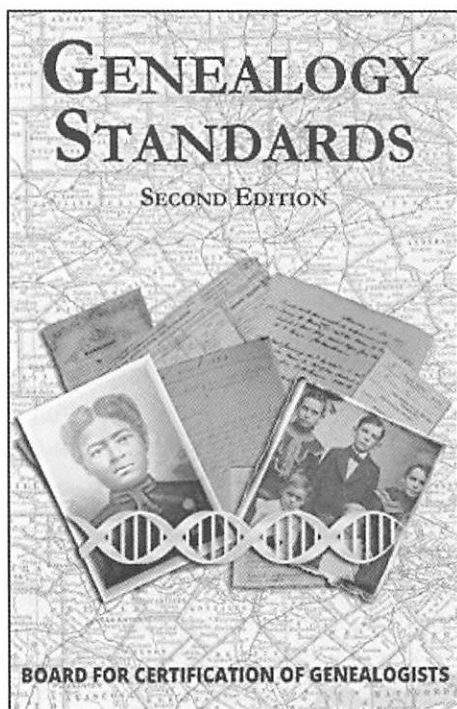
### Illustration Captions

1. CT County Map, State of Connecticut, Department of Economic Development, [www.ct.gov/ecd](http://www.ct.gov/ecd).
2. U.S. census, 1920, Winchester, Connecticut; ED 232, sheet 17B, NARA, CT State Library.
3. Superintendent Hicks and children, *Rockville Journal*, 24 Aug 1924, courtesy Vernon Historical Society.

**About the Authors:** Cheryl Klemmer and Christopher Klemmer, genealogists for 20 years and volunteer historians, have written four books on the Connecticut County Temporary Home system. They can be reached at [CTCountyHomes@icloud.com](mailto:CTCountyHomes@icloud.com).

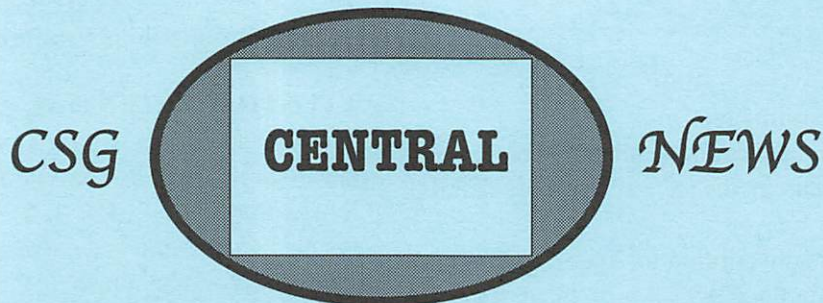
~ NEW ACQUISITIONS TO THE CSG LIBRARY ~  
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**See Book Review for *The Family Tree Tool Kit* on page 25.  
 Watch for reviews of the other books in an upcoming issue.**





**SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING  
CSG PROGRAMS**

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**NEED RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?**

Experienced family history researchers will continue to be available at the CSG library from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except for holidays and snowstorms) to help you with your research. Questions about brick walls, where to find sources on-line and information about how to get started on your family history will be some of the topics the researchers will cover with you. If you are curious about a lineage society such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Society of Mayflower Descendants, our researchers have some experience with researching for these societies.

Judith Bowen and Olivia Patch, members of the CSG Board of Governors, will be the researchers, but they welcome other volunteers from CSG's membership to help with this program. Other commitments as well as possible illnesses may interfere with the schedule unless we have a few more volunteers. Think about contacting Judith Bowen at [easternr13@yahoo.com](mailto:easternr13@yahoo.com) or Olivia Patch at [olivia42539@aol.com](mailto:olivia42539@aol.com) to volunteer!

**Dates for these help sessions are:**

**June 27**  
**July 11 and 25**  
**August 8 and 22**

**21 September 2019 -  
DNA with Nora Galvin**

Watch the CSG website for more details.

**19 October 2019 - Annual Family History Seminar**

**Place:** Four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Pkwy  
Meriden, CT 06450

**Time:** Registration/Check-in - 8:00 a.m.

**Cost:** \$49 if received by 30 September 2019  
\$59 if received thereafter.

See Seminar flyer on inside back cover for more details and the registration form.

**Speakers:**

**Pauline C. Merrick**, a member of CSG's Board of Governors, has a lifelong interest in genealogy. She is the author of *Elisha Hamlin of New Milford, Connecticut* (Lulu Press, 2015) and several magazine articles. Interested in genetic genealogy since 2012, she manages the Hamlin Family DNA project. She founded MassDig, a DNA interest group, 2016. She will present:

**"Sources Around the House"**

This lecture examines family letters, funeral books, wedding invitations, photos and other sources you may have at home and how to use them to help bring the stories of your ancestors to life.

**D. Joshua Taylor, MA, MLS** is the President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, a professional genealogist, and host on the Genealogy Roadshow on PBS. He will present two sessions:

**"Mapping Your Sources, Employing Maps for  
Geneological Research"**

Learn how to go beyond the basic "political map" for genealogical research. Explore maps tracing boundary changes, religious groups, political districts, migration routes, and more.

**"Evaluating and Documenting Online Sources"**

Just because a website or database looks nice, does not mean its content can be trusted. Learn how to evaluate the information you find online, and also how to properly cite those sources in your own records.

**Maureen Taylor, the "Photo Detective,"** is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation and family history research. She will present:

**"Eight Steps to Preservng Family Photographs"** -- photo preservation basics from storage to labeling and everything in between. Each step includes low-cost solutions that won't bust your budget.



## CSG News

### From the Library Committee

The CSG Library has just acquired some new books and materials for your research. See page 12 for more details.

CSG has renewed its subscription to Ancestry.com and Fold3 for access within the CSG Library, located at 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, Connecticut. Patrons to the library may use those databases as well as all the resources at no charge. There is no need to be a CSG member to use the library. The library has a collection of over 5,000 titles. All the books are donated and are a mix of genealogies, family histories and genealogical Resource publications. Some of our collection is listed on our website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org). The library also owns information stored on microfilm/microfiche. While most of that can be found online now, if you don't have access to the internet, feel free to come in to use ours.

### Literary Awards

CSG is now accepting entries for the 2019 Literary Awards and "Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contests. Official Rules/Entry Forms were printed in the Spring 2019, Volume 12, No. 1 issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News* but may also be found under the Literary Awards tab at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org). All entries must be received no later than July 15, 2019. See pages 15 & 16 for the entry form.

### From the CSG Office

Just a reminder that the CSG website no longer requires a personal username/login. Instead, the site is open except for the Members tab. Only one password is needed. This is provided to all CSG members when renewing their membership. The password, good from May 1st to April 30th, changes each year. If you were not able to renew prior to May 1st, but would still like to renew online, call the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) and the password will be provided to you. Those wishing to reinstate or join as new members will need to call the CSG Office for more information.

It has come to our attention that some members are having trouble getting to the CSG website. One thing we discovered was that some computer security systems do not allow websites to redirect to another one. The CSG web address is [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org); however this does redirect to <https://ctfamilyhistory.com>. One of these should work for you.

### From the Publications Committee

#### ATTENTION POTENTIAL AUTHORS

Effective in 2019, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. is providing an honorarium for published articles - \$50 per *Nutmegger* article and \$25 per *Connecticut Genealogy News* article. The honorarium is not available to CSG staff and the current/sitting CSG Board of Governors or their immediate families. Membership in CSG or Connecticut residency is not required. For guidelines for writing for either publication, go to the CSG website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under "Links." See also "Creating Footnotes" on page 26 of the winter issue (Vol. 11 #4). Articles submitted for either publication will be reviewed by the CSG Publications Committee. After the article is reviewed, you will be advised of any suggested modifications. The honorarium will be paid only after final revisions have been made and the article has been approved for publication by the CSG Publications Committee.



#### Social Media

CSG is now on Twitter! Follow us at [@CTSocGenealogy](https://twitter.com/CTSocGenealogy). You'll get the latest updates on our events, what's new in our library, and what lectures and workshops our members are offering around the state. We will also be keeping you informed on what is trending on Twitter in the world of genealogy.

#### NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) has many programs that might be of interest to intermediate and advanced level genealogists:

Virtual Fall 2019 Courses - In-depth education in the comfort of your home.

SLIG 2020 - January 12-17 In-depth high-intermediate to advanced education.

SLIG Academy for Professionals - January 20-24 professional development courses.

Go to: <https://slig.ugagenealogy.org> for more information.



## Entry Form For

**LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019  
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST**

*Sponsored by*

**CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033

Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

Please Print or Type

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title of Publication

Category (Circle one):    GENEALOGY            FAMILY HISTORY            RESOURCE PUBLICATION  
(Note: CSG reserves the right to reclassify Category)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Author's/Authors' Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Year of Publication

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address(es) (including PO Box(es) if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Submitted

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchase Price

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Telephone Number(s)

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E-mail Address(es)

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CSG Member Number(s) (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Person(s) Submitting This Entry [if different from Author(s)]

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Contact Person

Please indicate disposition of second copy after contest (circle one):    Donate to Connecticut State Library

Donate To \_\_\_\_\_

or

Return to author

**PHOTOCOPIES OF THIS ENTRY FORM ARE WELCOMED. SEE [WWW.CSGINC.ORG](http://WWW.CSGINC.ORG) FOR ENTRY RULES.**



**Entry Form for**  
**LITERARY AWARDS CONTEST OCTOBER 2019**  
**EIGHTH ANNUAL**  
**“TELL ME YOUR FAMILY STORY” ESSAY**  
**CONTEST**

**THE CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF**  
**GENEALOGISTS, INC.**

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
Library/Office Address: 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118  
Telephone Number: 860-569-0002 / Email Address: [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

**Please Print or Type** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Essay:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Written by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you a CSG Member?** \_\_\_\_\_ **If yes, CSG Member Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Home:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where/How did you learn of this Contest?** \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright and Ownership conditions: Selected essays may be published in The Connecticut Nutmegger or Connecticut Genealogy News. Authors agree by their submission to grant CSG perpetual non-exclusive right to edit and publish. This includes the right to publish on the Internet, store on electronic media and to republish and/or extract for future CSG use. Authors retain the copyrights to their specific works and can republish or reuse their material without limitation.

**Author Acceptance: I have read and accept the copyright and ownership conditions.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**We encourage you to photocopy this Entry Form and pass it on.**

**SEE WWW.CSGINC.ORG FOR ENTRY RULES**





# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities



## Spotlight on Madison

by Russell A. DeGrafft,  
CSG #19174

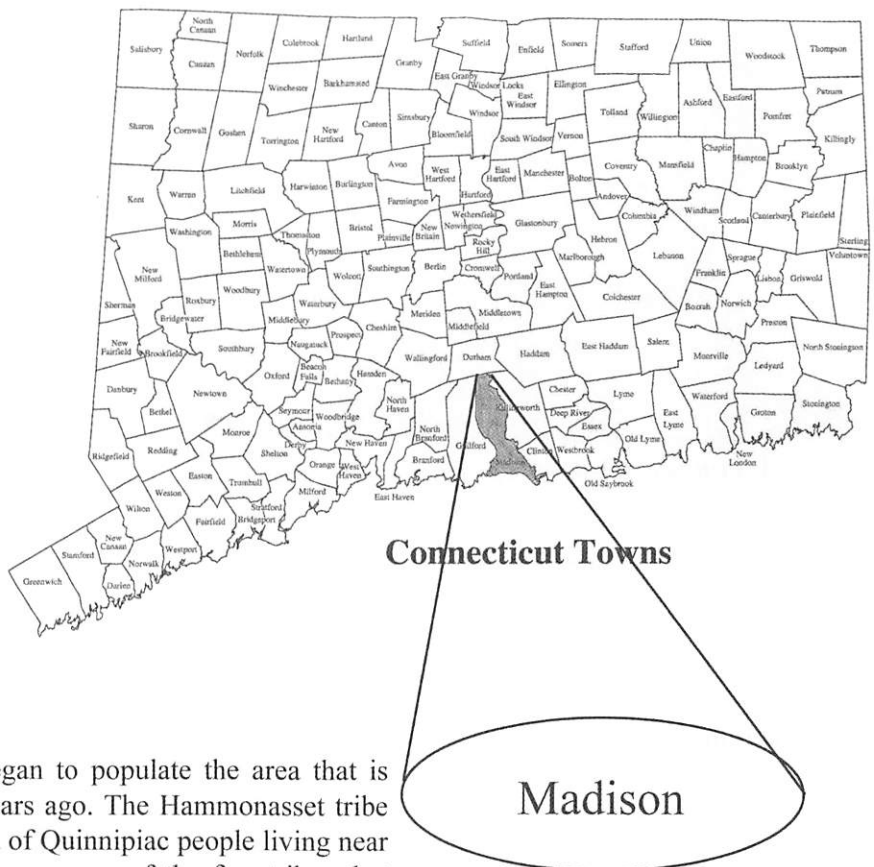
### History

Like all New England communities, the history of Madison, Connecticut, began long before its incorporation as a separate town. As may be remembered from history classes, Connecticut, Long Island and Long Island Sound were formed by advancing, melting and receding ice floes. After the glaciers finally receded, due to its topography and abundant waterways, the land that became Connecticut proved more than adequately fit for human habitation.

The earliest humans arrived and began to populate the area that is now Madison as much as 12,000 years ago. The Hammonasset tribe of Eastern Woodland Indians, a band of Quinnipiac people living near what is now Guilford and Madison, was one of the five tribes that inhabited the shoreline area of Connecticut. Their leader was named Sebequash, or “The Man Who Weeps.”

In 1641 Uncas, a powerful Mohegan Sachem, married into the tribe, and the area around Hammonasset was given to the Mohegans as part of the marriage dowry. He soon sold the land to Colonel George Fenwick, who later traded the land to Henry Whitfield of Guilford for use as farmland. Today’s Fenwick, Connecticut, named for the Colonel, is an extremely old and prestigious beach colony in neighboring Old Saybrook. Former actress Katherine Hepburn and family lived there for many years. Many of the Native Americans in the Guilford area relocated to the Niantic River area and were absorbed into the Mohegan Tribe. In 1730, the band’s remaining population was 250-300 people. In 1768 the tribe’s presence in the area was further reduced when many moved to Farmington to live among the Tunxi people. By 1774, Hammonassets in the Guilford area were reduced to only 38 people.

Originally the East Guilford Society in the town of Guilford, Madison was incorporated as a separate town in 1826. A prominent citizen at that time, Frederick Lee, suggested the town should be named after the fourth president of the United States, James Madison. Madison became mainly a residential town in the late 19th century, and it remains primarily a residential suburb with close ties to the nautical and maritime history of the Sound.



John Gunther

This beautiful area cannot be explored during a one-day visit. If you are deciding to sample the many genealogical resources of Madison, plan on returning several times to enjoy its rich heritage and casual or formal dining.

Former President of our United States, William Jefferson Clinton, singled it out in his memoir, *My Life*, as an "especially old and beautiful" favorite during his time at Yale.

### A Few Notable People of Madison

Many diversified people grace the "Famous People" list of

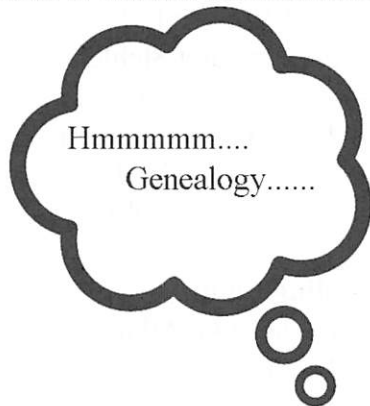
#### CSG OFFERS MANY PROGRAMS ON A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT GENEALOGICAL TOPICS.

#### WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE?

#### DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR SPEAKER OR TOPIC THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PRESENT?

#### WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS

Contact the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) with your ideas.



#### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN AUTHOR?

We are always open to new authors of articles on news and information of interest to the genealogical community.

Request a copy of Guidelines for *Connecticut Genealogy News* or *Connecticut Nutmegger* authors from:

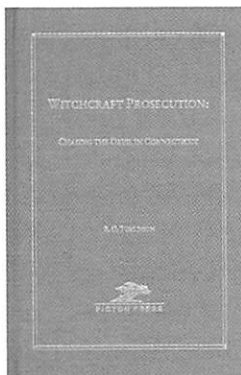
Editor, Connecticut Genealogy News  
P.O. Box 435  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Or by e-mail

[csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

We are also pleased to receive:

- \* your suggestions for possible authors and topics.
- \* letters to the editor
- \* news items
- \* queries - CSG members may submit up to three queries per issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*.



#### Witchcraft Prosecution: Chasing the Devil in Connecticut

by Richard G. Tomlinson

This definitive history of witchcraft prosecution in Connecticut in the 17th and 18th century covers every known case of formal accusation or suspicion of witchcraft. This includes over forty cases. An "every name" index includes nearly 1,000 entries. There are thirteen illustrations and 406 footnotes. The appendices contain a table of the accused, annotated descriptions of the original court documents in the Wylls Papers collection and historical profiles of key persons. Hardcover, 6 x 9, 224 pp., illustrated, Picton Press.

\$33 plus \$5 S&H (CT residents please add 6.35% sales tax). Please make check payable and mail to: CSG, Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

#### CONNECTICUT GENEALOGY NEWS

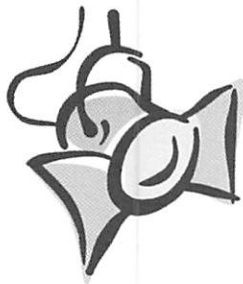
*Quarterly News Magazine of  
The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.  
P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033  
860-569-0002 [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org)*

Each issue is jam-packed with informative articles, ranging from ethnic diversity in Connecticut to Connecticut's Towns & Cities by authors known to be experts in the field.

Past issues have featured Italian, Irish, German, Polish, Native/African American & French Canadian in Connecticut, Genealogical Pioneers, Civil War Connecticut Medal of Honor recipients, World War I Soldiers and more.

Individual issues - \$3 each + \$2 P&H  
CD of Volume 1 or 2 - \$10 each + \$3 P&H  
*Exclusively Available From CSG/  
While Supplies Last*





# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities



## Spotlight on Madison

by Russell A. DeGraff,  
CSG #19174

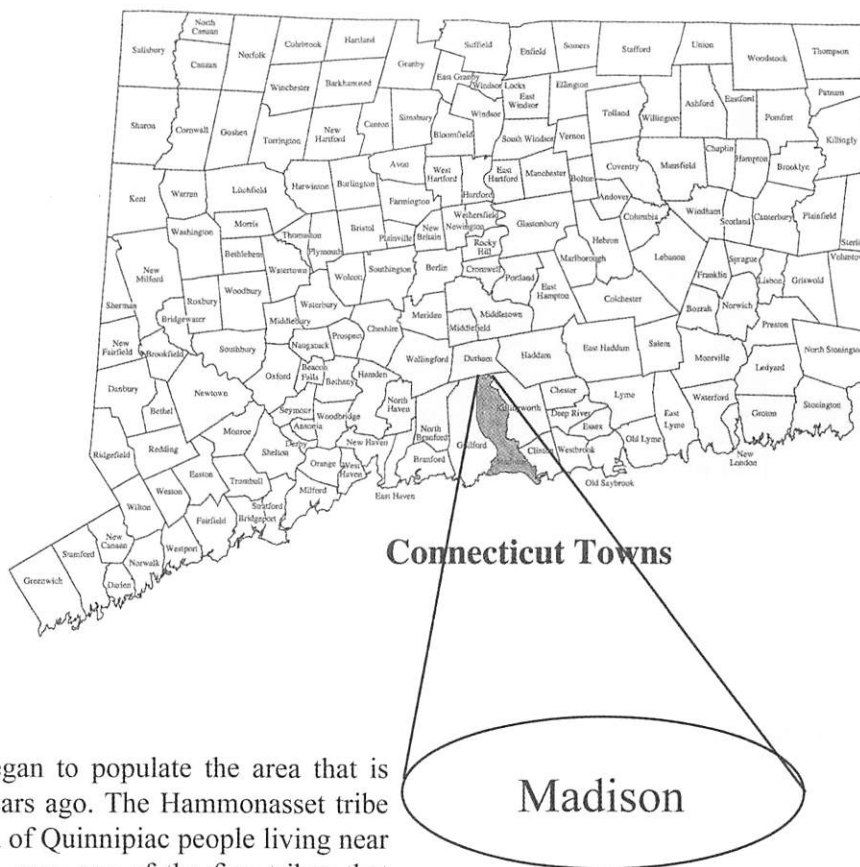
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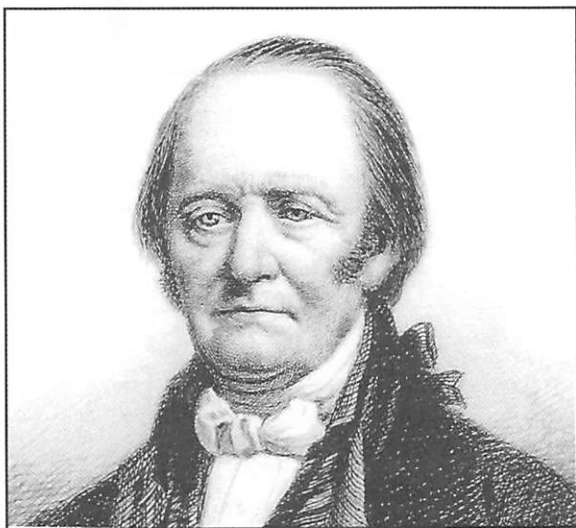
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Former President of our United States, William Jefferson Clinton, singled it out in his memoir, *My Life*, as an “especially old and beautiful” favorite during his time at Yale.

### A Few Notable People of Madison



**Thomas Chittenden**

Many diversified people grace the “Famous People” list of Madison, Connecticut.

**Thomas Chittenden** was born in the East Guilford section of Guilford (now Madison) on January 6, 1730. On October 4, 1749 he married Elizabeth Meigs in Salisbury, Connecticut; they had ten children, four sons and six daughters. While living in Salisbury, Chittenden served as a justice of the peace, a member of the Connecticut’s General Assembly, and, from 1767 to 1773, as an officer (ultimately colonel) in Connecticut’s 14th Regiment. The family moved to what is now Vermont in 1774. He was a major political figure and governor in the early history of Vermont and eventually became its first governor after the territory was admitted to the union as the 14th state. Beginning in 1778, he was a leader of that territory for nearly two decades.

**Mac Bohannon** is an American freestyle skier originally from Madison and at the age of 13 was the youngest athlete to be selected for the United States Ski Team Development Program. Bohannon competed at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia and placed fifth at Sochi’s Winter Olympics Men’s Freestyle Aerial Qualifying Finals.



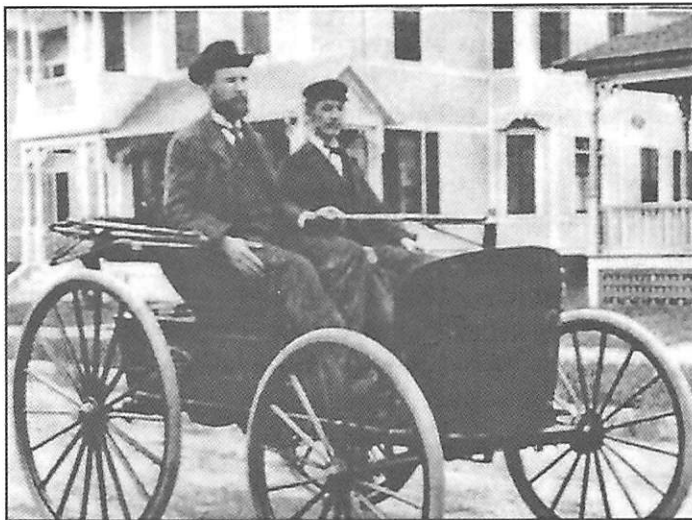
**Mac Bohannon**

**Cornelius Scranton Bushnell** was an American railroad executive and ship builder who was a key figure in the development of ironclad ships during the Civil War. Born in 1829, his involvement with the building of the Union’s iron clad *U.S.S. Monitor* which fought victoriously the newly refurbished *Merrimac* of the Confederacy at the Battle of Hampton Roads. This saved the Union’s fleet of wooden ships.

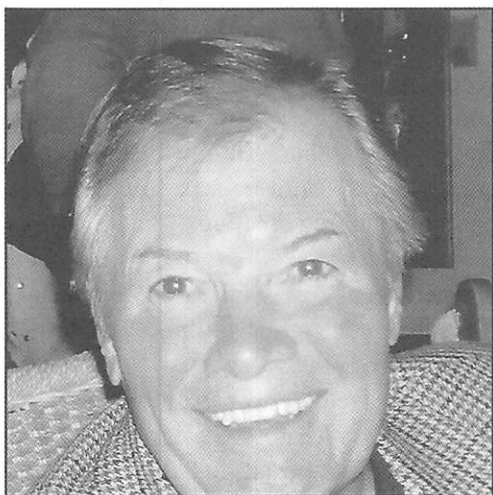
**Edwin D. Kilbourne** was an internationally-respected American research scientist who made significant contributions to the study and prevention of influenza and other viral diseases. He developed the first genetically manufactured vaccine of any kind more than 30 years ago. He and his family resided in Madison for many years until his death on February 21, 2011 at the age of 90.



**J. Frank Duryea**, along with his brother Charles, invented the first gasoline-powered automobile in America. In January 1894 Frank made what he believed was his first successful road test after many design changes to brother Charles' original design. He was the winner of the first car race on American soil. Frank's death in Saybrook on February 15, 1967, at the age of 97, ended an era of the last remaining survivors of the automobile's founding fathers.



**J. Frank Duryea with his brother Charles in the first gasoline powered automobile in America.**



**Jacques Pepin**

**Jacques Pepin** is an internationally-recognized French born American chef, television personality and author. Since the late 1980s, he has often appeared in French and American media and has written a vast collection of cookbooks that have become best sellers. His introduction to Julia Child sparked a long friendship and collaboration. While in college at Columbia University, he worked alongside fellow Frenchman Pierre Franey to develop food lines for the now defunct Howard Johnson's chain of restaurants.

**John Gunther** was an American journalist and author, who wrote eight novels and three biographies. He is best remembered today as the author of his best-selling memoir *Death Be Not Proud*, a story based on the death of his son. In 1975, the book was made into an Emmy nominated television movie.



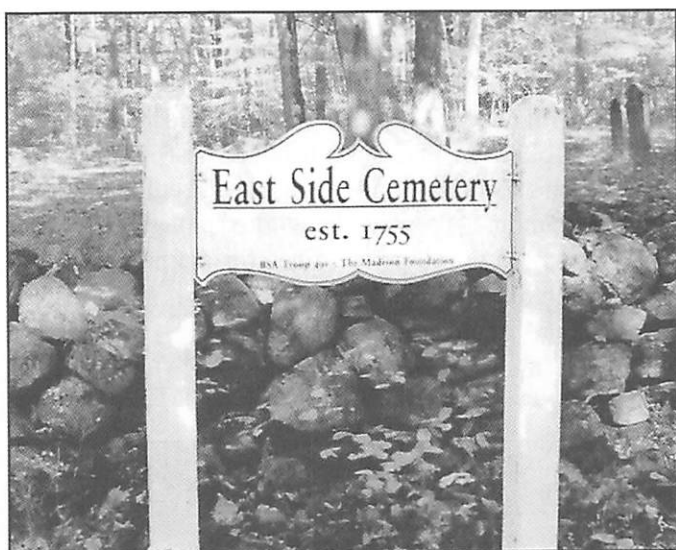
**John Gunther**

## Places and Events of Interest

**Hammonasset State Park and Beach** is Connecticut's largest shoreline state park and is in Madison. The Native Americans who lived near the beach front in what is now Madison prior to the arrival of European settlers called the area Hammonasset, which roughly translates to "where we dig the ground". Here they grew their crops while taking advantage of the abundant fish and wildlife resources. An interesting and not well-known part of Madison's history is that in 1898, the Winchester Repeating Arms Company bought the land that is now Hammonasset State Park and used it as a testing site for their new rifle. Their Lee Straight Pull rifle was mounted on a horse-drawn stone boat and then fired into targets on the beach. Today the facility has been developed into a beautiful area for swimming, sunbathing, hiking or strolling along the park's meandering boardwalk. This is one of the best beach front areas in the state.

### Restaurants

Even though there are 40 "Best Restaurants" in Madison, plan on sampling a lobster or clam roll and eating it in the rough while you are in town. Madison brags that it has the best cold or hot lobster or clam roll in the entire state. Now that is an exciting challenge for any researcher! And you know you must stop researching for just a short time to eat. Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale, The Clam Castle or The Wharf Restaurant are all popular places in Madison. I have experienced eating at all three of these establishments, but suggest you telephone for their current hours of operation.



### Cemeteries

Cemetery research is an important and fun pastime for any genealogical searcher. I always recommend caution to the lone searcher. Be aware of your surroundings at all times!! And be sure to check for ticks and other small clinging creatures.

Madison has a rich legacy of well cared for burial sites. There are seven cemeteries in the town, some dating back to the early 1600s. I suggest you use the website, [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) to narrow down your researching for family ancestors. "Show me your cemeteries and I will tell you what kind of people you have," .....Benjamin Franklin.

**East Side Cemetery**, also known as Indian Cemetery or Old Summer Cemetery, experienced its first burial in 1743, but was not formally established until 12 years later. There are 52 memorials on the [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) website. Their information also states that the cemetery is 75% photographed.

**First Congregational Church Memorial Garden** is reserved for church members and their families. Contact the First Congregational Church at 26 Meeting House Lane, 203-245-2739.

**Hammonasset Cemetery** is located on River Road; it has 559 Memorials and is 77% photographed.

**Rockland Cemetery** is located on County Road. According to [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) there are 274 Memorials, and it is 54% photographed.

**Saint Andrews Church Memorial Gardens** has five memorials.

**Summer Hill Cemetery** was established in 1828 and is located off Route 80 (off Toll Road).

**West Cemetery** is located on the Boston Post Road and the corner of Janna's Lane. It was established in 1691. There are two famous memorials in this cemetery, those for Ranulf Compton and Antonio Dardell. Contact: Richard Hahn, Sexton, 27 Fort Path Road, 203-245-2288. He is responsible for the upkeep of several cemeteries.

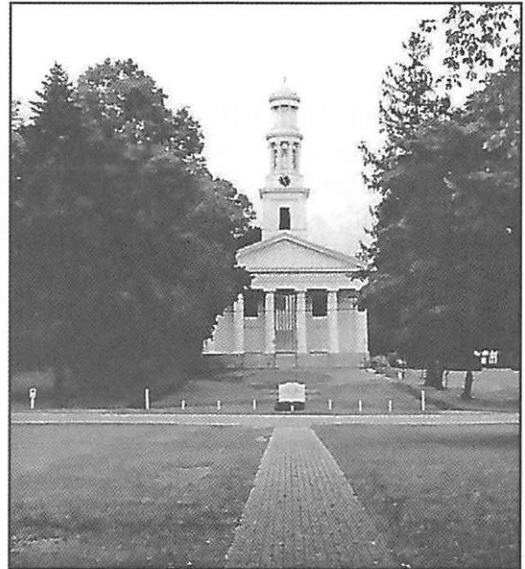
**The Small Pox Burial Ground** is a "guided tour only" due to the tract's location and fragility. Special group tours are offered only by private arrangement with the Madison Historical Society, with a \$5.00 charge, and are confined to certain months, soil and weather conditions permitting. Call 203- 245-4567 for more information. A map will be given to the driver of each vehicle at the commuter lot on Goose Lane. The site is not accessible to wheelchairs or strollers. Please keep in mind, proper footwear for New England terrain is highly recommended. A walking stick may be helpful to some hikers. Insect repellent is recommended.

### Old Structures Worthy of a Visit

Before you begin your journey, stop into Madison's Chamber of Commerce or the Madison Historical Society to orient yourself. You don't want to miss any "historical gems" and these organizations can point you in the right direction.

**The First Congregation Church of Madison** traces its roots to 1703, when the citizens of eastern Guilford living east of the East and Neck Rivers and west of the Hammonasset River successfully petitioned to form a separate eccleasical society. The first meetinghouse was built in 1705 on the southeastern portion of the present-day green. It is interesting to note that back then a drummer summoned worshipers to the weekly services. The second meetinghouse, dedicated in 1743, was built near the site of the first meetinghouse. By 1801, it featured both a steeple and a bell.

The third (current) meeting house was built in 1838. Its granite foundation and steps were quarried in Madison. Consistent with the much-admired Federal architectural style of the day, the church incorporates all three of the Greek column styles. Doric columns hold up the pediment above the steps, Ionic pillars support the steeple and Corinthian columns support the dome. In 1887 the interior was reconstructed and an organ installed (the organ cost \$2,600). During the Civil War, the church was a site of Abolitionists and firebrand speakers. In 1927, a new copper roof was installed replacing the former tin one. This church is a magnificent structure that reflects the architecture that so many New England Congregational Churches have become known for. Don't miss a peek inside the worship hall to stare in awe at the simplicity and grandeur of its interior. Be sure to call ahead to ensure you are aware of their business hours. The main office

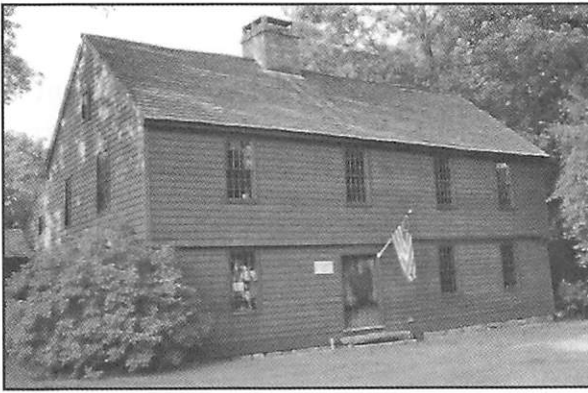


telephone number is: 203-245-2739 ext. 20. Reverend Todd Vetter and the Reverend Sarah Vetter are the current pastors in charge of the facility.



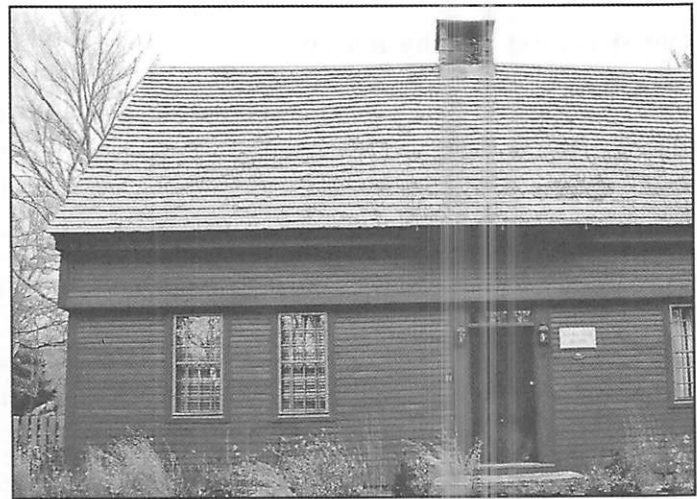
**Lee's Academy** got its name from Captain Frederick Lee. The building, which has been moved several times, first stood opposite Captain Lee's house. Lee's name lives on in the 200-year-old building which, in its early years, served students who not only came from Madison, but from places like North Carolina and the Caribbean.





**The Deacon John Graves House** is located at 581 Boston Post Road in Madison. It is a saltbox house that was built by Deacon John Graves in 1681. The Graves family lived in the house for 300 years. It has since been converted into a museum.

**The Jonathan Murray House** is in a rural-residential setting northeast of Madison center on the south side of Scotland Road. It is a two-storied wood frame structure, with clapboard siding and a large central chimney. The house was built about 1690. It is one of the state's small number of 17th century houses still standing.



**The Meigs-Bishop House** is in Madison's central business district. The house was built in stages, the oldest portion being a single three-bay pile dating to c. 1690. There were further additions in the late 19th century. It is believed to be Madison's second oldest house. In the 20th century, it was adapted for commercial use.

## Genealogical Resources

### Some available online records

Today, researchers of genealogical information are fortunate to find so many records listed online for their searching convenience. The following information primarily lists records at the town level. Additional records are listed on the county and state pages.

Madison Town Hall is located at 8 Campus Drive in Madison. The Town Clerk is Nancy J. Martucci, CCTC. Please check the Madison Town website at [www.madisonct.org](http://www.madisonct.org) for hours of operation and contact information.

Madison's land records are indexed from March 8, 1974 to the present. Document images are available from November 14, 1986 to the present. New property recordings will be kept up to date, time permitting.

Vital Records in the town of Madison include births, deaths, and marriages, and date back to May 5, 1826. Prior records are in Guilford. For a certified copy of a document. When visiting the clerk's office, be sure to bring your membership card proving your affiliation in the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. and your current driver's license.

When visiting the town hall don't forget to consider other departments. You may want information to expand your genealogical narrative through Voter Registration records, Veteran's Information, or even Dog/Animal Licensing. Does Madison have a collection of "Ear Marks" on file for those long-ago farming ancestors? That might be something worth checking out.

Madison Historical Society was established in the year 1917, shortly after World War I. Contact MHS at 8 Meetinghouse Lane, Madison. Since the MHS was founded in 1917, its mission has been to collect information and to preserve and interpret artifacts that illustrates Madison's rich cultural history. In an effort to encourage public interest, MHS fulfills its mission through exhibits, educational programs, publications and events for all ages. The current president of the Madison Historical Society is James Matteson. He and his organization can provide helpful assistance for the genealogical researcher.

The society has a massive program and boasts six major areas for their concentration:

1. School Tours.
2. Book Groups.
3. Lee Lectures this year will be devoted to "Women of the 20th century."
4. Exhibitions entitled "Over Here, Over There, Madison in World War I."
5. Home Tours.

6. Antique Fair, this extremely popular annual event marked its 47th year in 2018 and is the major fundraiser for the organization.

**The Charlotte L. Evarts Memorial Archives, Inc., Historical Research Center** is filled with several databases that house nearly 90,000 entries that document the history of Madison. This facility is easy to access as it is located directly off the Town Green.

**E.C. Scranton Memorial Library** is undergoing a massive reconstruction of its facilities. They have simply outgrown their space. Check out their website at <https://www.scrantonlibrary.org> for up-to-date contact information and hours of operation. Laura Downes, the Interim Director, will be on site until mid-June. The library is located at 1250 Durham Road in Madison.

**Madison Chamber of Commerce** was established to promote the many facets of Madison. Want to know where to stay, where to eat, more about its recreation and beaches, its charming array of businesses, or up and coming events? One of the latest ventures of the Chamber is to promote Madison in the air. You might want to take a short flight along the busy coastline and marvel at the beauty of the Connecticut shore. Eileen Banish is the Madison Chamber of Commerce Executive Director and your contact for an organized and stress-free visit to the community. The current address for the Madison Chamber of Commerce is 12 School Street, P.O. Box 705, Madison, CT, or telephone at 203-245-7394 or email [chamber@madison.com](mailto:chamber@madison.com). Let them assist you before you begin your explorations.

### **Bibliography of Additional Resources**

Most of these resources can be located in the Madison Public Library or the Madison Historical Society. By using your updated Library Card, the book/material can be ordered for you and sent to your address.

*Madison's Heritage: Historical Sketches of Madison, Connecticut.*

William J. Clinton, *My Life* (New York, NY: Knopf Publishing Company, 2004).

Ann Nyburg, *Slices of Life: A Storytellers Dream* (Mystic, Conn.: Homebound Publications, 2015).

“Cornelius S. Bushnell Biography,” Madison Historical Society, 2017.

William S. Wells, “Cornelius S. Bushnell, John Erickson, and Gideon, Wells.” The original United States warship, *Monitor*, housed at the Yale University Library.

Meghan Friedmann, “Lee’s Academy in Madison to Undergo Another Transformation,” *Shoreline Times*, 7 February 2019.

Joel E. Helander, *Noose and Collar: The Story of the Rockland Murder*, Madison, Connecticut (self-published by the author, 1979). This book is located at the E.C. Stranton Memorial Library.

Stephen P. Elliott, ed., *Madison: Three Hundred Years by the Sea: Farmers and Fisherman, Sailors and Summer Folk* (Madison, Conn.: Madison Bicentennial Committee, 1976).

#### Website Sources

<https://www.madisonhistory.org/history-of-madison/>.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison.\\_Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madison._Connecticut).

<https://www.historicmadison.org/Madison'sPast/madisonspast.html>.

<https://www.uslandrecords.com/ctrl3/controllerjsessionid=565>.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JohnGunther> (or Jacques Pepin or Edwin D. Kilbourne or J. Frank Duryea or Cornelius Scranton Bushnell or Mac Bohannon or Thomas Chittenden. Replace the name of John Gunther with any of these names).

<https://connecticuthistory.org/hammasset-state-park-serves>.

#### Additional Helpful Sources

“Hammonasset Festival Celebrates Native American Culture,” by Sarah Page Kyrzcz, *New Haven Register*, September 30, 2015.

“Hammonasset Beach State Park,” Department of Energy and Environment Protection, 2017.

A special thank you goes to the many kind folks of the Madison Public Library, especially Marcia, for the valuable knowledge they so willingly shared with me about Madison and to Irene Banisch of the Madison Chamber of Commerce whose telephone conversation added even more valuable information to this article.

## Queries

Members may submit up to three queries per issue or as space allows.

James FULLER, b RI 19 NOV 1786, d Stratton, VT, 18 DEC 1849; m Sally HEATON at Providence, RI 25 AUG 1811. Need parents of James.

Jeremiah BURNETT b Cobleskill, Schoharie, Co., NY, 22 APR 1822, d Lyons, NY 20 APR 1908; m Mary M. JOHNSON at Walworth, Wayne Co., NY, c1842, b Wayne, Co., NY, 1822, d prob Lyons, NY, 5 MAY 1899. Need parents of both Jeremiah and Mary.

Michael F. Hurd, CSG # 05882  
[shiloh3404@gmail.com](mailto:shiloh3404@gmail.com)



## Book Reviews

**Clara D. Noyes, R.N., *Life of a Global Nursing Leader*, by Roger L. Noyes. Published by Shires Press, 4869 Main Street, P.O. Box 2200, Manchester Center, Vermont, [www.northshire.com](http://www.northshire.com). 4 1/2" X 8 1/2", softcover, ISBN:978-1-60571-350-2, 341 pages. Order directly from the publisher at the above address. Price of the book is \$24.95 plus shipping and handling.**

It is interesting that this book should cross my desk during March, which is National Women's History Month. It is also interesting to note that the author is a great-great nephew of this leader, Red Cross pioneer, woman of medical significance and a genealogical leaf on a family tree that dates back to the formation of the community of Old Lyme. The Noyes family began its long journey to the United States beginning c. 1610 and is still prominently recognized throughout the country. Very little is known about Clara, but her major contributions to medical history should be noted. Any genealogist interested in this "founding family" will delight in the details of her previously unknown, enormous wartime nursing career and of her contributions during World War I. The author weaves a rich historical narrative, picturing Clara's professional development as a person, a professional and a global leader. I enjoyed reading this biography. Her headstone in Duck River Cemetery, Old Lyme, Connecticut heralds her love of this beach-front community and its quiet agrarian atmosphere.

This rich biography, provided an enormous trail of documents that I can use to further my research of the Noyes family. The table of contents will provide the reader with a more than adequate guide, and the scattering of photographs holds the reader's interest. Heavily footnoted and annotated, the book is a document every historian will want to read.

~ Russell A. DeGrafft, CSG# 19174

***The Family Tree Toolkit: A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy* by Kenyatta D. Berry, published by Skyhorse Publishing, 307 West 36<sup>th</sup> Street, 11th Floor, New York, N.Y., 2018. 9" x 11", softcover, ISBN-13: 978-1-63158-219-6, 267 pages. Order from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Paperback \$13.88, Kindle \$14.99.**

After attending several presentations by Kenyatta Berry at NERGC in Springfield Massachusetts in 2017, I was excited to read this book assembling her genealogical research suggestions. The book provides an overview of traditional research sources in the United States, including Census, Vital Records, DNA, U.S. Court System and Court Records, Immigration and Naturalization and Military Records. Charts include specifics about where to find records for different states, both online and at "brick-and-mortar" locations and how to order copies. There are many "TIP" notes and interesting notations about Berry's own family research interspersed throughout the book. Land grants are discussed in depth. Berry touches on European Research.

The most interesting section includes twenty-two pages devoted to African American and Native American family history research, which include a time-line of historical dates and descriptions of events. An area of special interest is the establishment of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (a.k.a. Freedmen's Bureau) as part of the War Department in 1865, in an effort to help formerly enslaved people integrate into society as free people. Berry includes many resources for Native American and Afro-Caribbean research. Important dates in Afro-Caribbean history are covered and Berry directs readers to online resources to help trace their ancestry into the Caribbean.

Another chapter helps you to understand adoption research and how DNA can assist with your research. Throughout the book, Berry provides additional online sources within the text, citations and the Appendix. The Appendix includes a "United States Quick Reference Guide to Census and Vital Records by State," a list of "National Archives and Records Administration Facilities," "State Archives and Historical Societies," "Vital Records Offices" by state, and a list of "Additional Research Resources," by chapter. The book is not indexed. Berry's great advice and links are useful for beginners to the experienced researcher. I sat with my laptop next to me to check out the links. Have fun expanding your knowledge. Here's a teaser from the DNA chapter: on February 22, 2016, Kenyatta Berry visited the set of the talk show *The Real*, where she revealed their DNA profiles to the hosts. It is quite entertaining. Part 1,2,3. <http://tinyurl.com/BerryTheReal>.

~ Linda Carlson, CSG # 8661

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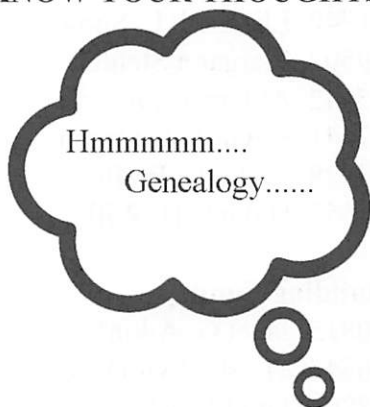
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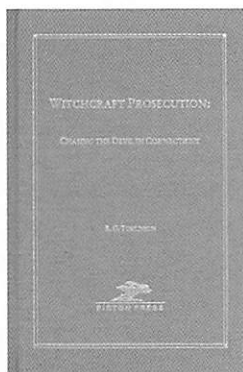
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Saturday, October 19, 2019

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Four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450

- 8:00: Registration Begins; Vendor/Exhibitor Room open; 2019 Literary Award winners and entries on display; light Continental breakfast
- 8:45: Welcoming and Opening Remarks
- 9:00-10:00: *"Sources around the House,"* Pauline Merrick
- 10:00-10:30: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- 10:30-11:30: *"Mapping Your Sources,"* D. Joshua Taylor
- 11:30-Noon: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- Noon-1:00: Luncheon
- 1:00-1:15: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- 1:15-1:45: Presentation of CSG's 2019 Literary Awards
- 1:45-2:45: *"Evaluating and Documenting Online Sources,"* D. Joshua Taylor
- 2:45-3:00: Break -- Visit the exhibitors
- 3:00-4:00 *"Eight Steps to Preserving Family Photographs,"* Maureen Taylor

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# Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Fall 2019

Vol. 12 No. 3



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**Voter Registration Application cards**

**Genealogical Pioneers: Mary Kingsbury Talcott**

**Spotlight on Manchester**

**Genealogical Resources in Wethersfield**

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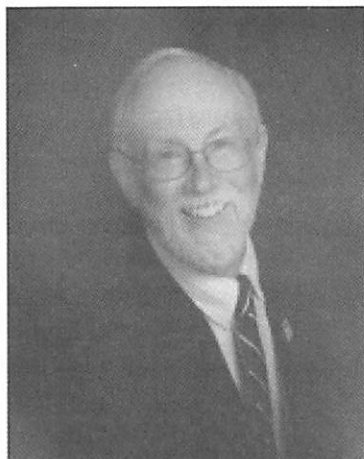
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## President's Message



There's an old saying, "what goes around comes around."

After serving as your President from June 2015 through May 2017 and as Vice President from May 2017 through May 2019, I was elected to serve another term as President at CSG's

annual meeting in May. Jenny Hawran of Windsor, who served a one-year term as Secretary, was elected Vice President and has indicated that she is willing to be a candidate to serve as CSG's next President. Returning Officers are Diane LeMay (Assistant Treasurer) and Peg Limbacher (Treasurer). Dave Robison, whose two-year term as President ended in May, was elected as Governor-at-Large for a two-year term. Re-elected for two-year terms as Governors were Linda Carlson and Edwin W. Strickland II. Rounding out your Board of Governors are Judith Bowen, Pauline Merrick, Donald A. Naples, Olivia G. Patch, Lisa M. Vasas, and Keith E. Wilson who were not up for election and will be completing their terms in May of 2020. You can find out more about each of us at <https://ctfamilyhistory.com/officers-and-board-members/>.

I'm sad to report the resignation from the Board due to health issues of Russell DeGrafft who served since May 2016 and who wrote many book reviews and town spotlights for *Connecticut Genealogy News* and served on the Literary Awards Committee. Thank you, Russ, for your many contributions to CSG.

The Nominating Committee is now seeking potential candidates to replace Russ as a Governor at Large as well as someone to serve as our Secretary. If you're interested in serving in either capacity or would like more information about what the positions entail, please contact the CSG office.

Although the Board of Governors is the designated leadership of our organization, there are many other ways in which you can help make CSG a better genealogical society:

- Let us know what speakers or program topics that interest you, the types of information you'd like to see added to the CSG Webpage, and what additional membership benefits are of special interest to you so that we can consider your ideas.
- Write an article for *Connecticut Genealogy News* or for the *Connecticut Nutmegger*. Earn \$50 for each published *Nutmegger* article and \$25 for each published *Connecticut Genealogy News* article. The *Nutmegger* is our traditional "journal of record" for well-documented articles. *Connecticut Genealogy News* features more informal articles and is especially looking for people to write spotlight articles on Connecticut's towns.
- Volunteer to help in the Library, at outreach activities, and at programs (you can do this without being on the Board).

In addition, we hope you'll assist us as a "volunteer" in our outreach efforts by "liking" and sharing our social media posts on Facebook and Twitter and by inviting your relatives, friends, and colleagues to join you at our upcoming programs. We have two DNA-related programs coming up in September and November (see page 15-16). The highlight of our fall activities will be our Annual Family History Seminar on Saturday, October 19, 2019 at the Four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, Connecticut. This year we're proud to feature Pauline Merrick, a member of our Board of Governors, who will present "Sources Around the House;" D. Joshua Taylor, who will present "Mapping Your Sources, Employing Maps for Genealogical Research" and "Evaluating and Documenting Online Sources;" and Maureen Taylor, who will present "Eight Steps for Preserving Family Photographs." The day will also include the 2019 Literary Awards presentations. Cost of registration is \$49 through September 30. After that, the price increases to \$59. Deadline to Register is October 11. Registration information is on the inside back cover.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions and feedback on how we can improve the ways through which we assist "those who pursue their family heritage" and the ways in which you can help us accomplish this!

~ Richard C. Roberts, President

## Editorial

The editor and staff of *Connecticut Genealogy News* would also like to congratulate and welcome back for another term the CSG Board of Governors. They are the backbone of The Connecticut Society of Genealogists and we couldn't do this without them.

This issue is packed with a lot of information that we feel will be extremely helpful to you in your research.

Thank you to Diane LeMay for discovering the voter registration application cards in Waterbury, Connecticut and sharing that information with us. We also want to thank her for shining our spotlight on the Connecticut Town of Manchester.

Our thanks go out to Richard Roberts for his contribution on Mary Kingsbury Talcott, yet another Connecticut Genealogical Pioneer.

Thank you to Judith Bowen, Justin Piccirillo and Olivia Patch for their contributions on research help and tips which include insights on where to go if you need help, how to join a lineage society and how to navigate through various records. As Justin says, genealogy is "not only for old-timers anymore!"

### About the Cover

Old Storrs Burying Ground

Veterans Day, November 11, is a Federal holiday observed to honor all military veterans.

Photo by Richard C. Roberts

## Queries

*Members may submit up to three queries per issue of Connecticut Genealogy News or as space allows. For more information about submitting queries, see page 14.*

Eliza (**HYDE**) **BARDEN** dau. of Abner Hyde & Sally (**EATON**) Hyde, b. Plainfield, CT 19MAR1804, d. Norfolk, CT 13NOV1862, m. Eliphelet Barden, bur. Center Cemetery, Norfolk, CT. Need grandparents of Eliza.

Ellen [poss. Helen] (Fitzgerald) **CANFIELD** dau. of Matthew **FITZGERALD** & Mary (Ryan) Fitzgerald, b. 1861, d. 17 OCT1948, poss. Torrington, CT, m.. Levi Parsons, m1 Frederick Canfield 16JUL1902 at Trinity Church Torrington, CT. Need grandparents of Ellen.

William **STICKLES**, s. of Catherine (Abrial) Stickles [father unknown], b. 30APR1831, d. 19JAN1907 poss. Simsbury CT, bur. Simsbury Cemetery Simsbury, CT, m. Margaret Butler. Need father and both maternal/paternal grandparents of William, but father takes priority.

*Thank you,  
Maxwell Toth, CSG # 20930  
30 Campus Road  
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504  
Maxtoth7780@aol.com*

## Voter Registration Applications

by Diane K. LeMay, CSG # 7571L

Genealogy is one fascinating hobby! There's always something new to learn, another record to seek out to break down a "brick wall" or to justify your conclusive research, more DNA matches, or more digitized databases.

After my nearly 40 years of research, I believe voter registration applications to be an under-utilized primary source of valuable information. I don't remember ever hearing a talk about voter registration applications, but at my friend's urging, many years ago, I visited Boston's City Archives, the city where my great grandfather lived. I searched and located his application from 1877, and broke down my Irish "brick wall." It was such a successful experience, I recently recommended to someone that they seek out an application in Waterbury to crack their Irish brick wall. At the time, I was not aware that Connecticut's 169 towns are not required to retain all voter registration applications indefinitely.

Reminding myself that retention of various records differs from state to state, and from department to department, I contacted the Registrar of Voters for the city of Waterbury, Tim DiCarlo, for any pertinent information he could provide regarding location, retention and such. Tim told me that when Connecticut residents die or relocate, their application cards are refiled in an inactive file, and after five years may be destroyed. Tim, also a genealogist, has chosen to retain a large portion of those applications. He assured me this collection of 4x6 cards in 16 drawers is able to be

accessed. Sadly, this may not be the case in the other 168 towns and cities in Connecticut. More often than not, lack of storage space is usually the deciding factor when making a decision on the local level to retain historical collections, such as the voter registration applications. Murphy's Law occasionally comes into play, and the document you seek has been destroyed.

During my recent visit to Waterbury's City Hall, I examined a couple dozen application cards of what seems to be at least 42,000, and got excited over the information they contain. Birth dates of applicants spanned from 1878 to 1945, state and/or country of birth, sex and marriage status were given, length of residency in the city of Waterbury was specified, as well as residency in Connecticut and in the USA. The applicant's signature appears after their oath statement. Included is the date of induction into the armed forces or naturalization data, if applicable. Some applications reveal party affiliation.

Every applicant's reading ability was approved and recorded. As I examined addresses, I found four cards

for what appears to be members of a family, residing at the same address, the father William M. Moedebeck, wife Mildred C., their daughter Barbara C., and their son William M. Like the federal census records, this historical collection shows the ethnic diversity of the city through the years. There were residents who were born in Canada, Norway, Lithuania, and Russia, just to name a few countries.



317  
 Noedbeck Mildred C. 54 Rose St. 1-5

PLACE OF BIRTH: Hartford DATE OF BIRTH: 4-8-14 CONTINENTAL RESIDENCE BIRTH: 25 yrs. life

Male  Female  Single  Married  Widowed  Divorced

Occupation: Housewife Previous Vocations: Thomaston

STATE OF CONNECTICUT COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN WATERBURY October 2, 1959

I solemnly swear that the statements made herein are true and that no fraudulent privileges are not suggested by reason of concealment of truth or any infractions herein intended and known to myself.

Joseph H. Hyslop  
 Mildred C. Noedbeck

Witnessed this 2nd day of October 1959 at Waterbury, Connecticut  
 Lorraine B. Hutton Esq.

Don't do all of your research online. Not everything is digitized. Not everything can be found on the internet for free. For every record and source online, hundreds more are tucked away in court houses, libraries, archives, town halls, cemetery offices and other repositories. Make the journey. That adds to the fun of discovering your family heritage.

If you are fortunate enough to locate your ancestor's voter registration application, it is a gold mine!

317  
 Noedbeck, Barbara C. 64 Rose Street 1-5

PLACE OF BIRTH: Waterbury, Conn. DATE OF BIRTH: 5/1/38 CONTINENTAL RESIDENCE BIRTH: 19 yrs. life

Male  Female  Single  Married  Widowed  Divorced

Occupation: American Stenographer Press Co.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT COUNTY OF NEW HAVEN WATERBURY October 2, 1959

I solemnly swear that I am a citizen of the United States, that the statements made herein are true and that no fraudulent privileges are not suggested by reason of concealment of truth or any infractions herein intended and known to myself.

Leonard H. Hyslop  
 Barbara C. Noedbeck

Witnessed this 2nd day of October 1959 at Waterbury, Connecticut  
 Hester L. Hyslop Esq.

It is a bit involved to retrieve a specific application in Waterbury, but not impossible. Each surname was assigned a Soundex code, based on the phonetic spelling of the name. The applications were filed in somewhat Soundex order, then by given name. The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has used this coding system in indexing the federal census records. The Soundex Code is comprised of the initial of the surname and three digits that represent subsequent consonants. There are other guidelines to remember. Besides vowels, ignore the consonants w, h, y. If the surname contains double consonants, only code one. The Soundex code needs to be three digits, so if the surname does not contain 3 consonants, add zeros until there are three numbers. For example, McDuff and Madoff would be coded M310 (for Mdf), Moedbeck would be M312 (for Mdbc), Medford (Mdf), as well as Metvier (Mtrv) would be M316.

CODE	
1	BFPV
2	CGJKQSXZ
3	DT
4	L
5	MN
6	R

## Connecticut Genealogical Pioneers: Mary Kingsbury Talcott

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680

Mary Kingsbury Talcott was born November 3, 1847 in Hartford, the only child of businessman Russell Goodrich and Mary (Seymour) Talcott. She was a descendant of Henry Kingsbury (ca. 1615-1687) of Ipswich and Haverhill, Massachusetts as well as many of Connecticut's early settlers including John Talcott (ca. 1594-1660), Richard Seymour (1605-1655) of Hartford and Norwalk; Gov. John Haynes (1594-1653/4), Gov. John Webster (1590-1661), and Gov. George Wyllys (ca. 1590-1645). She was a lifelong resident of Hartford.

Mary was partially deaf and was described as a "delicate" child; consequently she had no formal schooling. Instead, she was what we might today call home schooled. In 1844-1845 Mary's father, Russell, had traveled in Europe, developing an interest in literature and art. While still alive he tutored Mary in those subjects, and in his will he left all his books, engravings, and other works of art to his wife "to be retained for the use and benefit of any child or children I may leave, until they respectively attain the age of twenty one years, and on attaining said age, the same are to be delivered over to such child or children to be their own property." Mary later wrote that during her early life she was "much interested in art," and in 1888 she was an illustrator for *The Old Garden*, a book written by Rose Terry Cooke.

Russell Talcott died on March 3, 1863 when Mary was just 15. However, he had also shared his love for history and genealogy with his daughter. She went on to become one of Connecticut's leading genealogists and historians, unusual for an era when those professions were largely the provinces of men and even more unusual for someone with no formal education.

While still in her 30s, Mary prepared five chapters of *The Memorial History of Hartford County, Connecticut*, edited by J. Hammond Trumbull and published in 1886, including the sections on "The General History of the County," "General History to the Revolution," "The Town Since 1784," "Prominent

Business Men," and "The Original Proprietors". The later, comprising pages 227-276 of *The Memorial History*, was based on notes and memoranda compiled by J. Hammond Trumbull and was published as a booklet by the Society of the Founders of Hartford in 1975. A second edition, updated to include a photograph of the new Founders Monument dedicated on August 6, 1986, was published that year.

She edited two volumes of the "Talcott Papers," consisting of the correspondence of Gov. Joseph Talcott, published as part of the *Connecticut Historical Society Collections* between 1892 and 1896. She wrote the sketch of Hartford (pages 507-552) in *Historic Towns of New England*, edited by Lyman P. Powell and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons in 1898 and the chapter on "Hartford in the Revolution" in *Hartford in History*, a book published in 1899 intended "to tell the story of our city's life in a way to interest and instruct the young." She was a contributor to and one of the editors of the *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut* published by the Lewis Historical Publishing Company in 1911.

Frederick John Kingsbury, President of Citizen's National Bank and of the Scovill Manufacturing Company, had been undertaking research for a Kingsbury genealogy for many years. However, he ultimately concluded that "I should never find time to complete the work, and I turned over my material to Miss Talcott, who is an experienced genealogist as well as a Kingsbury by descent."

On January 31, 1896 Mary applied for a passport. At that time, she described herself as aged 48, five feet four inches in stature, with brown eyes and brown hair. She subsequently made two trips to Europe – presumably to undertake research – one that returned to New York via Cherbourg, France in September 1896 and another that returned via Genoa in May 1905. In England she examined parish registers, wills, Chancery Proceedings, and other manuscript collections. In her Introduction to the resulting book, *The Genealogy of the Descendants of Henry*

*Kingsbury of Ipswich and Haverhill, Mass.*, published in 1905, Mary notes that Frederick Kingsbury not only provided material but underwrote two trips for her to undertake research in England.

As part of her research for the Kingsbury genealogy, Mary also examined town and probate records and visited graveyards in eastern Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine. She wrote of her love of tracing “the history of the past ...in the yellowed pages of old folios, and the quaint script of the old records.” “It is a delight, too,” she wrote, “to pounce upon some isolated record supplying a long-missing birth or marriage, and identifying some long-lost member of the race, or to find a lonely gravestone bearing an inscription which reveals the last resting-place of some wanderer from the parent stem.”

In 1913 Mary again traveled to England, returning to New York on the *S.S. George Washington* on December 22. One of her objectives on the later trip was apparently to prove or disprove the Seymour ancestry as she had believed it to be.

Mary’s uncle, Nathan Perkins Seymour, had begun collecting materials for a genealogy of the descendants of Richard Seymour of Hartford. While still in her early 20s Mary began contacting other members of the Seymour family to gather family data, and by 1880, while still in her early 30s she was actively working on a Seymour genealogy. However, about that time a member of the Seymour family came into the possession of a so-called “Bishops Bible” printed in 1584 which contained inserted material that purported to connect Richard Seymour, the immigrant ancestor, to Edward Seymour, First Duke of Somerset. Miss Talcott frequently promoted the possibility of a connection to nobility in her correspondence with other family members, who were “all thrilled at the idea of noble descent.”

However, Mary, although preparing and promoting a genealogy that lead back to Edward Seymour, held off on its publication. George Dudley Seymour later wrote, “Miss Talcott, throughout her lifetime, had a high reputation as an accurate genealogist, and it may well be thought that she was unwilling to publish any History” until the tie to “the ducal family of Somerset should be either disproved or confirmed.”

By 1916 it was conclusively proved that the information in the “Bishop’s Bible” was a forgery. George Dudley Seymour passed that information to Mary Talcott. He wrote, “she then at once foresaw that when the report was made known to the family at large, the publication of a family history on her part would be made very difficult.” He added that he believed “that while her faith in the so-called ‘Seymour Bible’ must have been shaken long before the blow actually fell, she had never seriously entertained the thought that the Bible was an out-and-out forgery....”

Mary died the following year. Her niece, Katherine Seymour Day, inherited a trunkful of her correspondence and manuscript notes on the Seymour family. These, along with materials collected by Seymour Morris were arranged for publication by Donald Lines Jacobus under the direction of George Dudley Seymour as *A History of the Seymour Family: Descendants of Richard Seymour of Hartford, Connecticut*.

Beyond her genealogical and historical research, Mary was involved in numerous hereditary and historical organizations. She was a founder and the first Registrar of the Ruth Wyllys Chapter, D. A. R., organized in 1892, and served in that capacity for many years. She was a member of the Board of Managers and Registrar of the Connecticut Society of Colonial Dames beginning in 1894. She was Chairman for Connecticut of the Order of Descendants of Colonial Governors and a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Connecticut, the Connecticut Historical Society, the American Historical Association, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England) as well as a member of various Hartford clubs. In December 1889 she was admitted to honorary membership in the Connecticut Society of Sons of the American Revolution.

In 1897 Mary was involved, along with other members of the Ruth Wyllys Chapter, DAR, in efforts to preserve Hartford’s Ancient Burying Ground. Among other contributions to the project, she provided use of a Talcott coat of arms (which her father had procured in London) in conjunction with the re-creation of a monument to Governor Joseph Talcott and his wives. When Hartford’s “Old State House” was threatened with demolition in 1915, Mary Kingsbury Talcott



prepared a "stirring letter" to city officials pointing out that the building is located on the land where the Fundamental Orders were first read and where Washington and Rochambeau met in 1780 to plan campaigns; her actions helped save the structure.

In November 1917 Mary prepared an historical sketch of the Ruth Wyllys Chapter, which she was to have read on November 17, the Chapter's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. However, in strange serendipity, she died that day before the address could be delivered. She is buried, with her parents, in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford. Her obituary, published in the *Hartford Courant*, reads:

Death of Noted Genealogist and Connecticut Historian. Miss Mary K. Talcott, whose death was briefly noted yesterday, was widely known in this state and beyond. For years she occupied that position in the Society of Colonial Dames which scans the records of ancestry, and often women of other states have commented on her great knowledge of history and genealogy. Her ability in this direction was recognized by the late Dr. J. Hammond Trumbull, at whose request she contributed various papers to the "History of Hartford County," which he edited.

Her knowledge of genealogy was profound, and she wrote many articles on the subject. Among her [other] writings are "The First Church of Hartford," "A History of the Connecticut Valley," and several other historical works. Miss Talcott was quiet, unassuming and gentle. She was kind to all with whom she came in contact, but she was so engrossed in her work that very few people knew her for what she was.

Her will, dated May 25, 1917, includes, among other bequests, provisions that "all papers of my great-grandfather, the late Andrew Kingsbury, now owned by me and in my possession .... are to be given to the Connecticut Historical Society, to be preserved for reference and consultation." She left to prominent Hartford civic leader Katharine Seymour Day all her genealogical papers and memoranda and all books "except such of my Americana, consisting of printed books and pamphlets, as are disposed of otherwise."

She added, "Regarding my papers, which may be described as the genealogical history of the Seymour family, it is my desire that the same shall be kept together as a single collection, and not divided."

The Connecticut Historical Society's Mary Kingsbury Talcott Genealogical Collection includes one set of boxes, numbered 1-6, that contains correspondence sent to Miss Talcott with genealogical inquiries; one folder contains personal letters. The material is arranged chronologically, and the folders are labeled with the dates. A second set, numbered 1-4, includes a collection of forms gathered by Miss Talcott during preparation of the Kingsbury genealogy, correspondence (1892-1908) and one folder of assorted printed material. Folders are also labeled with the dates. A third set of three boxes (not numbered) contain church records, certified records, copies of Hartford death records and probate records, two publication rough drafts, and a volume on the King family. These items are in folders but are not necessarily in any particular order.

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## ***Donors***

*Thank you to all who have given so generously to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Your added support is greatly appreciated and we couldn't do this without you. If you don't see your name listed here, it will be in the next issue.*

### **Annual Appeal**

08268 Vicki & Marvin Miller

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## Free Research Help

*by Judith Bowen, CSG # 16113*

Since November 2018, on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except for holidays or snowstorms), some members of the CSG Board of Governors have offered free help to members and non-members alike. These research help sessions take place at the CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are scheduled to continue at least until August 2020. Researchers who have been available include CSG Board of Governors members Olivia Patch, Keith Wilson, Diane LeMay and Judith Bowen, all with years of experience in genealogy and family history research.

If you need help with a “brick wall” or with where to begin your research or with getting organized, or maybe you have one nagging question about what to do next, feel free to come to one of our help sessions. If you are interested in writing a genealogy or joining a lineage society such as the Daughters of the American Revolution or the Society of Mayflower Descendants, some of our CSG researchers also have experience in assembling the documents and making applications to these societies. Some of us also have access to paid-for on-line databases such as Ancestry.com (international), GenealogyBank.com and Newspapers.com, which has been useful to some who have sought research help.

A number of visitors have sought help over the last ten months with a variety of inquiries. For example, a young woman wanted to know if she could link her ancestor named Rufus King to Rufus King, signer of the U.S. Constitution and an early senator from New York. Research uncovered information that several generations of her ancestors were mariners who had lived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Pursuing her ancestors well into the 1800s, we found that she is likely a descendant of Mayflower passenger Richard Warren. With this additional research, it certainly appeared that her Rufus King was not related to the New York Rufus King.

A gentleman came in one day with copies of letters his ancestor had written, asking to become a U.S. citizen. One of the letters stated that this ancestor came from Klattan in Germany. By accessing the catalog at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), we determined that this ancestor

actually came from Klattau in Bohemia/Austria, now in Czechoslovakia. Finding out the actual location of his ancestor’s origins opened up new avenues of research.

An elderly woman arrived one day with several packs of documents and papers, including pages of census print-outs from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), newspaper sections with obituaries for relatives and many family photographs. She had questions about how and when her African ancestors were brought to the United States and who their slave masters were. We explained that these were difficult questions for which there may be no specific answers. We emphasized that it was important for her to begin with what she knows about her family and work backwards. Although she had made an effort to organize all her papers as they related to either her mother’s or father’s families, each time she asked a question she needed to shuffle through lots of documents to find the one relevant to her question. We helped her focus on the need to use four- or five-generation charts and family group sheets so that her documents related to each family could be collected and organized in relation to each completed family group sheet. She said she would return to future help sessions.

One day a woman came in to get help in finding more about her ancestors who came from Lithuania. The CSG researchers found that a man with the same name as one of her ancestors had lived in the New Haven area. She was sure that the New Haven man was not related. The researchers were sure he was. Later that day, the woman called the CSG office to let us know that she had contacted a cousin and found out that, indeed, the New Haven man was a relative. This information gave her additional areas of research and additional relatives to interview.

We look forward to your visit to one of our research help sessions. If you have questions about these help sessions, call the CSG office at 860-569-0002.



## Not Only for Old-Timers Anymore

by Justin Piccirillo

**Editor's Note:** The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of CSG.

Genealogy is defined in the Webster's Dictionary as the study of family history. It doesn't give an age, nor does it require a golden card, a handshake or a special invite to do it. So, why is there such a divide between the ages in this hobby?

For some of you, your eyebrows may be a bit crooked, somewhat sideways with a tilt, thinking what is this guy writing about? But there is a divide, a great, *great* divide, that seems to affect the younger researchers more than the older. If you are still a bit perplexed, realize you may be on the opposing side and never even thought about it. I suppose the old adage "out of sight, out of mind," quickly comes to mind. But in all fairness, I think the only way to really understand even partially why this occurs is by first taking a step back.

Genealogy has always been by its own device a reasonable pastime to collect names, dates, memories and photos, most often seen in the public eye as a retirement project and not really thought about until one reaches close to that milestone. Well, guess what? Times have changed. For me it was my own struggles with my family that allowed me to get closer to my grandfather, hence my wanting to help accommodate him with 'filling in the gaps' of his memories of the old days that brought me to this wonderful leisure.

Okay, so there is a start. We are in a time now when more people are living longer and their children and grandchildren are relatively closer to their grandparents.

Another idea on why genealogy is not just for the old-timers anymore is that education is at an all-time high. We (i.e: youth of today), as a whole, are more scholarly, curious and interested in where we came from now than previous generations. There are television programs that promote genealogy. There are websites that with a click of a button can tell you more than you would ever care to know about you and your family. There are phone apps and there are advertisements popping

up all the time. So, why, if genealogy is at an all-time high, is it still such a segregated and secluded activity among the ages?

I became a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists when I was twenty-one. I am forty-four years old now and have amassed quite a collection of family history in those years. I did most of it the traditional way, by visiting the city halls, by perusing the microfilms at the libraries and by corresponding via snail mail. Then, all of a sudden, the computer boom happened. I saw this hobby change overnight. That is, all but some of the researching attitudes.

Okay, enough of my rambling, complaining, or whatever you may be thinking that I am doing. What can we do right now to bridge the continental divide in this hobby so that we all can reap its benefits?

For starters, my biggest piece of advice is to LISTEN. Listen to what anyone and everyone has to say. Chances are that there may be an idea, a source, or a different way of looking at something that may not have crossed your mind otherwise. Understand that there are a multitude of ways to get your, say, grandfather's death date. Not everyone is going to take the same route that you would take getting that information. Once again, old adages seem to work best here, "There is more than one way to skin a cat." Researchers, young and old, want to be acknowledged. So, let's acknowledge them by at least listening to them.

Another idea to think about is that just because one may be accredited, or may have years and years of research behind them, there is a responsibility that comes with that. You could, AND should be of even greater assistance to the newer generation of family investigators. Any older genealogists should remember and understand what the younger, more inexperienced workers, are going through. Share your technical expertise, or more importantly, your struggles and brick walls with them. Stay humble and impart your wisdom. What I have found is although no one teacher can teach you everything there is to know about genealogy, one must not undervalue the idea of working with an experienced partner, however old or young.

I couldn't bring myself to talk to other researchers. I was too intimidated. I was too shy to ask for help and unsure of where I fit into this illustrious hobby. I just figured that I could do everything on my own. How wrong was I? I was a bit overconfident thinking I could learn everything by reading it. WRONG! I needed the older folks to help set me on my way. I am sure my attitudes were unmistakably harsh and unwarranted, widening the divide.

Am I looking to single-handedly change the hobby overnight? Absolutely not. This is just a short wake-up to those folks that have been affected on either side of this genealogical coin. Genealogy should be encouraged and celebrated by bringing those young and old together. Let's divide and conquer the great genealogical divide itself!

## Some Research Tips

*by Olivia Patch, CSG # 5058*

Trying to find adequate sources to locate that elusive ancestor can be frustrating. One thing to keep in mind is your elusive ancestor didn't drop down from Mars. You may need to extend your research beyond the usual sources, which is time-consuming, but you will learn a lot in the process. Here are some research tips that I have found helpful.

- To refer to a woman by her maiden name after her marriage was contrary to standard custom among English speaking New England colonists. (*The American Genealogist*, Jan. 1957, volume 33, No. 1, page 39, article "William Graves of Newtown, Long Island" by George McCracken.)
- In colonial times and into the early nineteenth century, some relationship terms could and did have a different meaning than they do today. Watch out for terms such as uncle, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, cousin, friend (often means a relative), father-in-law, and natural child.
- When researching in older land record books, I have found that some names did not get recorded. Relatives frequently lived close by. Briefly peruse those land records covering the years your ancestor lived, and look for the names of the witnesses and other names found within the record itself who may be relatives of your ancestor. Also, note the names of those people owning property adjoining your ancestor.
- Sometimes people shortened the surname on headstones to save money. This was common among the Germans and Dutch who were noted for their frugality.
- In census records 1850 and later, women frequently were reported as being several years younger than their actual age. Noting the birth year of a cousin of mine who recently passed on, my brother remarked, "how could Cousin Louise be my godmother at age 13?"
- Be aware of traditional naming patterns in various cultures. I once found the record of a French-Canadian family in which the males all had the first name "Joseph" followed by one of more other names; the females were all "Marie/Mary" followed by one or more other names. Supposedly, each used the name closest to the surname. My Swedish father had three names.
- Early 1900s Hartford, Connecticut city directories listed the names of new residents; also, some listed the names of people living on a particular street. The Connecticut Historical Society (1 Elizabeth St., Hartford) and Connecticut State Library (231 Capitol Ave., Hartford) have large collection of Hartford City Directories.





**SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING  
CSG PROGRAMS**

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**NEED RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?**

**THE FREE GENEALOGY HELP SESSIONS AT THE CSG LIBRARY, 175 MAPLE STREET, EAST HARTFORD, WILL CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST 2020!**

Experienced family history researchers will continue to be available at the CSG library from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except for holidays and snowstorms) to help you with your research. Questions about brick walls, where to find sources online and information about how to get started on your family history will be some of the topics the researchers will cover with you. If you are curious about a lineage society such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Society of Mayflower Descendants, our researchers have some experience with researching for these societies.

Judith Bowen, Diane LeMay, Olivia Patch and Keith Wilson, members of the CSG Board of Governors, will be the researchers, but they welcome other volunteers from CSG's membership to help with this program. Other commitments as well as possible illnesses may interfere with the schedule unless we have a few more volunteers. You may contact Judith Bowen at [easterndr13@yahoo.com](mailto:easterndr13@yahoo.com) or Olivia Patch at [olivia42539@aol.com](mailto:olivia42539@aol.com) to volunteer with questions ahead of time or to volunteer!

Help is on a first come first served basis. There is no need to pre-register.

**21 September 2019 - "Understanding Your DNA Results" with Nora Galvin, CG.**

Nora 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 active in her local genealogy group Connecticut Ancestry Society

(editor of their quarterly journal), in Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council and a member of The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.

The topic "Understanding Your DNA Results" yields progress in your genealogy. Learn how you get shared segments and why your ancestor's DNA disappears over the generations. Discover good strategies for testing relatives to identify unknown ancestors.

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 as space is limited.

**19 October 2019 - Annual Family History Seminar at the Four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT.**

"Meet the Speakers" on pages 26-27 and see the Seminar flyer on the inside back cover for the registration form and more details on each talk.

**16 November 2019 - "Richard William Daniels, the Marrying Barber: a DNA Case Study from the John Daniels of New London, CT Project" with Keith Wilson.**

Keith has been researching genealogy for more than forty years and DNA since 2008. He manages more than twenty DNA kits of family members at FamilyTree DNA and is the Project Manager of the John Daniels of New London, Connecticut project there. Keith has hosted annual gatherings of Daniels cousins since 2014 in Old Lyme and has written several articles on the Daniels family for the Connecticut Nutmegger. He is a former president of the Mansfield Historical Society and currently serves on the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' Board of Governors.

The topic uses a combination of DNA and traditional genealogical research in a FamilyTree DNA Surname project to identify the descendants of Richard William Daniels, who married seven times and had at least thirteen children.

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 as space is limited.



## CSG News

### From the Bylaws Committee

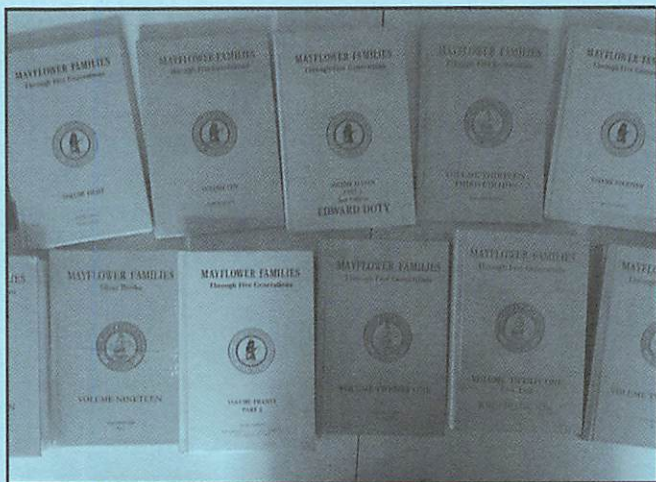
The Bylaws Committee has completed a review of the CSG Bylaws. Proposed revisions are being posted to the Members section of the CSG Web page and will be voted upon at the Annual Seminar on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

### From the Building Committee

Last Spring a new guardrail was installed along the lower edge of our parking lot. By the time of our September meeting, the parking lot will have been re-paved and re-lined. Inside the building a flip-up handicap bar has been installed in the patron restroom. We expect that these upgrades will be welcomed by visitors to our building.

### From the Library Committee

The CSG Library recently purchased the *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* books to fill in the gaps missing in our collection.



### From the Publications Committee

Please consider sharing smaller portions of your family's story through one of CSG's publications. This "magazine," *Connecticut Genealogy News*, is published quarterly: Spring (copy due date January 25), Summer (copy due date April 10), Fall (copy due date July 25), and Winter (copy due date September 25) and features articles relating to genealogical research, repositories (e.g., "Genealogy Resources in Wethersfield, Connecticut: in this issue), towns (see the Spotlight on Manchester in this issue) as well as book reviews, information about speakers, and other

topics. In the "CSG News Central" (blue pages) you'll find news about upcoming seminars, trips and tours, and Web site developments.

Our journal, *The Connecticut Nutmegger* is published three times a year: July (copy due date April 15), November (copy due date July 15), and March (copy due date January 15). It contains original articles relevant, but not limited to, genealogical studies of Connecticut/New England families as well as transcriptions of probate records, Bible/Family records, church records and other archival information.

If you are interested in submitting an article for either publication, see <https://ctfamilyhistory.com/2019/08/08/wanted-articles-for-the-connecticut-nutmegger-and-connecticut-genealogy-news-paid/> and/or contact the CSG Office for guidelines. If you need assistance in putting your article together, please let us know. We can help!

### Genealogical Queries

As a benefit of membership, CSG members may submit up to three queries in each issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*. The preferred query format uses standard abbreviations and dates written as DDMMYYYY, for example, 27JUL1927. Show birth, death, marriage in that order, with the event location shown before date and all known information stated before the question is asked. If you are unable to give complete descriptions of the person about whom you are inquiring, start with a son or daughter about whom you can give a good description and then ask for that person's ancestry. Remember to include your contact information!

### SAMPLE QUERY:

John **SMITH** b Hartford CT 12JAN1900 d there 20FEB1968 son of Joseph & Ethel (**WILLIAMS**) m there 16MAY1921 Mary **JONES** b Windsor CT 2FEB1901 d Harford 16JJUN1972 dau of Daniel & Doris (**BROWN**). Want anc of John & Mary.



**The Connecticut Society of  
Genealogists, Inc.**

*presents*

**Nora Galvin, Certified Genealogist  
and Editor of *Connecticut Ancestry***

**21 September 2019**

**“Understanding Your DNA Results”**

“Understanding Your DNA Results” yields progress in your genealogy. Learn how you get shared segments and why your ancestor’s DNA disappears over the generations. Discover good strategies for testing relatives to identify unknown ancestors.

**~ OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~**

**Place:** Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library

175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Space is limited - please pre-register so we may plan appropriately.

To pre-register, contact the CSG Office at  
860-569-0002 or at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)



**The Connecticut Society of  
Genealogists, Inc.**

*presents*

**Keith Wilson,  
Project Manager of the John Daniels of  
New London, Connecticut Project  
at FamilyTree DNA**

**16 November 2019**

**“Richard William Daniels, the Marrying Barber:  
a DNA Case Study from the John Daniels of  
New London, Connecticut Project”**

**Using a combination of DNA and traditional genealogi-  
cal research in a FamilyTree DNA Surname Project to  
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# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities



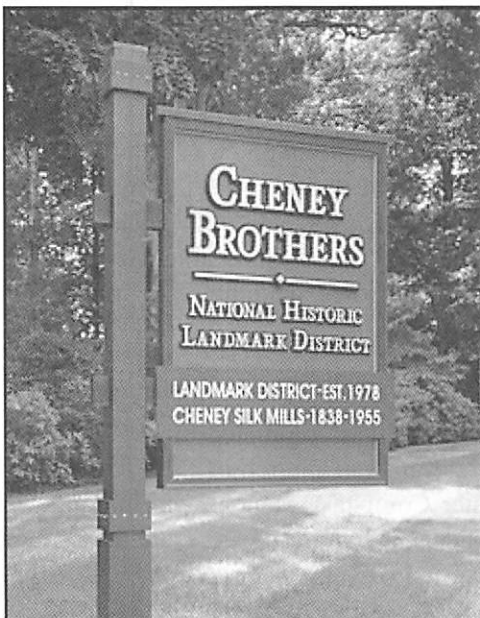
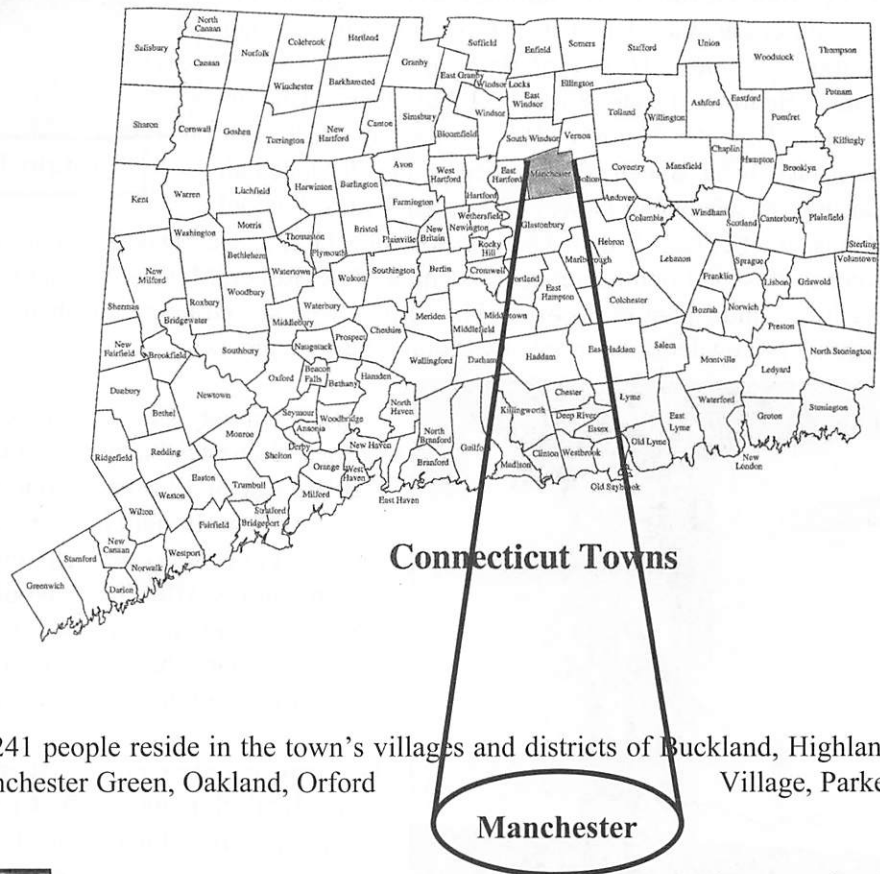
## Spotlight on Manchester

by Diane K. LeMay,  
CSG # 7571 L

### Geographic and Historic Profile

Located in Hartford County, Manchester is 12 miles east of Hartford and halfway between New York and Boston. It is a small rural town of 27.7 square miles, one percent of which is water according to the United States Census Bureau. It is bordered by Glastonbury to the south, Bolton and Vernon to the east, South Windsor to the north, and East Hartford to the west.

As of the 2010 federal census, 58,241 people reside in the town's villages and districts of Buckland, Highland Park, Hilliardville, Lydallville, Manchester Green, Oakland, Orford Village, Parker Village, and Union Village.



The Cheney Brothers National Register Historic District, one of only two such districts in the state, is located here. It was in Manchester in 1838 that the Cheney family started what became the center of the silk industry in America from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The district is comprised of what were the mills, homes of the owners and homes of the workers.

### First settlers and their churches

Along with Hartford and East Hartford, the area now known as Manchester was founded and settled in the 1630s by English colonists led by Reverend Thomas Hooker. It was chartered by the General Assembly in 1772 as Orford Parish, incorporated from East Hartford, May, 1823 and renamed for Manchester, England.

Water power from the Hockanum River, Bigelow Brook and other rivers in this farming community offered numerous excellent sites for mills. A grist mill, cotton mill, paper mills, and woolen mills flourished

throughout the 19th century. The oldest known woolen mill, the Hilliard Company, was founded in 1780 by Aaron Buckland and later sold to the Hilliard family. It operated over 160 years until it closed in the 1940s. The Pitkin Glassworks operated from 1783 to 1830. The Adams Paper Mill and others produced paper for the "Connecticut Courant."

Capt. Timothy Cheney (1731-1795) was among the many from Orford Parish families who fought in the Revolutionary War. This list of those who enlisted can be found in Spiess' *History of Manchester, Connecticut*: James Bellows, Ozias Bidwell, Lieut. Ozias Bissell, Samuel Bryant, Timothy Bryant, David Buckland, Serjeant Elisha Buckland, Matthew Cadwell, Jedediah Darling, jr., Nathaniel Dewey, Abiarthar Evans, Samuel Evans, jr., Serjeant Simon Gaines, Solomon Gilman, jr., David Goodrich, Alexander Keeney, jr., Theodore Keeney, Joshua Loomis, Serjeant Joseph McKee, Robert McKee, Josiah Olcott, jr., Lieut. Richard Pitkin, Joseph Stedman, and Ephraim Webster. The settlers who stayed home did their part by manufacturing powder in the number of powder mills owned by Pitkin family members.



**Captain Timothy Cheney Homestead**



**Cheney clock**

Captain Timothy Cheney, farmer, miller, and clock maker, built the Cheney Homestead about 1785 for his wife Mary Olcott Cheney. He was the son of Elizabeth Long and Benjamin Cheney, a carpenter, joiner and wheelwright in Hartford. The homestead passed to their son George (1771-1829), and here eight sons and one daughter were born to him and his wife Electa Woodbridge Cheney (1781-1853). Ward (1813-1876), Rush (1815-1882) and Frank (1817-1904), grandsons of Timothy, began what was to become the world's largest silk mill, well known for premium silk thread, fabrics and neckties.

The company grew rapidly, soon outstripping the local labor supply. From 1850 through 1900, Cheney Brothers' Silk Manufacturing Company recruited hundreds of skilled textile workers and tradesmen of nearly 100 various occupations from Ireland, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, and more, for mill work and maintenance and repairs essential to the running of the large textile complex covering 36 acres. Cheney Brothers' Mills alone employed over 4,700 workers around 1900. A turbine engine was installed just to power the 300-foot-long Ribbon Mill at 62 Pine Street to manufacture ribbon and cravats. Products made of Cheney silk and velvet extended

from clothes and furnishings to automotive upholstery, and eventually to casket linings and parachutes. Cheney Brothers' cravats appeared in magazine advertisements and were sold in many stores, including one on Madison Avenue, New York City.

During these five decades, housing and a schoolhouse were built for workers and teachers, and a lending library was set up in a mill office. A railroad line, linking Manchester to Hartford, was completed in 1849. Cheney land was donated for a Swedish Lutheran Church about 1886, a German Lutheran Church in 1892, the Hall of Records, and other public buildings and parks. South Manchester Water Company, Manchester Building and Loan Company, Hook & Ladder #1 and Cheney Hall were founded. Roads, gas lighting, sewers and many other town improvements were financed by Cheney Brothers.

Christopher Minor Spencer, son of Ogden Spencer, had apprenticed as a machinist in the shop of Samuel Loomis. In 1849, at the age of sixteen, he went to work for Cheney Brothers' Mills, and within seven years he became Superintendent of their machine shop. Soon after, he developed the first successful magazine repeating rifle and secured a patent in March, 1860. Largely financed by Cheney Brothers, Spencer Repeating Rifle Company provided nearly 200,000 rifles by the end of the Civil War.

J.T. Robertson founded the Orford Soap Company and moved it to Manchester in 1891. One of the products manufactured is the well-known cleanser Bon Ami.

Descendants of the original Cheney brothers retained corporate ownership and administration within their own family, developing, expanding and improving processes with each generation. Howell Cheney (1870-1957), an 1892 graduate of Yale University, entered into the family's silk manufacturing firm in 1893, working his way to director

in 1925. He remained with the company until 1935.

Like many in his family, Howell was also very active in the town and state in many capacities, serving as Chairman of Manchester's School Committee from 1898 to 1939 and as a member of the Connecticut Board of Education from 1909 to 1919. Dorothy Cheney (1880-1971) served in France during World War I as a nurse. Dorothy and her sister Marjorie lived in the Cheney Homestead until 1965.

Manchester was a sprawling factory town up through the 1930s. However, after the Great Depression came the



**Dorothy Cheney  
Portrait by Russell Cheney**



**Velvet Mill**

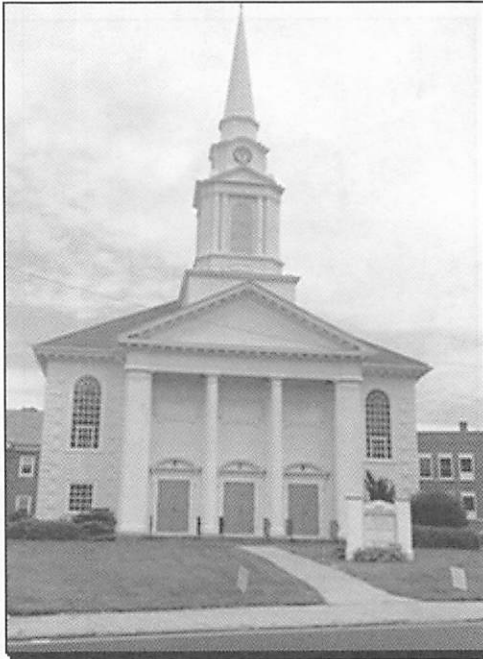
start of a decline, with the last surviving textile operation of the Cheney mills - the Velvet Mill - closing down in 1984.

Through the years Manchester has balanced tradition with being a progressive community. Mill buildings in the area of Pine, Forest and Elm Streets have been repurposed as apartments and condominiums. Peter Adam's Paper Mill has been the site of a successful restaurant for over 35 years. A stately Cheney mansion on Hartford Road near the Homestead is the headquarters for the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. The town includes manufacturing and machining establishments, three industrial parks and a huge shopping center of diverse commercial enterprises in addition to its downtown business



**Philip Cheney Mansion, 50 Forest Street**





**Center Congregational Church**

district. It is still referred to as Silk City and The City of Village Charm, and has been well known for its traditional Thanksgiving Road Race since 1927, second throughout New England to the Boston Marathon.

The Center Congregational Church was organized in 1779 and occupies its fifth building, which was dedicated in 1904. In 1846 the Episcopal Church was built. The first Catholic Church in town, St. Bridget's, was built in 1858 to serve the Catholic immigrants employed in Manchester's many mills. St. James was constructed on Main Street in South Manchester in 1874. Today over 30 places of worship are available to the community.

### **Genealogy Research in Manchester**

There are four town cemeteries that are located near main thoroughfares, namely, Buckland (also known as Northwest, Tolland Turnpike), East (includes Cheney Cemetery, Harrison Street), Hillstown (Hillstown Road) and West (Spencer Street). Four religious cemeteries Polish, St. Bridget, St. James, St. John's and Beth Sholom Memorial Park (adjacent to East Cemetery). East is the oldest within present-day Manchester.

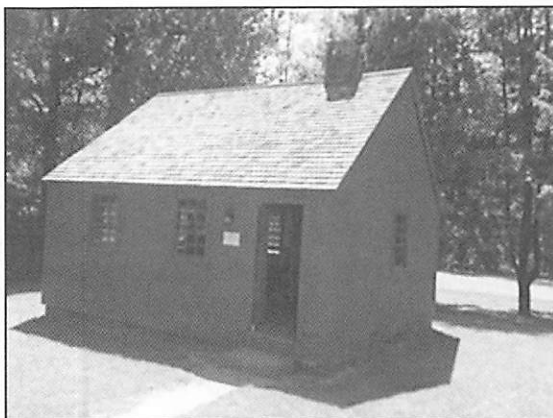
Earlier settlers of Orford Parish, prior to the 1823 incorporation, may be buried in older cemeteries in East Hartford or Hartford.

The Mary Cheney Library, the main library branch in town, is located at 586 Main Street, 860-645-0821. A collection of local history books is in the Reference Room.

The Manchester Historical Society, formed in 1965, is headquartered at the former Cheney Brothers' Machine Shop, 175 Pine Street, 860-647-9983. This very active organization operates museums, open houses, history walks, exhibits, lectures, tours and a Genealogy Group. The public is invited to its meetings and presentations. MHS operates the Old Manchester Museum at 126 Cedar



**Former Cheney Brothers' Machine Shop**



**Keeney Schoolhouse - 1751**

Street. Built by the Cheney family in 1859 and known as the Cheney School, it was established as a textile school in order to provide training for perspective employees of the Cheney Brothers Silk Mills.

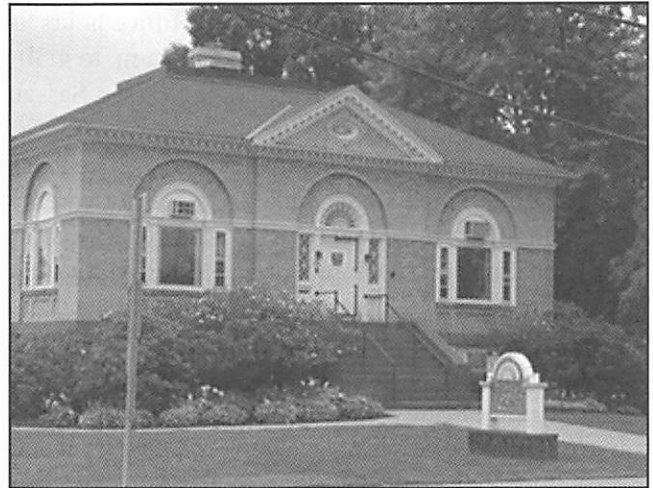
The school relocated into the Franklin building and added several subjects to the curriculum, including carpentry and mechanical drafting. It was then that the State Department of Education took over its operation, renaming it Manchester Trade School. In 1943 the school was again renamed to honor Howell Cheney and in 1962 moved to 791 West Middle Turnpike. The original building was moved in 1914 to its present site on Cedar Street and served in many capacities until it became a museum of local history in 1985. MHS owns and operates the

Cheney Homestead, which was donated by the Cheney family in 1968, the Keeney Schoolhouse at 106 Hartford Road and the Woodbridge Farmstead 495 East Middle Turnpike at Manchester Green, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Accessing Town Hall Records:**

Contacting the office of the town clerk before visiting is always a good idea. The Town Hall is located at 41 Center Street, 860-647-3037. Many different records can be found in the office including Land Records, Survey Maps, Vital Records (birth, marriage and death), Manchester burials, Board of Director and Selectmen Minutes (back to 1823), Election Results and Military Discharges. Town Vital Records and indexes exist from 1853 to the present. The cost of a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate is \$20.

Manchester's Town Clerk, Joseph V. Camposeo, very supportive of genealogists, has organized an Annual Family History Day and Genealogy Road Show each year with the assistance of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, Inc. and CSG.



**Probate Office**

**Accessing Probate Records**

The probate records may be found at the Probate Office, across from the Town Hall, 66 Center Street, 860-647-3227.

**Sources:**

William E. Buckley, *A New England Pattern: The History of Manchester, Connecticut* (Chester, Conn.: Pequot Press, 1973).

Charles W. Burpee, *History of Hartford County, Connecticut, 1633-1928, Volume II* (Hartford, Conn.: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1928).

Betty Jean Morrison, *Connecting to Connecticut* (Glastonbury, Conn.: Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc., 1995).

Secretary of State, *Connecticut State Register and Manual*.

Mathias Spiess, *History of Manchester, Connecticut* (South Manchester, Conn.: Centennial Committee of the Town of Manchester, 1924).

Cemetery website: [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

Manchester Historical Society website: [www.Manchesterhistory.org](http://www.Manchesterhistory.org).

Manchester History Center, 175 Pine St., Manchester, CT 06040: Exhibits.

Manchester Town Hall staff and website: [www.townofmanchester.org](http://www.townofmanchester.org).

Wikipedia website: Howell Cheney.

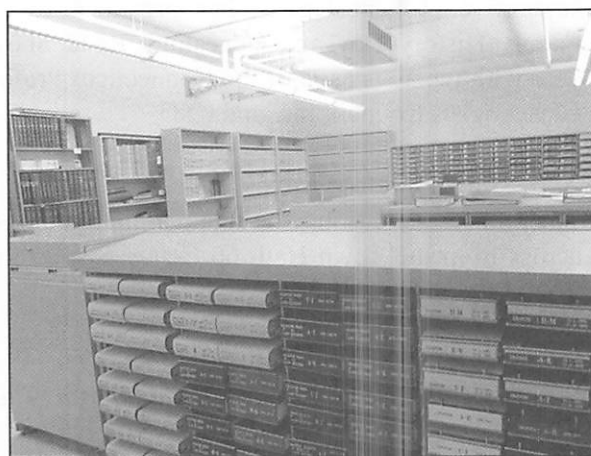
## Genealogy Resources in Wethersfield, Connecticut

by Judith A. Bowen, CSG # 16113

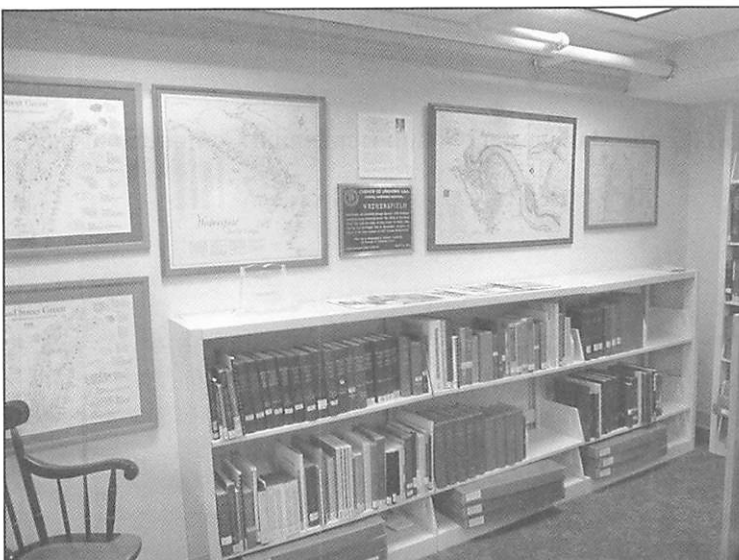
For anyone who has ancestors who lived, worked, settled or died in Wethersfield, there are three locations in the town which have both primary and secondary genealogical sources. First is the Wethersfield Town Clerk's office located in the Town Hall at 505 Silas Deane Highway; the entrance is at the rear of the building through the parking lot off Church Street. The office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday except in the summer when the office closes on Friday at 1 p.m. The town clerk is Dolores Sassano.

The primary function of the town clerk's office is taking care of current business which means that staff persons may not be immediately available to help researchers. Patience is always helpful. All the records are housed in the vault. There are a few rules for researchers that include "pencils only in the vault," \$20 payment for a certified birth, death or marriage record and \$20 if you take a picture with your camera. Copies of land records cost a dollar a page using a self-service copier. The town clerk's staff is unable to fulfill telephone or mail requests for copies of vital records. Staff member Sue Schroeder advises that researchers who live out of town or out of state hire a professional genealogist or, before their visit, that they join one of the genealogical or historical societies that provide a researcher's blue card. Access to vital records requires both a "blue card" and valid identification such as a current driver's license.

The primary sources in the town clerk's vault include land records and the related grantor and grantee indexes. These cover the years from 1640 to the present day. Vital records range from 1634 to 1868 and 1869 to 1998. These may be looked at and notes may be taken but they are not available for photocopying. Also housed in the vault are several large bound books or ledgers for Wethersfield burial records, especially for the First School Society. Another interesting resource are books containing records of trade names



Records at the Wethersfield Town Hall



Inside Wethersfield Library

for the town of Wethersfield. These identify the name of a business, the name(s) of the proprietor or owner and related dates; some date from 1954 to 1996. In the vault there is an abundance of maps of Wethersfield, usually showing sections of the town.

Second is the Wethersfield Public Library, located next to the Town Hall and Town Clerk's office; the library is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday; from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; and September through June Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The library is closed for holidays and on Sundays in the months of July and August.



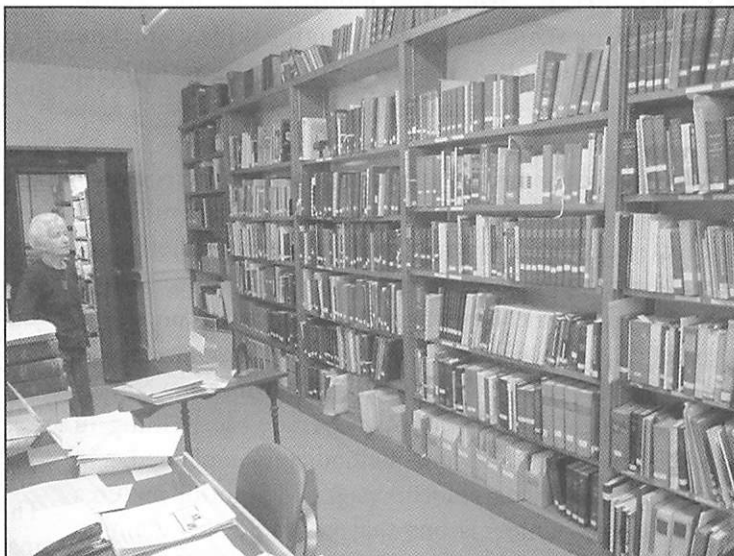
The Wethersfield History Room in the library contains a number of special resources, including Wethersfield High School yearbooks, Hartford and Suburban Hartford City Directories from 1960 through 1979 as well as area telephone books from 1983 through 2015, and two local newspapers, *The Wethersfield Post* (1977-current) and *Wethersfield Life* (1995-2014). Also located in the History Room are published books such as Stiles' *History of Ancient Wethersfield*, Burpee's *History of Hartford County*, *Connecticut Men in the Revolution* and *Connecticut Men in the Rebellion*, the *Diary of Gideon Welles* in three volumes, the *Correspondence of Samuel B. Webb* and Clark's *Silas Deane*. On the shelves are published genealogies for the Deming, Treat, Griswold, Boardman, Foote and Willard families, to name a few.



**Wethersfield Historical Society**

There are three-ring binders with information on Wethersfield's history and architecture. Of special note: the Wethersfield Library subscribes to Ancestry.com's library edition; anyone can access it on the library's computers with or without a Wethersfield Library card. Also, according to Director Brook Berry, the Wethersfield High School has received a grant to digitize its yearbooks which will lead in the future to the library's having an on-line link to them. Other resources at the library include several maps of Wethersfield, Barnes' *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*, six volumes of *Harvard Graduates* from 1642 to 1721, and bound *Connecticut State Records*.

organization. The Historical Society is located at 150 Main Street in Old Wethersfield in the "Old Academy" building; there are parking and handicap access at the rear of the building. The Society's website is [www.wethersfieldhistory.org](http://www.wethersfieldhistory.org). As you enter the building, the Society's offices are on the right and the research library is on the left. Published hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. A special volunteer, Martha Smart, a retired research librarian at the Connecticut Historical Society, is available by appointment most weekday mornings to guide researchers to the enormous number of primary sources in the Society's collection. According to Mrs. Smart, if you have Wethersfield ancestors, you are very likely to find information about them in the Society's research library.



Third is the Wethersfield Historical Society which, unlike the taxpayer-funded town clerk's office and public library, is a private non-profit

organization. Here are many published genealogies, standard resources such as Stiles' *History of Ancient Wethersfield*, maps for purchase as well as general works on Connecticut history, and early Connecticut Probate Records. Other resources include file folders of general information on Wethersfield architecture, agriculture, business, biographies and history; a separate cabinet holds folders containing genealogical manuscripts and family association material.

In the manuscript vault there is an extensive collection of primary material including 18<sup>th</sup> century logbooks as well as a collection of 18th century maritime papers which extend into the 19th century. The Society's reading room also boasts a substantial collection of account books from 1700 through the 19th century, including the account books of Samuel Galpin, stone carver, who carved many gravestones in the old cemetery behind First Church.

At the Wethersfield Historical Society, there is also an extensive collection of Wethersfield town records, original journals of ministers with birth, death and marriages recorded that may not be included in the well-known Barbour collection as well as a variety of other manuscripts. Also in the Society's collection are numerous photographs of people, buildings, landmarks and events from Wethersfield's history.

At this time there is no on-line catalog although a card catalog of the Society's holdings is in the process of correction and updating. The Society is staffed with people who are happy to guide patrons to research material including Director Amy Northrop Wittorff. Although Martha Smart, a volunteer with in-depth knowledge of the Society's collections, typically is available in the mornings, arrangements can be made for a different time by calling ahead at 860-529-7656, especially if a researcher wishes particular help. Although resources and assistance are provided free of charge, donations to support the Society are much appreciated.

## ***Book Reviews***

*by Russell A. DeGrafft*

*CSG # 19174*

***Guide to Genealogy***, by T. J. Rester, published by National Geographic Kids, (Reinforced library binding), Washington, D.C., 6 1/4 x 9 1/4, 2018, hardcover, ISBN: 978-1-4263-2984-5, 160 pages. Order directly from the publisher at the above address, or from the Email at [natgeokids.com](http://natgeokids.com). The cost of the book is determined by the publisher, plus shipping and handling.

When I see a book on my desk published by National Geographic, I know it will be worth a careful look. Most genealogists wonder who will carry on their work and hope a younger generation will find it fascinating and take on the challenge. This book is one that a parent, a grandparent, or even a school librarian will find exciting and a worthwhile gift for that newcomer. Everything from "Tools of the Trade" to "Filling in the Blanks" is clearly and methodically explained, and the book, with its colorful pages, delightful pictures and use of humor, is one that will hold the attention of any new researcher. From cleverly constructed table of contents, to a valuable index, to projects that a youngster will want to complete, this book is a treasure trove of interesting thoughts and ideas. This is a book that any genealogist will want to share with a newly-christened genealogist.

***Strange, Amazing and Funny Events that Happened during the Revolutionary War***, by Jack Darrell Crowder, published for Clearfield by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, Maryland. Order directly from the publishing company or by Email at: [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com), 8 1/2 x 11, softcover, ISBN: 9780806358833, 145 pages. The cost of the book is determined by the publisher plus shipping and handling.

This easy-to-read and easy-to-use book was simply designed for the classroom or library. It is a great collection of stories and antidotes that can be used to "spice up" a classroom's curriculum. The author, Mr. Crowder, should be recognized for making history "live." An easy to follow table of contents, begins the simple and exciting pathway followed by the book and concludes with that all important bibliography of publications and Government Records and index. The photographs, which are scattered throughout the material, are an eye catching addition. Any history teacher will want a copy of this book in their personal collection.

***Memories of Me; A Complete Guide to Telling And Sharing The Stories of Your Life*, by Laura Hedgecock, published by Plain Sight Publishing; an imprint of Cedar Fork, Inc, 2373 West 700 Street, Springfield, Utah, 84663, 6 x 9, softcover, ISBN: 13:978-1-4621-1453-6, 235 pages. The cost of the book is determined by the publisher plus shipping and handling and may be ordered at the above location.**

Quoting the author, "Creating a legacy sounds hard, but you are probably already doing it." The hardest part of telling and sharing your story is getting stated. We are all authors of some expertise, so let's get going. Writing that book of our traveling generations can be exciting and a valuable asset for future generations. The author gives us an all-encompassing guide of "how to do it." Thank you, Ms. Hedgecock. The contents page is rich with information and provides a new author the security of recognizing a pathway to follow. Pictures and simple illustrations provide those necessary hints we may have forgotten to consider. The conclusion of the book, with its list of simple resources, gives us pause to stop and think, "When should I stop?" A simple and well-done document.

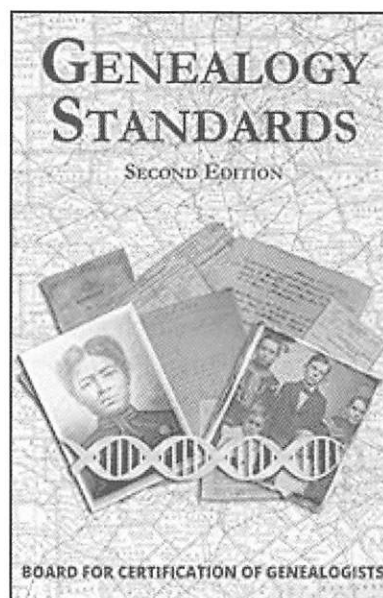
***Guide To Genealogical Writing, How to Write and Publish Your Family History*, by Penelope L. Stratton and Henry B. Hoff, C. FASG, published by New England Historic Genealogy Society, Boston, Massachusetts, AmericanAncestors.org, 7 x 10, 2014, soft cover, ISBN: 13:978-0-88082-312-8, Library of Congress Control Number: 2014945481, 193 pages. Cost of the book to be determined by the publisher plus the shipping and handling.**

Interested in writing and sharing your research? This book is a must. This is a book that has become personal to me as I have been using it for several years, beginning when I had the opportunity to meet the co-author and ask her several questions about my own genealogical writing. It is a guide for the family author, and I have found it valuable time and time again in my own writing endeavors. This thoroughly organized book is an excellent resource for anyone writing their family history. Beginning with an all-encompassing table of contents and ending with a easy to follow index, this book boasts about its simplicity and concrete style, for any author of any experience through the use of examples from past publications, the authors show you

how to write your family history. The many charts and visual examples give the genealogist the security of knowing if their direction is being correctly followed. You will want this book for you own.

***Genealogy Standards*, second ed., by Board for Certifications of Genealogists, or <https://www.BCGcertification.org>, published by Ancestry.com, an imprint of Turner Publishing Company, 4507 Charlotte Avenue, Suite 100, Nashville, Tennessee, 37209, or 445 Park Avenue, 5th floor New York, New York, 10022, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 2019, soft cover, ISBN: 978-1-684-42352-1. Order directly from the above publisher's address or Email address, [www.turnerpublishing.com](http://www.turnerpublishing.com). The cost of the book to be determined by the publisher plus shipping and handling.**

To quote the authors of this book, "Accuracy is fundamental to genealogical research. Without it, a family's history would be fiction." This small book is essential for any genealogical researcher, and as new developments and technology emerge and the practice of genealogy keeps evolving. Any serious researcher will want this book on a closely available shelf of their library or desk. The materials in this book were approved by the board of trustees at their annual meeting on 21 October 2018, and reflect their seven new standards. From its encompassing table of contents to its concluding listing of sources and resources, it is a book I want by my side.





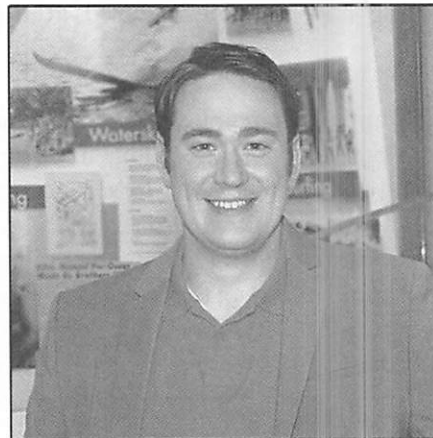
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**Pauline Merrick**

**Speaking on  
“Sources Around the House”**

Pauline Merrick holds a BSBA in Accounting. She has worked in the business world for the last 25+ years. At the same time, she has been studying methods of genealogy; attending classes and seminars, enjoying genealogical conferences, and learning through hours and hours of research in libraries and archives. She started taking clients in 2014. She has submitted articles to journals and published a full genealogical work in 2015. Her experience lies mainly in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York research, and making the most of online resources. Interpretation and correlation of records is key to proving a family line, a skill she has much experience in. DNA for genealogy has fascinated her for several years, and she has planned DNA research and assisted others in interpreting their results. For information about her book or samples of her work go to her website at <https://bmdbeyondne.com>.



**D. Joshua Taylor**

**Speaking on  
“Mapping Your Sources, Employ-  
ing Maps for Genealogical Research”  
and “Evaluating and Documenting  
Online Sources”**

For more than 20 years, Joshua has been discovering – and sharing – the incredible connections that can be made through genealogy and family history. As host of the popular series Genealogy Roadshow (PBS) he crisscrosses the United States – solving longstanding family history mysteries and uncovering genealogical treasures at every turn. Since February 2016, Joshua has been the President of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society (NYG&B), America’s second oldest genealogical organization, headquartered in New York City.

An avid genealogist, Joshua has traced his own roots from Boston, Massachusetts to Bombay, India (and nearly everywhere in-between). He is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and is past President of the Federation

of Genealogical Societies, an organization dedicated to supporting the needs of genealogical organizations throughout the United States.

A popular speaker and author, Joshua frequently shares insights relating to family history and genealogy with audiences throughout the world. He believes family history and genealogy should be about more than just names, dates, and documents, but should instead tell the stories of our ancestors and the extraordinary lives they led.



### **Maureen Taylor, the “Photo Detective”**

#### **“Eight Steps to Preserving Family Photographs”**

Maureen Taylor is a frequent keynote speaker on photo identification, photograph preservation, and family history at historical and genealogical societies, museums, conferences, libraries, and other organizations across the U.S., London and Canada. She’s the author of several books and hundreds of articles and her television appearances include *The View* and *The Today Show* (where she researched and presented a complete family tree for host Meredith Vieira). She’s been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *The Boston Globe*, *Martha Stewart Living*,

Germany’s top newspaper *Der Spiegel*, *American Spirit*, and *The New York Times*. Maureen was recently a spokesperson and photograph expert for MyHeritage.com, an internationally known family history website and also writes guidebooks, scholarly articles and online columns for such media as Smithsonian.com.

Currently a contributing editor of *Family Tree Magazine*, Maureen also writes personal memoirs and narrative family histories for the Newbury St. Press of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

### **Connecticut Families in the 1790 Census**

Several of the New England states have published volumes on families listed in the 1790 census. Maine has ten volumes so far. Massachusetts will gain a fourth volume later this year. New Hampshire and Vermont each have one. Now we’d doing the same for Connecticut, not in books but as articles in the *Nutmegger*. Our family sketches could help researchers link their western families with their New England roots.

We hope that members of CSG will think about their ancestors who were living in Connecticut in 1790, identify a few, and compile sketches of one – or more.

For more information about the project and a sample of what a family sketch should look like, see *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, Volume 51, Number 2 (November 2018).

**CSG OFFERS MANY PROGRAMS ON A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT GENEALOGICAL TOPICS.**

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**DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR SPEAKER OR TOPIC THAT YOU WOULD LIKE US TO PRESENT?**

**WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS**

Contact the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) with your ideas.



## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE AN AUTHOR?**

We are always open to new authors of articles on news and information of interest to the genealogical community. Earn \$50 for

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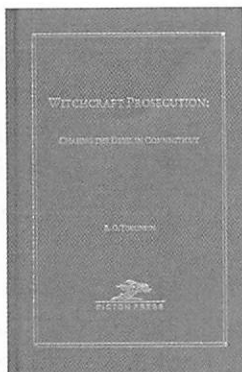
Editor, Connecticut Genealogy News  
P.O. Box 435  
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Or by e-mail

[csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org)

We are also pleased to receive:

- \* your suggestions for possible authors and topics.
- \* letters to the editor
- \* news items
- \* queries - CSG members may submit up to three queries per issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*.



### **Witchcraft Prosecution: Chasing the Devil in Connecticut**

by Richard G. Tomlinson

This definitive history of witchcraft prosecution in Connecticut in the 17th and 18th century covers every known case of formal accusation or suspicion of witchcraft. This includes over forty cases. An "every name" index includes nearly 1,000 entries. There are thirteen illustrations and 406 footnotes. The appendices contain a table of the accused, annotated descriptions of the original court documents in the Wyllys Papers collection and historical profiles of key persons. Hardcover, 6 x 9, 224 pp., illustrated, Picton Press.

\$33 plus \$5 S&H (CT residents please add 6.35% sales tax). Please make check payable and mail to: CSG, Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

## **CONNECTICUT GENEALOGY NEWS**

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# Connecticut Society of Genealogists Annual Family History Seminar

Saturday, October 19, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450

- 8:00: Registration Begins; Vendor/Exhibitor Room open; 2019 Literary Award winners and entries on display; light Continental breakfast
- 8:45: Welcoming and Opening Remarks
- 9:00-10:00: *"Sources around the House,"* Pauline Merrick
- 10:00-10:30: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- 10:30-11:30: *"Mapping Your Sources,"* D. Joshua Taylor
- 11:30-Noon: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- Noon-1:00: Luncheon
- 1:00-1:15: Break - Visit the exhibitors
- 1:15-1:45: Presentation of CSG's 2019 Literary Awards
- 1:45-2:45: *"Evaluating and Documenting Online Sources,"* D. Joshua Taylor
- 2:45-3:00: Break -- Visit the exhibitors
- 3:00-4:00 *"Eight Steps to Preserving Family Photographs,"* Maureen Taylor

Register before September 30: \$49.00.

Registrations postmarked after September 30: \$59.00.

Deadline to Register: October 11, 2019.

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# Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Winter 2019-2020 Vol. 12 No. 4



## *In This Issue...*

*2019 Literary Award  
Winners*

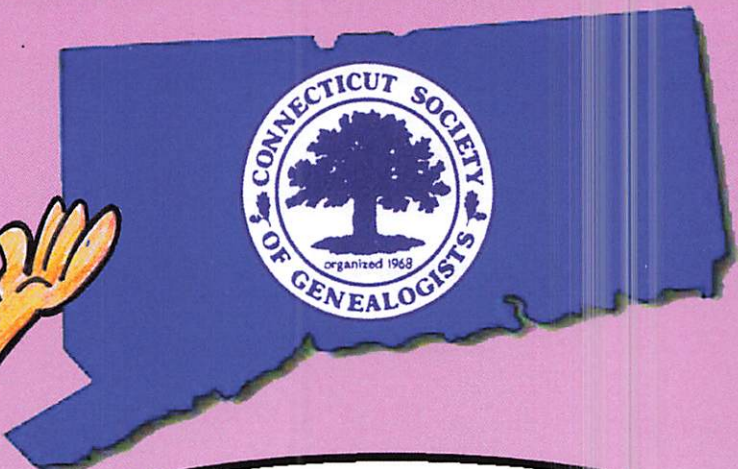
*Winning 2019 "Tell  
Your Family Story"  
Essay*

*Spotlight on the  
Connecticut  
Town of Windsor*

*Genealogy and the  
Interview*

*Plus  
Much  
More...*



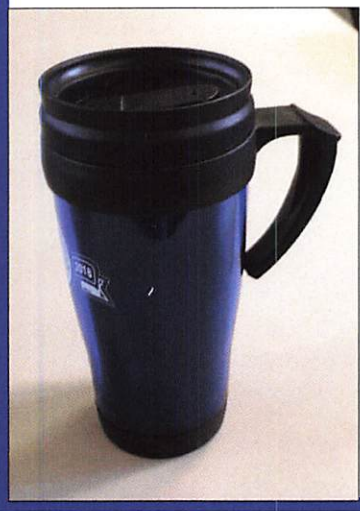
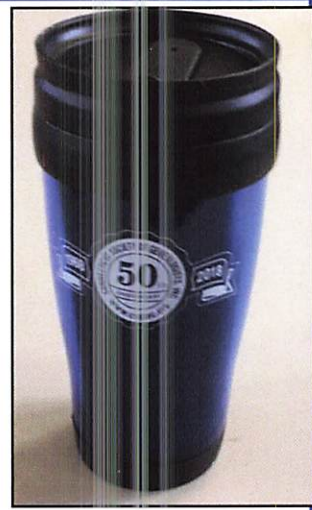


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Justin Piccirillo

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*A Quarterly Publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.*

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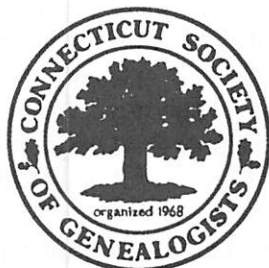
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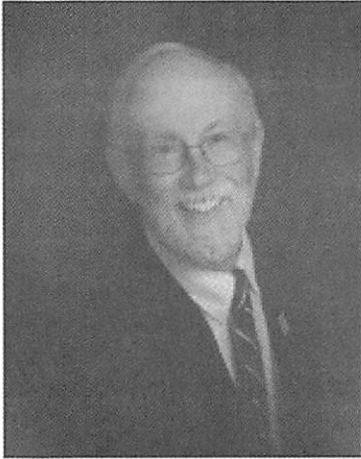
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## President's Message



On January 1, 1960 I wrote in my brand-new diary, "Midnight. The '50s are all over and the '60s are here. To the Diary: You probably won't get too much business from me - don't feel too badly. You aren't a strict account of weather, important events, etc. Instead you

might be treated as a reference - a source of thoughts, some common incidents, - a brief summary of some events of the year. Perhaps someday you may be the reference for the making of a novel...."

Unfortunately, my diary entries for that year became more infrequent after March 5 and ended by May 2, and my grand plans at age 15 to write a novel have never materialized. However, stumbling across that diary recently reminded me of what a valuable source of information journals and diaries can be for future generations, as they can provide stories about ancestors from a very personal perspective. For example, my great-great uncle Lemuel Roberts' reputation as a real "horse trader" is illustrated by the following extracts from his 1879 diary:

Dec. 24 - "I went to Granby Swaped horses with Loren Danaels got a watch to boot...."

Dec. 25 - "Christmas . . . took Jennie & the Children to a ride"

Dec. 26 - "I went to Springfield with Bills horse & my new one they drove nicely got home at 7 o clock"

Dec. 21- "Asa & Fred came to look at my horse"

Dec. 29 - "I put up 16 bbls Apples. Showed my horse to Asa."

Dec. 31 - "it Snowes. Am at home in the forenoon put up 8 bbs Apples. Asa came we traded horses. I got \$60.00 to boot"

Other entries in Lemuel's diary offer a sometimes-strange juxtaposition of strong family ties with the realities of country life in the late 1800s: "We all went

over to Mariah's to celebrate Mothers Birthday by a Picnic. My Sow had 9 pigs."

My Grandmother Roberts was also a dedicated diarist, and diaries covering most of her adult life have been passed down to me. Her diary entry for December 7, 1941 includes, "While sitting visiting we heard the awful news of the Japanese attack on Hawaii. So dreadful! We are all so heavy hearted. God help that my boys won't have to go!"

While some old diaries and journals are still in the possession of family members, research repositories now hold others. The diary of Leland O. Barlow of Granby, a member of the 16th Connecticut Volunteer Regiment, is now in the State Archives at the Connecticut State Library. Early in the morning of May 30, 1864, enlisted men of the 27th Massachusetts, who had been captured at the Battle of Drury's Bluff, reached Andersonville Prison and were formed in line near the north gate. That day Leland Barlow, who was already a prisoner of war at Andersonville, wrote in his diary, "Pleasant and very warm. Prisoners arrived from the 6, 7, 8, 11 & 21 Conn vols and the 27 Mass. Meal dumplings for supper. Shower at night. From 70 to 110 die daily." On Tuesday, June 7 Barlow wrote, "Warm. Prisoners come in. Cooley & Roberts 27th Mass. Regt." Two days later he wrote, "I anticipate the happiest day of my life will be when I get out of this prison." Locating that diary entry, with its reference to my great grandfather's arrival at Andersonville, was a thrilling experience.

Sadly, Leland Barlow never got out of Andersonville Prison. He died there on October 9, 1864. But by pure chance, one day I was visiting my great grandfather's grave in Silver Street Cemetery, Granville, Massachusetts. Turning around, another American flag caught my eye, and looking up at the stone I realized that the soldiers who had been briefly reunited at Andersonville are now buried diagonally across from each other!

This issue features a spotlight article on Windsor, Connecticut. Many with Windsor, Connecticut connections are familiar with Mathew Grant's "Diary" (more correctly a notebook), which he began shortly after arriving in Windsor. The original "Diary", housed in the State Archives at the Connecticut State Library, includes notes on sermons by the Reverends Warham, Huit, Hooker, Stone, and Moxon; extracts from various



religious books; and surveying instructions. But there are several other early diaries, journals, and account books that provide information on life in early Windsor. Oliver Filley's account book, kept while he lived in Windsor and Torrington and covering the period 1784 to 1790, provides clues to his work as sawmill operator and carpenter. For example, he spent one day framing Guy Wolcott's barn in 1785, sawed 150 feet of boards for Matthew Grant, Jr. in 1788, and spent a third of a day drawing logs for Epaphras Sheldon in 1789. And Albert Morrison's "Day Book" provides insights into life in Windsor during the 1850s. On January 19<sup>th</sup> 1857 he wrote, "A terrible Snow Storm Wind blew all night drifting the snow in a manner I never saw before & this Evening it snows as fast as ever." His entry for January 24, 1857 reads, "The coldest day on record in Windsor. Mr. Mack's thermometer at 6 ½ o. clock A.M. 32 below 0 – at P. Ellsworth 29 below 0 at 7 A.M. Thos Elliott 30 below at ½ past 7 A.M. Mr. S. O. Loomis 30 below at ½ past 7 A.M." Old journals such as these certainly hold treasures for family historians.

Yet it is ironic that we family historians, who dedicate much of our time trying to glean information about our forebears, find little time in our hectic schedules to keep journals or diaries of our own. It seems fitting, therefore, in this season of new beginnings to resolve again to record some thoughts and common events. Possible projects include writing brief essays on life experiences (covering topics such as childhood, education, career, hobbies and interests, etc.) or recording stories and traditions about your family's

vacations, holiday celebrations, reunions, and special places.

As an example, prior to her death my mother-in-law worked her way through fifty years of photos, organizing them by family, and, with assistance, recorded information about who was in the picture and approximately when it was taken. She asked us to help her use her recollections of what was happening in the photos to create brief stories of those special moments to pass on to her grandchildren on special occasions. One of those stories on her childhood years growing up in a house in Somerville, Massachusetts: "My first recollection of that house was going to Boston by train from Worcester on Thanksgiving Day. While my mother would go by subway to Somerville to help with dinner preparations, Dad would take Glenn, Bill and me to watch the Jordan Marsh Santa parade with huge balloon characters, floats and crowds." For suggestions on conducting interviews, see Justin Piccirillo's article on page 27.

No matter what type of project you may choose, resolve to write. Recording "current history" may not only prove to be a rewarding pastime unto itself (and a break from entering the names and dates of ancestors), but can become the basis of a treasure for future generations of your family or a submission to one of CSG's publications or to our annual Literary Awards Contest. Or, you might even have the basis for writing a novel!

~ *Richard C. Roberts, President*

## Editorial

In this issue we are featuring The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2019 Literary Award winners. We have presented, in its entirety, the winning essay. Normally, we also feature reviews of all the Literary Award entries, but due to space available, those should be featured in the March 2020 issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*. Congratulations to all the winners, and we wish them the best of luck in their continued research.

Thank you to Richard C. Roberts, CSG President, who has shined our "spotlight" on the Connecticut Town of Windsor in this issue.

To date, we have shined our spotlight on the towns of: Bolton, Branford, Burlington, Colchester, Deep River,

East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, East Lyme, East Windsor, Essex, Glastonbury, Greenwich, Hamden, Hebron, Killingly, Ledyard, Lyme, Manchester, Marlborough, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, New London, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Plymouth, Roxbury, Salem, Voluntown, Waterford, Wethersfield, Washington and Windsor. Thank you again to all the many authors who have contributed to this project.

If your town has not yet been done, please consider writing a Spotlight article. We can help.

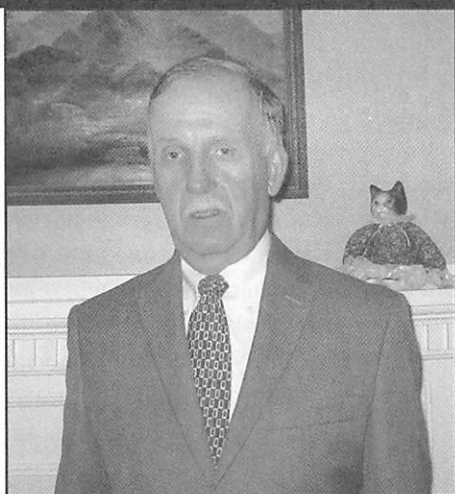
From those of us here at *Connecticut Genealogy News*, we would like to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

~ *Stephanie Hyland, Editor*

**Winner of the 2019 Literary Awards Contest  
Genealogy Category**

***Ancestors, Descendants and Related Families of:  
Jacob Smith, Sr. (1773-1834) and His Wife  
Margaret Smith (1777-1850)  
of Pennsylvania and  
New Jersey***

**By Albert E. Fiacre, Jr.**

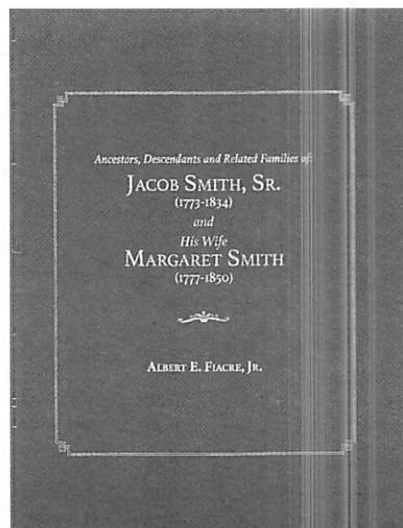


A native of New Jersey, I have lived in Connecticut since 1978 when I moved here from New York City to change jobs. My professional background is in banking and finance where I worked for 25 years until 1998. I worked in three different banks during that time period, including Society for Savings in Hartford and Dime Savings Bank of Wallingford. At both institutions, I served as the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Since 1998, I have pursued financial interests on a private basis while at the same time developing my interest in genealogical research which had begun several years prior. In 2002, I discovered the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown which began my affiliation there. During the intervening years, I have served as a volunteer, Director of the Family History Center, Board of Trustees member and most recently as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

In 2017, after 15 years of research, I published a book on my maternal grandmother's family which was the winner of the National Genealogical Society's 2018 annual competition for Best Genealogy and Family History and is now the winner of the 2019 Literary Awards Contest in the Genealogy Category of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. My genealogical specialties include lineage applications, early New England research and Pennsylvania German research. I am a 2016 graduate of Boston University's Certificate in Genealogical Research program.

My undergraduate degree is from Middlebury College in 1972, and I received a MBA degree from New York University in 1974. I have resided in West Hartford since 1982.



# Winner of the 2019 Literary Awards Contest Resource Publication Category

## *Images of America: Clinton*

By Peggy Adler

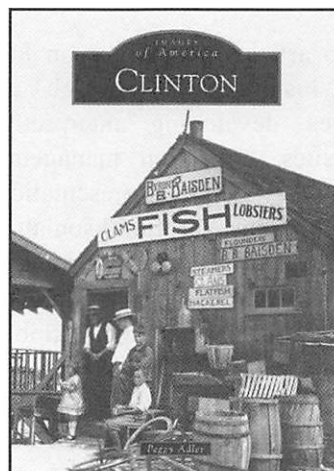


Previous to her 2019 pictorial history titled, *Images of America CLINTON*, Peggy Adler authored five titles for New York City publishers, illustrated two dozen and provided art for the Bronx Zoo; the Humane Society of the United States; Little, Brown & Company; *The Journal of Theoretical Biology*; *The Journal of Algebra*; the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics; and World Scientific Publishing. Additionally, she coordinated the 1969 world premiere of "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" for 20th Century Fox; worked as a consultant for the U.S. House of Representatives' "October Surprise Task Force," where according to their Deputy Majority Counsel, Michael Zeldin, her work "met and exceeded every expectation;" and organized and hosted the 2015 Edgar Rice Burroughs Bibliophile Convention (aka Dum Dum), which ran for four days in Clinton, Connecticut and was attended by members of Burroughs' family, along with authors and illustrators of Burroughs-related books and almost 100 bibliophiles, who came from all over North America to celebrate his genius.

An active member of every community in which she has lived, Ms. Adler spent eight years as a Police Commissioner in the Shoreline Town of Clinton, Connecticut. There, she has also served on the Design Review Board (2000-2007); Historic District

Commission (2001-2006; 2017- present); and Charter Revision Commission (1997-98 & 2003-04). For Clinton's Department of Parks & Recreation she coached 1st, 2nd & 3rd grade girls softball (2008-2014) and for seven years did the publicity for the Clinton Rotary's annual Cancer Relief Fund Drive Walk-a-thon. Previously Ms. Adler served on the Board of The Arts Council of Greater New Haven; Planned Parenthood of Greater New Haven; Shoreline Youth Theater and the Madison Arts and Science Council. Additionally, for eight years, Ms. Adler was the program coordinator for the New England Chapter of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, where she simultaneously served on their Board of Directors and was its Board's Chairman for three years.

In the fall of 2017, Ms Adler was presented with Marquis Who's Who's Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. Her previous honors include the 2001 General Richard G. Stilwell Chairman's Award, bestowed upon her in Washington D.C. by the Association of Former Intelligence Officers (National) for her work with the New England Chapter; and the Duck Island Yacht Club's 1998 Corinthian Award.

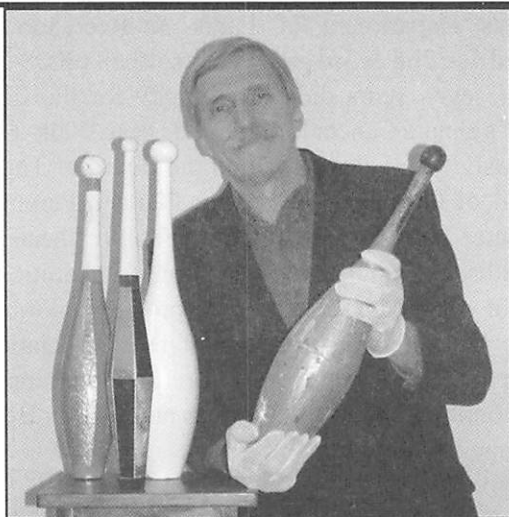




**Honorable Mention in the 2019 Literary Awards  
“Brainerd T. Peck” Family History Category**

***Chauncey Richard & ‘The Old Buckbee’  
The story of a banjo, its maker, and its player***

**By Reginald W. Bacon**



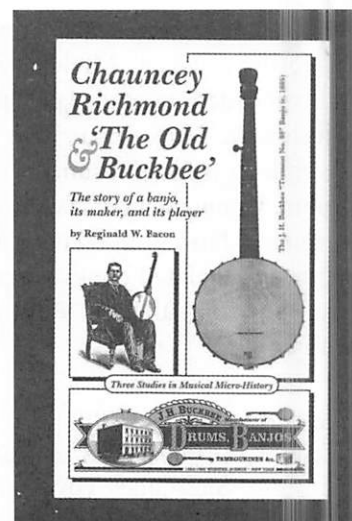
Reginald W. Bacon is a museum and history professional with specialties in 17th-and 18th-century New England architecture and domestic life --- and early 20th-century music, vaudeville, and circus. His first career as a journalist, editor, and publication designer informs his current museum work. His 35-year career as an acrobatic juggler/unicyclist, comedy tap dancer, and jazz/ragtime musician informs his performing arts research.

In addition to articles and books on local, regional, and topical history, his research and museum work includes developing interpretive materials for historic sites, collection management projects; professional conference presentations; private research consultations, the Smithsonian and National Endowment for the Humanities seminar on the future of the American circus; and an illustrated lecture presentation, performance, and exhibition on the theatrical, economic, and cultural history of American vaudeville. As such he has been unable to “avoid the draft,” and thus currently serves on the board of several history and preservation organizations.

In the genealogy world, for 15 years R.W. Bacon was the editor of *The Middler* for the Society of Middletown (Conn.) First Settlers Descendants. His book, *Early Families of Middletown, Conn. - 1650-1654*, received the Brainerd T. Peck Award from the Connecticut Society of Genealogists in 2013.

A graduate of Syracuse University (journalism/sociology) and Harvard (museum studies), he is the author of a dozen books on under-the-radar history, architecture, performing arts, music, and editorial/graphics topics. Projects still in the works include *The Curator’s Guide to American Vaudeville 1880-1930*, and continuing a series of books on acrobatic juggling history, technique, and training.

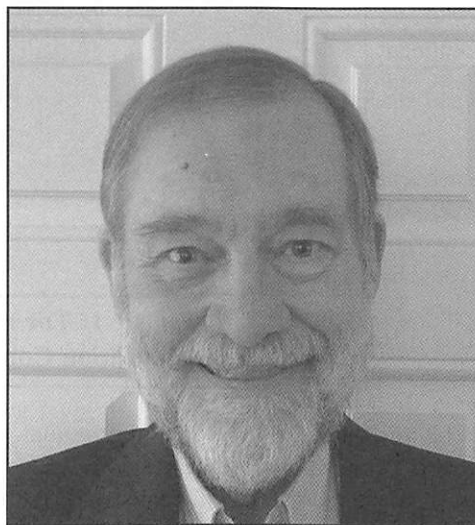
Reg Bacon and his wife L. J. Newton live in Newburyport, Massachusetts, a small city north of Boston where the Merrimack River meets the Atlantic Ocean.



**Winner of the 2019 Literary Awards Contest  
“Tell Your Family Story” Essay Contest**

**“Judicial Appointments, Politics and Family in  
Early 19th Century Connecticut:  
The Case of David Bolles (1765-1850) of Ashford”**

**By Peter Bolles Hirtle**



Peter Hirtle is an Alumni Fellow of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University, from which he recently retired. Prior to 2015, he served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Cornell University Library with a special mandate to address intellectual property issues.

While at Cornell, Hirtle also served as Director of the Cornell Institute for Digital Collections and as the Associate Editor of *D-Lib Magazine*. He is an archivist by training, with an MA in History from Johns Hopkins and an MLS with a concentration in archival science from the University of Maryland.

Hirtle is a Fellow and Past President of the Society of American Archivists and is a member of its Working Group on Intellectual Property. He has participated in numerous projects involving the

interaction of technology and archives, including the Commission on Preservation and Access/ Research Library Group’s Task Force on Digital Archiving and the Copyright Office’s Section 108 Study Group.

He has been a contributing author to the LibraryLaw.com blog, and is the lead author of *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for Digitization for U.S. Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. This is his first foray into published family history.

**Editor’s Note:** The complete essay may be found on pages 8-12 and 28 of this issue.

## Judicial Appointments, Politics, and Family in Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Connecticut: The Case of David Bolles (1765-1830) of Ashford, Connecticut

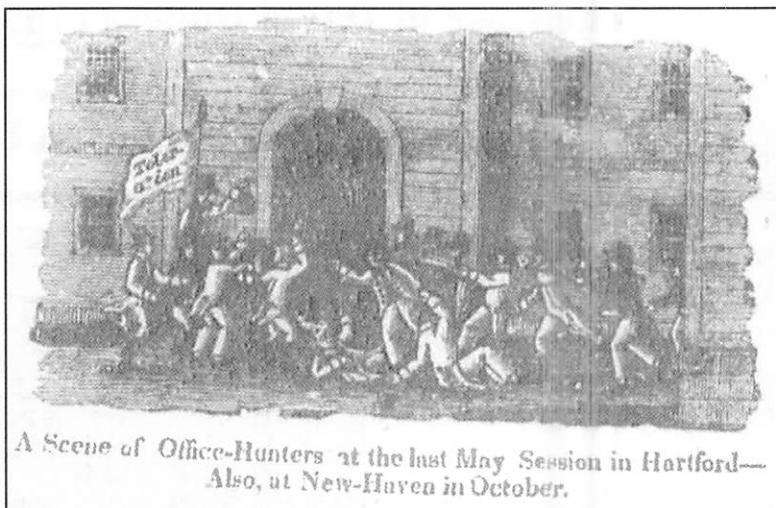
by Peter Bolles Hirtle

Fake news. *Ad hominem* attacks. Allegations of nepotism and political corruption. Inappropriate emoluments. Tribal party politics. It sounds like a story from 2018 or 2019, but in fact the events at issue took place two centuries earlier. The controversies centered around the appointment of my third great-grandfather, David Bolles, Jr. (1765-1830), as a Justice of the *quorum* in Windham County, Connecticut in 1817, his subsequent appointment as Judge of the County Court, and the appointment of his son, David C. Bolles (1793-1840), as Clerk of the County Court.

Born in Ashford (now Eastford), Connecticut in 1765, Bolles was a farmer, local lawyer, and, like his father, David Bolles, Sr. (1743-1807), a sometimes tanner. His early years were marked by his family's deep Baptist faith. David Bolles, Sr. late in life became a Baptist minister. David Bolles, Jr.'s three brothers who reached adulthood all became Baptist ministers. While not a minister himself, David Bolles, Jr. was closely connected to the church. Perhaps his most notable contribution was his involvement with what was known as the Baptist Petition, an effort from 1802 to 1807 to end the privileged position held by the Congregational Church as the state-supported religion of Connecticut.<sup>[1]</sup>

Though initially unsuccessful, the spirit behind the petition movement helped give rise a decade later to the creation of the Toleration Party in Connecticut. It was a conglomeration of anti-Federalists, Jeffersonian Republicans, and Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, Quakers, and other dissenting denominations. David Bolles, Jr. threw himself into the work of this new party. Most notably, late in 1816 he ran (unsuccessfully) for the Connecticut Council of Assistants on the Toleration Ticket.<sup>[2]</sup> The dissenters were more successful in the state's lower House of Representatives, however, where by 1817 they outnumbered the Federalists.

To the chagrin and repeated complaints of the Federalists, the change in political fortunes also meant a change in political patronage. It became possible for Republicans to be appointed to government positions (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: The rush for offices, from the anti-Toleration Connecticut Mirror, 4 Jan. 1819.**

One of the annual appointments made by the General Assembly was judges for the county courts. Each county court consisted of a Chief Judge and four justices of the *quorum*.<sup>[3]</sup> The appointment process initially proceeded as had it had in the past, despite the Republican victory in the previous election. Lemuel Grosvenor, a Federalist, was nominated by the Federalist majority in Windham County and subsequently appointed by the House of Representatives on 14 May 1817 to serve as one of the justices in Windham County. The following day, however, some Republican members called for a reconsideration of the appointment. After vigorous debate, this passed 113 to 84. It was then proposed that Grosvenor's name be struck and a different name be substituted. The matter was taken up on Friday, 16 May 1817. After more debate, the motion passed 110 to 85. With the position now empty, the House approved the appointment of David Bolles without further debate.<sup>[4]</sup>

Several arguments were made opposing the appointment of Grosvenor. First, he was 65 years old. It was noted the justices by law had to retire at 70, and so he would not have sufficient time to learn what was needed in the job. This was especially important in Grosvenor's case because he was not educated as a lawyer.<sup>[5]</sup> He had been serving as a judge of probate in Windham County, but those opposed to him stated that the duties of a probate judge and those of a justice in a court of common pleas were sufficiently



different that the experience did not matter. Lastly, he was based in Pomfret, in which a justice of the *quorum* was resident. There were no justices in Ashford, Bolles's home.<sup>[6]</sup>

Bolles, on the other hand, was 50 years old, "in the prime of life." He was also a lawyer in full practice. He was therefore ready to assume the full duties as a justice of the *quorum*.<sup>[7]</sup>

The defenders of Grosvenor cited the fact that he had been nominated for the position by a majority of the representatives for Windham County. The county at the time had a slight Federalist bent, and so this was perhaps not surprising. Grosvenor's defenders stressed that the legislature should defer to the wishes of those who best knew the candidate.<sup>[8]</sup>

Lurking behind the arguments was the pull of partisan politics. At the close of the legislative session, an unnamed Federalist legislator, in a published letter to his constituents, decried what he saw as Republican efforts to seize control of the courts and other government offices. "Should," he argued, "this intolerant set of men gain possession of the government, you may rest assured the state of Connecticut will be converted into a political slaughter-house, where every federal man of talents and integrity will be sacrificed on the altar of democratic ambition, and lust for power."<sup>[9]</sup>

On a more positive note, the anti-Federalist *American Mercury* happily noted that

"The gentleman thus appointed by the popular branch of our legislature, a Justice of *Quorum*, is the first Republican member of the County Court who has been introduced into it since the election of Mr. JEFFERSON as President of the U States. It is hoped that it is the dawn of that *Toleration*, which extends "equal and exact justice to all men."<sup>[10]</sup>

Bolles's increased political activity, which began in 1816 with his nomination for election to the Connecticut legislature, continued even after his appointment as a justice. In October, 1817, he was nominated by the Toleration Party as a candidate for one of the seven at-large Congressional seats at stake in the September, 1818 election. Bolles came in eighth.<sup>[11]</sup>

1818 also saw Bolles become active again with a revitalized Baptist petition. According to the Federalist *Connecticut Journal*, Bolles presented the petition to both houses of the legislature "in a long and laboured argument."<sup>[12]</sup> The petition was referred to committee, and eventually became moot when its issues were addressed by the convention drafting a new constitution

later that year. Bolles did better on a personal basis with the legislature, however. During that same session, the new Republican majority in the House and Council of Assistants voted to reduce the number of judges in the county courts from five to three. In the process, they declined to reappoint the sitting Judge in Windham County, Jabez Clark, and appointed instead David Bolles to take his place, a position that he held for the next decade.

But ill-will surrounding Bolles's initial appointment and subsequent promotion apparently lingered. It came to the fore in December 1818, a scant eighteen months after his initial appointment as a justice of the *quorum* and six months after his promotion to Judge in the County Court. On 29 December 1818 the Federalist newspaper the *Connecticut Journal*, in a piece mocking the sensibilities of Republicans, noted a change in the organization of the Windham County Court:

At the close of the late session of the court of Common Pleas, for Windham County, the Presiding Judge, (David Bolles Esq. who last spring, crowded from his seat, the Hon. Judge Clarke,) with the assistance of one Justice of *Quorum*, dismissed from office, Samuel Gray Esq. late Clerk of the Court, and appointed in his stead, David C. Bolles, son of the Presiding Judge!! Mr. Gray is one of the most respectable gentlemen in Windham County, and had long discharged the duties of that Office, to universal satisfaction. But I love the People -- give me an office - ah! how pure such love is! a fine thing, to be a friend of the PEOPLE!<sup>[13]</sup>

This small notice was reprinted in other Federalist papers<sup>[14]</sup> and paraphrased in the *Connecticut Mirror*, which noticed the appointment of Judge Bolles's son and further developed the *Journal's* "love of the people" theme:

We suspect the advancement of this young and hopeful sprig of Toleration, over the heads of those democrats who have borne the heat and burden of the day, will not be relished over much by the "choice spirits" in that quarter. However, many of them have yet to learn that their professions of Love for the People, means nothing more less than Love of themselves.<sup>[15]</sup>

The sarcasm towards Judge Bolles's actions continued in the *Connecticut Mirror* on 11 January 1819. It asked if the Toleration Party may have ordered the dismissal of Samuel Gray, since "It is impossible that his Honor could have been so *selfish*, as to wish to remove a faithful and tried

officer, for the sole purpose of appointing his own son."<sup>16</sup> In a similar vein, the *Connecticut Courant* sarcastically remarked that, "It is really surprising to notice the censure bestowed upon Judge Bolles for appointing his son clerk. This was certainly to have been expected. The Judge has labored incessantly in the drudgery of democracy and has only had now and then a *bone to gnaw*, for his pains. Surely let his family have something *nourishing*."

One week after reprinting without comment the initial article from the *Connecticut Journal* that drew attention to the appointment of David C. Bolles as clerk, the Republican *American Mercury* published its own lengthy defense of Judge Bolles's actions. First, it criticized the nepotism that had controlled the office in the past, noting that the office of clerk had been held by the Gray family for more than a century. In addition, it noted that of the sixteen clerkships in the state, this was the only one where the Federalist had been removed and replaced by a Republican. It asserted that when the Federalists were in power, "every republican with but five or six exceptions was removed from office. And every species of persecution, in the power of men to invent, was heaped upon their heads, to stigmatize their characters and drive them from the state." In short, it would be simple justice if the Republicans assumed all the offices in the state now that they were in the majority.<sup>17</sup>

The *American Mercury* defended Judge Bolles's actions on political grounds; the next defense of the judge, in the New London *Republican Advocate*, spoke to the character of the individuals involved. In the process, it opened an ongoing debate with two Federalist papers, the *Connecticut Journal* and the *Connecticut Mirror*, over Judge Bolles's actions.

The *Republican Advocate's* defense began by noting that it felt it the paper's duty to answer the charges against Judge Bolles because he was "a native citizen of this town."<sup>18</sup> It suggested that Judge Bolles had long been a target of the Federalists:

When Judge Bolles came into office, every federalist in the county, stood with eyes, mouth and ears wide open, to find some accusation against him, but his administration of justice has been so far superior to that of his predecessor, that they were compelled to grin a kind of approbation, while those who had long been oppressed by a persecuting policy, rejoiced in the equal and impartial effect of his elevation.<sup>19</sup>

Judge Bolles's dismissal of Samuel Gray as clerk and the appointment of his own son in his stead, the paper

suggested, simply gave the Federalists a new area for their on-going criticism.

Like the *American Mercury*, the *Republican Advocate* noted the long hold that the Gray family had on the office. According to the paper, "Mr. Gray's grandfather, father and himself, have held the office of Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas for about NINETY years to the exclusion of everybody else." Furthermore, Gray's brother-in-law, Judge Clark (who Bolles replaced) had appointed Gray's son Tommy as Assistant Clerk; the assumption was that he was being positioned to assume his father's office and become the fourth generation to serve as Clerk. It noted that Bolles had first contemplated removing Gray at the end of the August term of the court, but that there was no viable candidate for the post after David C. Bolles utterly refused the position. By December, he had agreed to accept the position and was appointed in Samuel Gray's place.

According to the paper, Judge Bolles explained to the Windham County bar when it was asked by a "violent unfledged federalist" to investigate the dismissal, that "for considerable time past Mr. Gray had been a little extortionate, violating the law and his oath of office, in taking more fees for *copies* than the law would warrant." The article concludes by noting that:

Those who know Judge Bolles, will not ask any additional evidence of his disposition to promote the public interest, and his freedom from selfish motives, when they consider he has surrendered the profits of a profession, to discharge the duties of Judge without emolument.<sup>20</sup>

The *Connecticut Times*, in reprinting the *Republican Advocate* article, added that if Gray's supporters continued to raise the issue, it might obtain and publish from the public records the evidence that supported the assertion that Gray had taken exorbitant fees. It ends with a final sarcastic comment on the tradition that maintained government offices in families: "But aside from any malpractices, what a *grievance* it is that all offices should not be permanent and perpetual, and that the hereditary succession of father to son, should be interrupted."<sup>21</sup>

If the *Times* and the *Republican Advocate* had hoped that their defense of Judge Bolles would silence his critics, they were sadly mistaken. The *Connecticut Journal* immediately took note of the *Advocate's* article and its two assertions that only David C. Bolles could serve as Clerk and that the Judge's willingness to put aside his law practice in order to serve with salary as a judge was somehow commendable:

The last *Advocate*, a little Democratic paper, printed in New-London, undertakes to commend Judge Bolles for his modesty in appointing his son to the office of the Clerk of the County Court; and states, that this same Clerk, probably equally modest with the Judge, at the August term, utterly refused to accept the appointment; and “therefore the term passed without any alteration.” What a dilemma for Windham County! If Judge Bolles had not been blessed with a son David, and if that son had not been *over persuaded* to condescend to accept the appointment, the Hon. Court would have been compelled to retain the old Clerk, or do without any! Perhaps young Mr. Bolles will find it as convenient to refer to Mr. Gray for information, as his father has to consult the Hon. Mr. Goddard.<sup>[22]</sup> *Shame* on that mean and contemptible policy that elevates to office men unworthy of it. But Judge Bolles is not *selfish*, because “he has surrendered the profits of a profession, to discharge the duties of a Judge, without emolument.” Pray what were the *profits* of *his* profession? True, Judge Bolles, like all County Court Judges in Connecticut, holds his office without much emolument; and, like *some*, with no abundant share of honor.<sup>[23]</sup>

The *Connecticut Journal* followed this short critique with a much longer analysis the following week. In “More of Judge Bolles,” the paper continued its charges of nepotism and dishonorable conduct against Judge Bolles, while adding new accusations of improper personal behavior. It first suggested that Judge Bolles himself may have been the author of the article in the *Republican Advocate*. It then reported that it was Elisha B. Perkins, Esq. of Pomfret, “a young gentleman of irreproachable character and promising talents” (apparently not a “violent unfledged federalist” as the *Republican Advocate* had reported), who proposed that the Windham County bar express its high esteem for Gray and its displeasure with the way he had been dismissed. As for Judge Bolles’s accusation that Gray had charged exorbitant fees, the paper reported that “every individual of the bar was shocked.” “Is it not a little extraordinary,” it asked, “that no person had ever discovered the fraudulent habits of Mr. Gray *before*, but that the discovery should have been left to be made by Judge Bolles, just at the moment when his son David was in want of a snug little office?” Nor did the *Journal* accept the assertion that there was no one other than David C. Bolles who might be interested in the clerk’s job. “No man,” it wrote, “whoever stepped his foot on Windham green, (where the public records must be kept) can be ignorant that nearly half a dozen hungry expectants loiter around it, who would have caught with the avidity of a shark at so delicious a bait.” The *Journal* also rejected the *Republican Advocates’* position that Judge Bolles had stopped his legal practice. It suggests that Bolles prepared cases that were then presented before him by a friend, Philip Howard,<sup>[24]</sup> perhaps in the hope of appointment to the office of States’ Attorney.<sup>[25]</sup>

But perhaps the most serious charge raised by the *Journal* concerned an effort by the Judge to extort money:

Some six or seven years ago, Mr. Bolles attached a Mr. Barrows of Mansfield for debt. Mr. B. was a federalist; and when he called to pay his note, Mr. Bolles told him to give him such a sum, (naming two or three dollars more than the law allowed him) or he should not see his note. Mr. Barrows replied that he wished to pay the note, and also such fees as were proper. Said Mr. Bolles, pay me so much, or you shall not see the note. Mr. Barrows finally paid the demand, and then brought an action of *assumpsit* against the Judge, for the recovery of so much of the fees as were illegal. The action was tried before the late Justice Swift, and notwithstanding as it was an action of *assumpsit*, he could recover no more than the amount illegally taken from him, yet the circumstances of the case were so flagrant, that the court gave vindictive damages, and the plaintiff was allowed to recover *double* the amount illegally charged.<sup>[26]</sup>

A similar damning personal anecdote about Judge Bolles soon appeared in the *Connecticut Mirror* in another article attacking the defense that appeared in the *Republican Advocate*. According to the *Mirror*:

In the Summer of 1817, the Judge sold a quantity of flax-seed, for which he was to receive oil in payment. Mr. Bolles went for the oil himself, at a time when the gentleman who had purchased the flax-seed, was absent. One of his sons, a youth, attended upon Judge to put up the oil. When they came to measure the oil, the Judge informed the lad that as he did not know that the measure used by his father, had been sealed according to law, he had brought along a measure of his own, which had just been sealed, and he knew it to be correct; and insisted on measuring the oil he was to receive, in his own measure. The boy, anxious to have his father’s measure correct, compared it with that brought by the Judge, and found that it held considerably more than that belonging to “*his honor*.” On discovering this, the Judge forgot all about the *seal*, and positively declined having the oil put up with his own measure; nor could



the boy persuade him other than to have the oil measured in that belonging to his father. Now there was no "selfishness" here, gentlemen. Oh no. "Upright Judge!" Our informant adds: "Mr. Gray would not have done so."<sup>[27]</sup>

The *Republican Advocate* was not impressed by this attack on Judge Bolles's character, noting that the charge against Bolles was merely that he used the oil merchant's measure and not his own. It marveled that the editor of the *Mirror* could think this such a serious matter: "By jupiter what an anecdote. And Mr. Stone [the editor of the *Mirror*] strokes down his face and gravely says, 'the Judge dare not deny it!'.<sup>[28]</sup>

In March, both the *Connecticut Journal* and the *Connecticut Mirror* continued their attacks on Judge Bolles, and the *Republican Advocate* continued to come to his defense, but with little new to add to the charges of Republican patronage and personal dishonor. Apparently, the *Republican Advocate* asserted at some point that the *Connecticut Journal's* informant had "been led home drunk from a supper, to which the *Journal* responded, "we have only to say that he is a gentleman of unsullied reputation, and we shall leave him to settle that matter with the printers."<sup>[29]</sup>

With that, the war of words between the Federalist and Republican newspapers over the appointment first of David Bolles as Judge and his son David C. Bolles as Clerk of the Superior Court came to an end. A year that began in controversy was capped with success. Not only did David Bolles continue as the Judge of the County Court, but in September, 1819 he was awarded an honorary A.M. degree from Brown University.<sup>[30]</sup> Was it in recognition of his legal success, his efforts on behalf of the Baptist petition over the past two decades, or his role in promoting the Republican party in Connecticut? We do not know. But it certainly must have felt like a sweet victory after two tumultuous years.

And what of David C. Bolles, his son and erstwhile Clerk of the Court? In 1824, he was given the additional appointment as Clerk for Windham County of the Superior Court. And who was the man he replaced? None other than Samuel Gray, the same man whose position he took late in 1818. He continued in both roles until 1830, when he left Connecticut after studying at the Newton Seminary in Massachusetts and becoming an ordained Baptist minister. Fortunately, an Assistant Clerk who could step up and take his place had been appointed by the Windham County Court a few years before: Armin Bolles, David C. Bolles's brother (and my second great-grandfather). Armin was subsequently appointed to his brother's other office as Clerk for the Superior Court. He subsequently added the office of Clerk of the Probate

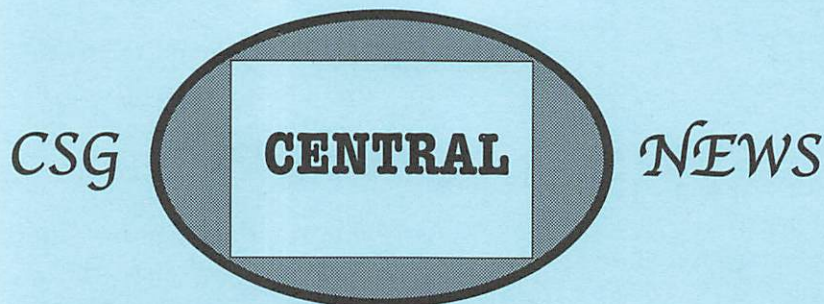
Court in 1835. He served in all offices until 1836, when he briefly left Connecticut for a position in the Post Office in Washington, D.C. With that, nepotism in the clerk's office ended - until 1846, when Tommy (now Thomas) Gray, son of former clerk Samuel Gray and the Gray family member who had been groomed for the post over 25 years before, finally became the fourth generation of the Gray family to assume the post.

### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> On the Baptist Petition movement, see William McLoughlin, "The Baptist Petition Movement, 1800-1807," in his *New England Dissent, 1630-1833: The Baptists and the Separation of Church and State*, (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971), 2:985-1005.
- <sup>2</sup> One Republican, David Tomlinson, was elected with a total of 7,686 votes. Bolles finished with 7,280. See "A new nation votes: American election returns, 1787-1825." <https://elections.lib.tufts.edu/catalog/nk322d962>.
- <sup>3</sup> Zephaniah Swift, *A System of the Laws of the State of Connecticut* (Windham, Conn.: John Byrne, 1795), 1:100; digital image, *Internet Archive*, <https://archive.org/details/asystemlawsstat00swifgoog>.
- <sup>4</sup> *American Mercury* (Hartford), 20 May 1817, p. 3; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*. The *Mercury* declined to give the name of the original nominee, but the *Connecticut Herald* (New Haven) on 27 May 1817, p. 2, identified him as "Lemuel Grosvenor." Digital image at [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com).
- <sup>5</sup> "Legislative Proceedings," *American Mercury* (Hartford, Conn.), 20 May 1817, p. 3; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>6</sup> "Connecticut Legislature," *Connecticut Herald* (New Haven, CT), 27 May 1817, p. 2; digital image at [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com).
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>9</sup> "Letter from a member of the Assembly to his constituents," *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 10 June 1817, p.1.; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>10</sup> "Legislative Proceedings," *American Mercury* (Hartford, Conn.), 20 May 1817, p. 3; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>11</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1818\\_United\\_States\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_election\\_in\\_Connecticut](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1818_United_States_House_of_Representatives_election_in_Connecticut).
- <sup>12</sup> "Proceedings of the Legislature of Connecticut," *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 9 June 1818, p. 1; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>13</sup> *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 29 December 1818; digital image, *America's Historical Newspapers*.

"The Case of David Bolles" continued on page 28





**SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING  
CSG PROGRAMS**

**ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

**NEED RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?  
THE FREE GENEALOGY HELP SESSIONS AT  
THE CSG LIBRARY, 175 MAPLE STREET, EAST  
HARTFORD, WILL CONTINUE THROUGH AUGUST  
2020!**

Experienced family history researchers will continue to be available at the CSG library from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month (except for holidays and snowstorms) to help you with your research. Questions about brick walls, where to find sources online and information about how to get started on your family history will be some of the topics the researchers will cover with you. If you are curious about a lineage society such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Society of Mayflower Descendants, our researchers have some experience with researching for these societies.

Judith Bowen, Diane LeMay, Olivia Patch and Keith Wilson, members of the CSG Board of Governors, will be the researchers, but they welcome other volunteers from CSG's membership to help with this program. Other commitments as well as possible illnesses may interfere with the schedule unless we have a few more volunteers. You may contact Judith Bowen at [easterndr13@yahoo.com](mailto:easterndr13@yahoo.com) with questions ahead of time or to volunteer!

Help is on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no need to pre-register.

**15 February 2020 - Webinar: Judy G. Russell presents  
"Dower and Dowery: Women, Property, and Legal  
Records"**

This program will be a webinar. Those current members who live out-of-state and cannot attend in person may contact the CSG Office at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 closer to that date for the link in order to be included in the webinar. The office is open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. In case of inclement weather, the link will be provided to all current members who pre-registered. Please pre-register no

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later than 12 February 2020 so we may plan appropriately.

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 as space is limited.

**21 March 2020 - Sandra Taitt-Eaddy of the Baobab  
Genealogy Society will be speaking on "The Connecticut-  
Caribbean Connection"**

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 as space is limited.

(see flyer on page 16 for more details)

**18 April 2020 - Edwin W. Strickland II presents "More  
Than A Will: Understanding Probate Records"**

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 as space is limited.

\*\*\* *Save the Date* \*\*\*

**16 May 2020 - CSG Annual Meeting -**

**Casey Duckett presents "Dead Men's Tales: A Discussion  
of Piracy in New England and Beyond"**

**Explore the dark underbelly of Colonial America with  
Casey Duckett, as we discuss true stories of pirates, their  
victims, and those who benefitted from the sweet trade.**

Location, Time and Cost are TBA.

Watch *Connecticut Genealogy News* and the CSG website, Facebook or Twitter at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) for more details on the Annual Meeting and for events as they become available.



## CSG News

### From the Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee has completed a review of the CSG Bylaws. The proposed By-law revisions were unanimously approved at a meeting of the members of CSG on 16 November 2019. To see a copy of the Bylaws with the incorporated revisions, please visit the CSG website at [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under About Us.

### From the Library Committee

Just a reminder, the CSG Library & Office are open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday except for Postal Holidays.

On the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month, CSG provides FREE help sessions for those working on their genealogy from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will only be one help session in December due to the holidays. Help Sessions are first come, first served.

In case of inclement weather, go to [WFSB.com](http://WFSB.com) under Closings & Delays to see if the Library and Office is closed. Normally, if local schools are closed, CSG is closed as well.

### From the Literary Awards Committee

March will be here before you know it, and with it the 2020 Literary Awards Contest will be accepting entries for both the Literary Awards Contest and the "Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contest.

Watch for new categories and other great features of the contest to be announced in the Spring issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*.

### From the Nominating Committee

The CSG Nominating Committee will be looking for willing and qualified candidates to fill positions on the CSG Board of Governors after the holidays.

If you are a member and would like to serve on the CSG Board of Governors or know of a CSG member that you would like to nominate, please contact the CSG Office at 860-569-0002 or email [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) and they will put you in touch with the Nominating Committee.

Also, there is no need to serve on the Board of Governors to serve on a committee; only membership

is required. Committees include Building/Maintenance, Government Relations, Library, Outreach, Programs, Publications, Technology. For more information on this, contact the CSG Office.

### From the Publications Committee

Just a reminder that The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. will pay an honorarium of \$50 for articles published in the *The Connecticut Nutmegger* or \$25 for articles published in *Connecticut Genealogy News* magazine.

Go to [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org) under Links (CSG Members can go under Members>CT Nutmegger or CT Genealogy News as well) to find our "Guidelines for Authors." These show formatting requirements and other information authors need to know for writing for either of the publications.

If you need help organizing or putting your information into a publishable format, contact us. We can help.

Especially needed are "Spotlight" articles on Connecticut cities or towns. To date, only 37 towns plus the village of Mystic of 169 have been done:

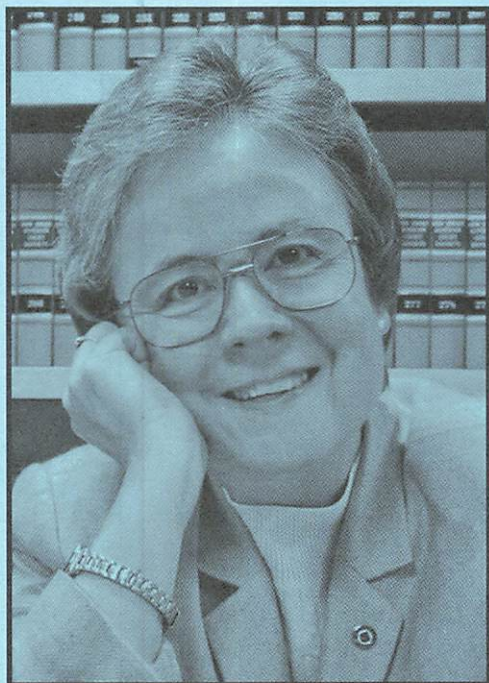
<b>Bolton</b>	<b>Hamden</b>	<b>New London</b>
<b>Branford</b>	<b>Hebron</b>	<b>Old Lyme</b>
<b>Burlington</b>	<b>Killingly</b>	<b>Old Saybrook</b>
<b>Colchester</b>	<b>Ledyard</b>	<b>Plymouth</b>
<b>Deep River</b>	<b>Lyme</b>	<b>Roxbury</b>
<b>East Haddam</b>	<b>Madison</b>	<b>Salem</b>
<b>East Hampton</b>	<b>Manchester</b>	<b>South Windsor</b>
<b>East Haven</b>	<b>Marlborough</b>	<b>Voluntown</b>
<b>East Lyme</b>	<b>Middlefield</b>	<b>Washington</b>
<b>East Windsor</b>	<b>Middletown</b>	<b>Waterford</b>
<b>Essex</b>	<b>Milford</b>	<b>Wethersfield</b>
<b>Glastonbury</b>	<b>Mystic</b>	<b>Windsor</b>
<b>Greenwich</b>	<b>New Haven</b>	

"Spotlight" articles can be 5-8 pages in length. They incorporate some history of the town, its notable people and places, what makes it special and where to find genealogical resources. Pictures make the article come to life.

If you would like to contribute a "Spotlight" article please contact the Editor-CSG Publications, Stephanie Hyland at the CSG Office at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002.



**The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.**  
*presents*



**Judy G. Russell**  
**The Legal Genealogist**  
**“Dower and Dowery:  
Women, Property, and  
Legal Records”**

**15 February 2020**

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street,  
East Hartford, CT

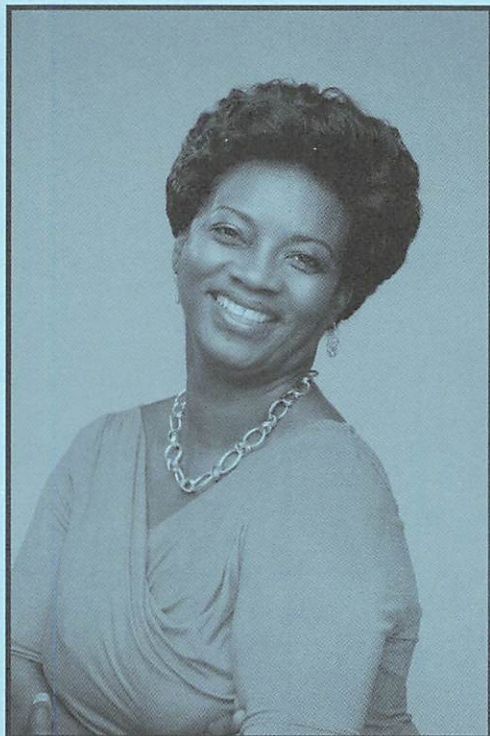
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at  
[csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002  
as space is limited.

This program will be a webinar. Those current members who live out-of-state and cannot attend in person may contact the CSG Office at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002 closer to that date for the link in order to be included in the webinar. The office is open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. In case of inclement weather, the link will be provided to all current members who pre-registered. Please pre-register no later than 12 February 2020 so we may plan appropriately.



**The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc.**  
*presents*



**Sandra Taitt-Eaddy**

**21 March 2020**

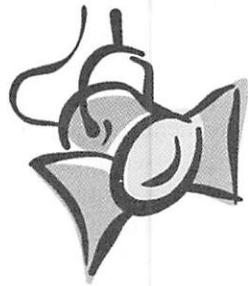
**“The Connecticut-Caribbean Connection”**

**Connecticut has long been known for its forests and colonial coastal trades, but did you know that one of its longest maritime trading relationships was with the island of the English Caribbean? Today, Caribbean people constitute Connecticut’s largest immigrant group and this includes our Barbadian-American speaker, who will take us on a fascinating ancestral journey in the Caribbean while filling our research bags with fresh online genealogical resources and proven methodologies for working with the Caribbean Islands and its diaspora.**

Sandra began her genealogical research journey by documenting her own family history in 1992. The first ancestral line she researched was on the Caribbean island of Barbados, and she was able to discover evidence back to an ancestor born in Africa in 1757. With this success, Sandra was inspired to complete a degree in history and to start her own non-profit genealogical research company. She is a sought-after international researcher and public speaker and is known for solving complicated genealogical problems. Sandra was a speaker at the New England Museum Association Conference and at the Connecticut Historical Society. She was an independent researcher for “Who Do You Think You Are,” Series 7 and for the book, *Halls, Hill, and Holes: Place Names of Barbados*. She was also the genealogical consultant for the award-winning film, “Panama Dreams.” Sandra was a presenter for the Central Connecticut State University Africana Center Annual Conference, and most recently, Sandra has been accepted as an AncestryProGenealogist, contract researcher. Sandra received her Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a minor in Business Degree from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), followed by a Fulbright Scholarship, 2004 at Accra, Ghana, West Africa, and an internship at the Barbados Museum and Historical Society in 2011. In 2013, Sandra obtained a Master of Arts in Public History Degree from CCSU. Her areas of research include the United States and the English-speaking islands of the Caribbean. Sandra has lived in Connecticut for the last 45 years. She is married to a very supportive husband Max and has two wonderful sons, Aaron and Justin.

**Place:** CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT    **Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** FREE but please pre-register at [csginc@csginc.org](mailto:csginc@csginc.org) or call 860-569-0002





# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities

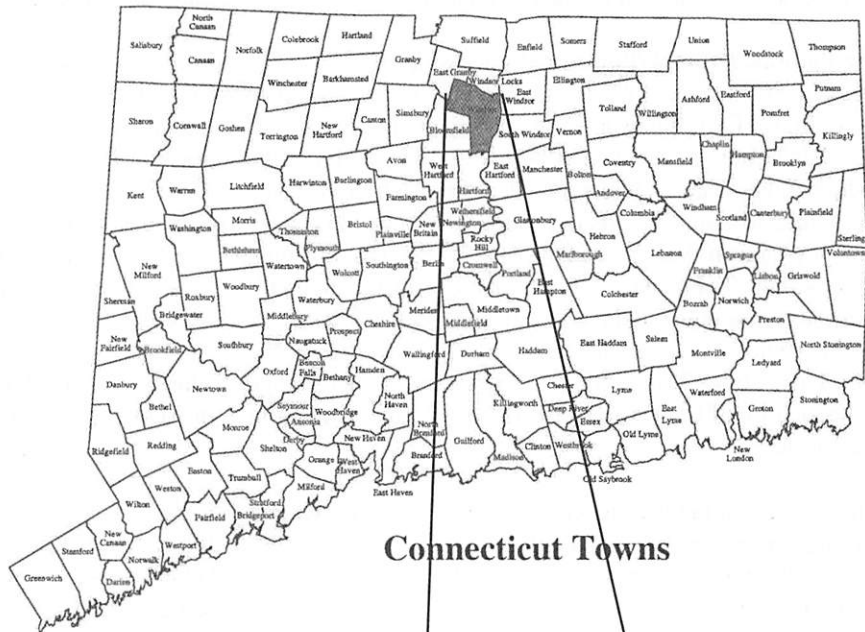


## Spotlight on Windsor

by Richard C. Roberts,  
CSG #8680

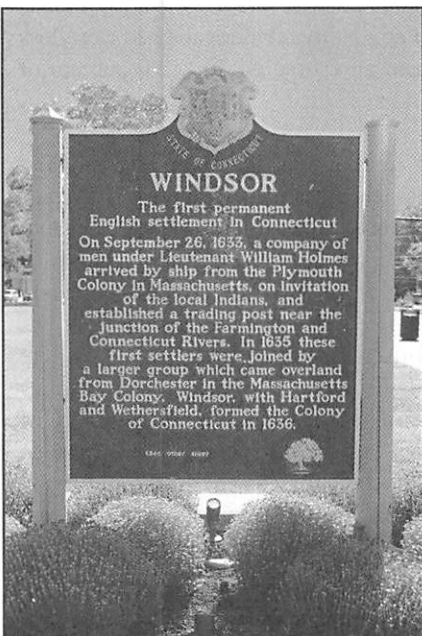
### HISTORIC AND GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Windsor lies on the Connecticut River in the central part of the state, just north of Hartford. Along with Wethersfield and Hartford, it is one of the three original Connecticut towns incorporated by the General Court on February 21, 1637 but bases its claim to being the State's first English settlement on the erection of a trading post at the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers by the Plymouth Colony on September 26, 1633. Its territory originally encompassed land on both sides of the Connecticut River.



East Windsor became a separate town in 1728, Bloomfield in 1835, and Windsor Locks in 1845. Ellington and South Windsor were parts of East Windsor before being incorporated as towns. The land that became Simsbury, although not within Windsor's original boundaries, had been deeded to John Griffin of Windsor, who, in turn, deeded his rights in it to Windsor in 1670.

Windsor's daughters or granddaughters include Barkhamsted, Bolton, Colebrook, Harwington, Hebron, Litchfield, Morris, Tolland, Torrington, and portions of Enfield, Manchester, and Suffield. See Homer Scott's book, *The Daughter Towns of Windsor, Connecticut* for a discussion relating to what should be considered Windsor's "daughter," "granddaughter," and "stepdaughter" towns.



Windsor's present-day villages include Poquonock, Rainbow, Hayden Station, Wilson, and Deerfield.

### THE "RIVER INDIANS"

The original occupants of the land that became Windsor were Algonquians. Dutch explorer Adrian Block (for whom Hartford's Adrian's Landing is named) referred to the groups living along the Connecticut River as "Sequin," and the English settlers often referred to them collectively as "River Indians;" however, there were several distinct groups or bands.



**The Poquonock** lived north of the Farmington River, along what are now known as the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers, with their principal village also known as Poquonock, the name given to cleared land.

**The Matianuck/Matianock/Matiamuck/Mattaneaug/Matianocke** were perhaps a sub-group of the Poquonock. Their village of Matianuck (“high ground near river”) near the mouth of the Farmington River became the site of the original English settlement at what is now Windsor following the purchase of their land by the Plymouth Colony.

**The Podunk/Potunck/Potunke/Potaecke** lived on the east side of the Connecticut River and along the Podunk River in what is now East Windsor, South Windsor, East Hartford, and Manchester. Their main village was at the mouth of the Podunk River. The Podunks included three sub-groups: the Namferoke (Podunk for “fishing place”), who lived near the present village of Warehouse Point; the Hockanum (meaning “a hook,” or “hook shaped”), who lived near the area still known as Hockanum; and the Scanticook/Scantuck/Scantok/Scantic (Nipmuc for “at the river fork”), who lived on the north bank of the Scantic River. There was another village in the vicinity of Center Spring Park, near Center Church in Manchester.

**The Sicaog/Suckiage/Siacock/Suckiaug/Sicaiock/Sicaio/Siakiog**, named for the black earth in the Hartford meadows, lived south of the Farmington River in what is now Windsor, Bloomfield, Hartford, and West Hartford.

## THE FIRST ENGLISH SETTLERS

### The Plymouth Group

Following the 1608 abandonment of the Popham Colony in what is now Maine, England’s efforts to establish permanent colonies had focused on the Chesapeake Bay and Bermuda. In 1620, the “Pilgrims,” who had left England to seek religious freedom in the Netherlands, had become dissatisfied with life in Leyden. The inadvertent landing of the *Mayflower* within the patent of the newly formed Council for New England rather than in the northern portion of a patent held by the Virginia Company led to the establishment of Plymouth Colony in what is now southeast Massachusetts.

In early September 1633, a party from the Plymouth Colony under the command of Lt. William Holmes left what is today Bourne, Massachusetts in a “New Barke” with cargo that included the frame and other materials needed to erect a trading post at “Matianuck” near where the Farmington and Connecticut Rivers meet in today’s Windsor. On September 25 they arrived at a Dutch fort at what in recent years has been known as Adrien’s Landing in Hartford. Ignoring Dutch threats and the order to “strike & stay,” Holmes proceeded up the river. The following day, September 26, the Holmes party quickly erected their “house,” which remained occupied

by a small group of men under the command of Jonathan Brewster, son of Plymouth’s Elder William Brewster; the bark returned to Cape Cod.

The success of the Plymouth Colony demonstrated the feasibility of additional permanent English settlements in the north. Seeking a creative solution to the political and religious turmoil in England in the 1620s, including Charles I’s efforts to make Puritans conform to the discipline of the Church of England and his disbanding of Parliament in 1629, many Puritans decided to follow the Pilgrims’ example and emigrate to New England. In 1628 Robert Rich, the Earl of Warwick, issued a land patent to The New England Company for a Plantation in Massachusetts Bay (later transformed into the Massachusetts Bay Company), extending four miles north of the Charles River, four miles south of the Charles River, and west to the “South Sea”. Preliminary voyages were made in 1628 and 1629, leading to the establishment of a small colony on Cape Ann and the settlement of Salem. Meanwhile, John Winthrop and others began preparing for what would become known as the “Great Migration.”

### The Dorchester Group

In March 1630 a Puritan congregation consisting of some 140 men, women, and children was organized at Plymouth, England by the Rev. John White of Dorchester, County Dorset, England. The Rev. John Warham and the Rev. John Maverick, whose Puritan beliefs were consistent with White’s, were chosen and installed as Pastor and Teacher respectively. After a day of prayer, fasting, and preaching, the congregation left Plymouth Harbor on March 20, 1630, bound for New England on the *Mary and John*. They settled at what became Dorchester, Massachusetts.

In the winter of 1633/34, an epidemic spread throughout New England. Although all English at the Plymouth trading post survived, altogether about 20% of the European colonists are estimated to have died. Native Americans had even less resistance to disease, and an estimated 70 to 90 percent of Connecticut’s “River Indians” died.

By 1634 some 6,000 to 8,000 people had left England and settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. However, some felt that that colony was becoming crowded; others disagreed with the political and religious views of Massachusetts Governor John Winthrop. The epidemic that had recently decimated the Native American tribes opened the possibility of settlements in the fertile land of the Connecticut River Valley. In the fall of 1634 ten families from Watertown, Massachusetts under the leadership of John Oldham built huts and planted rye in what was to become the town of Wethersfield. The following spring the Bay Colony formally approved settlement along the “Great River;” thirty more families left Watertown in May, 1635.

### The “Lords and Gentlemen”

Meanwhile, a group of about 20 men, women, and children led by Mr. Francis Stiles had been sent to New England by Sir Richard Saltonstall, one of those “Lords and Gentlemen” named in the so-called “Warwick Patent.” The “Lords and Gentlemen” were, according to Robert Charles Anderson, “very wealthy men of Puritan leanings” who, in addition to their interests in Connecticut, established settlements in New Hampshire’s Piscataqua region. Saltonstall had perhaps previously visited the future site of Windsor, as he provided Francis Stiles with very specific instructions as to where to “prepare a house against my coming, and enclose grounds for my cattle...” The site selected for the new plantation was “between the Plymouth Trucking House and the falls.” The “Stiles party” arrived in Massachusetts Bay on June 16, 1635 on the *Christian*, a “bark of 40 tons,” where it remained for 10 days before sailing for Matianuck.

### The Dorchester Emigration of 1635 and Its Aftermath

The Dorchester, Massachusetts congregation, apparently having received word that the Stiles party was in Boston and would soon be heading to the Connecticut River valley, hastily completed their own preparations to resettle there en masse. An advance party of twelve men led by Roger Ludlow arrived at Matianuck on June 28. After exploring other potential sites for settlement further up the river, they returned to the high sandy banks northwest of the Plymouth settlement in the vicinity of what is now Windsor’s Palisado Green. Upon their arrival at Matianuck, the Stiles party was confronted by the Dorchester party, which ignored Stiles’ claims under the Warwick Patent. Stiles was left with a parcel just south of what is now known as Hayden Station, including the site of the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead.

By August 1635 many in Dorchester, including Thomas Holcombe and Thomas Dewey, were selling out to newer settlers, and the following month Dorchester surveyor Matthew Grant began to lay out the first lots in the Great Meadow and adjoining upland. A second group of about 60 men, women, and children left Massachusetts on October 15, 1635 and traveled overland for fourteen days, arriving in the Connecticut River Valley in late October or early November. For temporary shelter they dug into the sides of the low hills along the Connecticut River, making homes that were enclosed on three sides by dirt, in front by posts, and on the roof by wood and thatch.

Beyond the Stiles party’s claims, the land on which those from Dorchester were settling continued to be claimed by the Plymouth Colony. Although Plymouth had purchased land on both sides of the Connecticut River from the local Native American tribes and its trading post was well established, the Dorchester party refused to recognize those claims. The Plymouth traders were forced to stay in the Plymouth Meadow, at the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers. Ultimately, on May 3, 1638 Plymouth, through its agent William Holmes, sold its land to Matthew Allyn. In 1640, two years after this sale, the Plymouth trading post and lot were declared to be within the jurisdiction of Windsor.

Over the past 386 years Windsor has grown and flourished, with people of many backgrounds and faiths making it their home.

### PALISADO GREEN

Following a massacre in Wethersfield on April 23, 1637, the English colonists in Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor united to fight the Pequots. Taking advantage of the natural river bluffs on the higher ground north of the Farmington River, the settlers at Windsor erected a defensive fortification or “palisado” (defined by the Oxford English Dictionary as “a fence made of wooden pales or stakes fixed in the ground, forming an enclosure or defence”) on the sandy bank. The area within the former fortification is now occupied by many old houses; the First Church in Windsor, United Church of Christ; Palisado Cemetery; and the Windsor Historical Society.

### MONUMENTS AND MEMORIALS

#### *The Founders Monument*

By 1638, the Pequots were defeated, and the settlers built their first meeting house within the Palisado in 1639. The impressive “Founders Monument” on Windsor’s Palisado Green is located on the approximate site of that meeting house. It was commissioned by the Connecticut Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims (a Chapter not known to exist now). It was designed by Evelyn



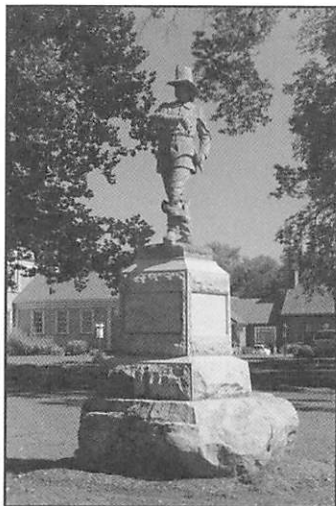
**First Church**

Beatrice (Longman) Batchelder (1874-1954), second wife of Nathaniel Horton Batchelder, Headmaster of the Loomis Institute (now the Loomis Chaffee School). As described by the *Hartford Courant* in 1930, the Monument is “a tablet of warm toned polished granite, composed of three upright panels on a low base of the same material. It stands about 11 feet high over all, and extends parallel with the main highway for about 10 feet.” The center panel features the *Mary and John* and the inscription, “To the Founders of Windsor and the first Congregational Church in Connecticut which came to America in the *Mary and John* with its pastor John Warham, May 30, 1630, settled in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and migrated to Windsor in May and October, 1635.” Under that inscription is another, reading “This Memorial erected on the site of the first Church building by the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, Connecticut Branch, May 30, 1930.” The



**Founders Monument**

side panels of the Founders Monument include the names of many early Windsor settlers. However, note that the not all the names correspond with those on the Founders List maintained by the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor (DFAW). Some individuals included on the Monument -- including Elder John Strong and Sgt. Josias Ellsworth -- arrived well after the close of 1641, the year now recognized by DFAW as the cutoff of the Founders era, while DFAW’s Founders List includes individuals whose names are not on the Monument.



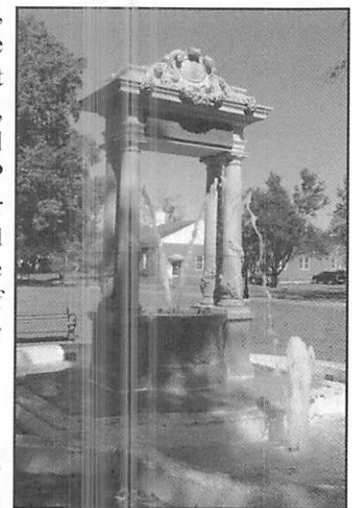
**John Mason Monument**

***The John Mason Monument***

Nearby on the Palisado Green stands a statue of Major John Mason, a Founder of Windsor and a colonial leader in the Pequot War. The monument was originally dedicated on Pequot Hill in Groton on June 26, 1889. It was controversial almost from the start, as many had desired a Pequot War memorial that represented both Europeans and Natives. Instead, Connecticut’s General Assembly had ordered the governor to appoint a commission to oversee placement of a monument to Captain John Mason. The artist and sculptor was J.G.C. Hamilton of Westerly, Rhode Island. It was cast by Ames Manufacturing Co. in Chicopee, Massachusetts. The cut granite stones came from Smith Granite Company in Westerly, Rhode Island, and the boulder was donated by the New London County Historical Society.

By the 1990s the statue had become a target of vandalism, and Groton’s town council had received requests to remove and relocate the statue, leading to studies by town and state officials. Several relocation sites were proposed including the Mashantucket Pequot Reservation, the old Mason house site on Mason’s Island, Mystic; Porter’s Rocks; the city of Norwich; and the State Capitol or State Library grounds. Ultimately, the Connecticut

Department of Environmental Protection reviewed five sites: Mashantucket Pequot Museum, Ledyard; John Mason School, Norwich; Lebanon Town Green, Lebanon; the State Capitol grounds in Hartford; and Windsor’s Palisado Green. On Friday, April 28, 1995 the DEP announced a compromise whereby the monument would be moved to Palisado Green, not far from Major Mason’s original home lot. Following repair and conservation work performed on the statue by Cavalier Renaissance Foundry, Inc. of Bridgeport, Connecticut, on June 26, 1996, some 160 people gathered on Windsor’s Palisado Green for the rededication of the statue and the unveiling of the new plaque, created to recognize John Mason’s many accomplishments rather than one event, the Pequot Fort campaign.



**Loomis Fountain**

***The Loomis Fountain***

In 1901, Euphemia Loomis established a trust for the construction of a public fountain in memory of her husband, Hezekiah Bradley Loomis, a founder of the Loomis Institute, now the Loomis Chaffee School. Completed in 1903, the Loomis Fountain sits at the center of the Town Green on Broad Street, across from the Town Hall. In 1983, the



Windsor Exchange Club renovated and rededicated the fountain for the town's 350th anniversary.

### ***"To the Patriots of Windsor"***

Another notable feature on Windsor's Town Green is the large bronze eagle monument dedicated "To the Patriots of Windsor." Designed and sculpted by Evelyn Beatrice (Longman) Batchelder in 1928, it was dedicated on November 3, 1929.



**Monument dedicated  
"To the Patriots of  
Windsor"**

### ***The First English Monument***

The First English Settlement Monument, installed and dedicated by the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, is located at the southern end of the Loomis Chaffee School campus. It marks the general location of the Plymouth Trading Post erected in September 1633.

## **FAMOUS CITIZENS**

### **Oliver Ellsworth**

Oliver Ellsworth was born at Windsor April 29, 1745 and died Nov. 26, 1807. His many accomplishments included serving as a judge of Connecticut's Superior Court, delegate to the Continental Congress, delegate to the 1787 Philadelphia Convention which prepared the United States Constitution, United States Senator, and the third Chief Justice of the United States.

### **John Milton Niles**

Best known as a leader of a reform movement that led to the adoption of Connecticut's Constitution of 1818, John Milton Niles is also remembered today as a founder of two Connecticut newspapers, the *Hartford Times* and the *Hartford Press*, and as co-author of the *Gazetteer of Connecticut and Rhode Island*. Niles' birthplace and childhood home at 1257 Poquonock Ave., Windsor, a Georgian Colonial built about 1776, still stands on the left side of the street just north of Holcomb Hill Road. A bronze tablet installed by the Hartford Colony of the New England Women as part of the Connecticut Tercentenary Celebration and unveiled on 9 October 1935 is mounted on a stone retaining wall in front of the house. The John M. Niles School, built in 1874 and added to in 1916, (which closed prior to 1949) was named for him. Several antiques and family

heirlooms are now part of the Windsor Historical Society's collections, and a portrait painted by Philip Hewins (1806-1850) hangs in the WHS library.

### **WINDSOR'S "WITCHES"**

Else/Alice Young(s) of Windsor, executed in Hartford on May 26, 1647, is believed to be the first person executed for witchcraft in the English colonies. For over two centuries little was known about her. When John Winthrop noted in his journal in 1647 that, "One [blank] of Windsor was arraigned and executed at Hartford for a Witch" he omitted her name. By the mid-1800s historian James Hammond Trumbull had become aware of the "Diary" of Matthew Grant and had published portions of it, and had shared additional portions with other historians. However, he seems to have not widely disseminated the connection a Grant entry provided in identifying Winthrop's "one of Windsor." Even Windsor Historian Henry Stiles got Alice's name wrong, referring to her as "Acsah." "Else" or Alice Young(s) is now generally identified as the wife of John Young(s) of Backer Row, an early Windsor road that no longer exists.

In the fall of 1651, while drilling with the Windsor trainband, Henry Stiles was accidentally shot and killed by Thomas Allyn, son of the Honorable Matthew Allyn. That December an indictment was brought against Thomas Allyn. He was found guilty of "Homicide by missadventure" and ordered to pay a fine of 20 pounds, be bound to his father for his good behavior, and not be permitted to bear arms for 22 months. Two years later, on October 3, 1654, the General Court remitted the 20 pound fine and on November 28 indicted Lydia Gilbert of Windsor for having "killed the Body of Henry Styles besides other witchcrafts for which according to the law of god and the Established law of this Comon wealth....." Beyond the brief report of the case in the Particular Court records, nothing is now known of the "other witchcrafts" Lydia was charged with or what evidence was presented; CSG's former President, Richard Tomlinson, suggests that "she was simply a scapegoat for Thomas Allyn (Tomlinson, p. 57)." She is believed to have been hanged in Hartford, becoming the second Windsor resident to be executed for witchcraft.

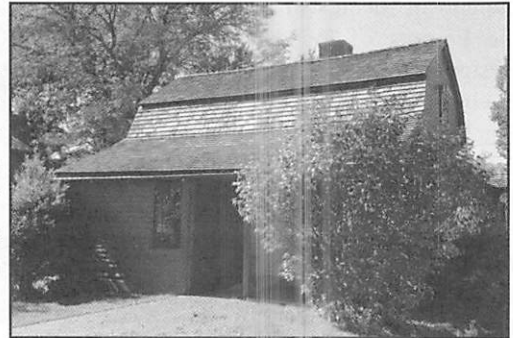
On February 6, 2017, members of First Church in Windsor, United Church of Christ, supported a resolution introduced by the Windsor Town Council "as a first step in acknowledging this part of our collective and mutual history, to apologize for its participation in the hanging of these two women," The Council unanimously passed the resolution, symbolically clearing the names of Alice Young and Lydia Gilbert.

## HISTORIC BUILDINGS

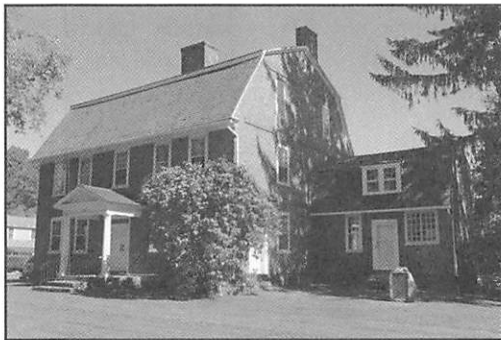
Windsor's first meeting house was built within the Palisado in 1639. Its replacement, built on the same site in 1684, was destroyed by fire. A third meeting house, erected in 1756, was built slightly to the south and west, adjacent to Palisado Cemetery. The fourth and current meeting house was erected in 1794. There have been many alterations over the years. A tower with tall steeple was replaced by a Greek Revival portico in 1844; that year also saw the replacement of box pews with "slips" and the high pulpit and stairs replaced with a lower one. A Sunday School room was added to the rear of the building in 1890.

### The Strong-Howard House

In recent years the ca. 1758 Strong-Howard House (once known as the "Fyler House" because it had been thought to have been the 1640 home of Lt. Walter Fyler) has been reinterpreted by the Windsor Historical Society and now depicts how the family of Capt. Nathaniel and Ann (Watson) Howard family would have lived in 1810. By refurbishing it with reproduction "hands-on" artifacts instead of antiques, visitors may try out the beds, sit at the dining table, and participate in some simple household activities, including hearth cooking. For visiting hours contact the Windsor Historical Society.



**Strong-Howard House**



**Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House**

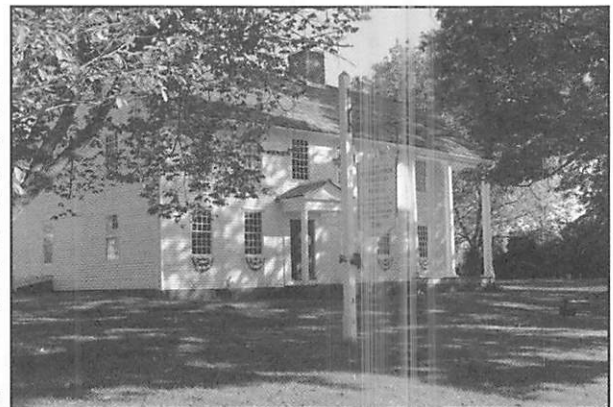
### The Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee House

The ca. 1767 brick mansion house of Dr. Hezekiah Chaffee (great-grandfather of the founders of the Loomis Chaffee School) has historic and hands-on reproduction medical instruments on view, and you can learn how the Chaffee family lived and how the house served the Chaffee School for Girls in the 20th century. For visiting hours contact the Windsor Historical Society.

### The Oliver Ellsworth Homestead

It is quite possible that Francis Stiles unloaded his ship in 1635, near the site of the Oliver Ellsworth Homestead, 778 Palisado Avenue. Stiles acquired the lot in 1639 and subdivided the north half to William Gaylord, Jr. in 1645. Stiles sold the remainder to Robert Saltonstall in 1647 with a dwelling and an "oat" house. Nicholas and Joanna Davidson of Boston later purchased it. On March 31, 1665 Josiah Ellsworth bought the property from the widow Joanna Davidson with rights to all rents. The 1665 deed notes an orchard.

Josiah Ellsworth, Sr. died in 1689. His probate inventory notes a home lot with a dwelling, two weaving shops, and a barn, which passed to Josiah Jr. Josiah Jr. died in 1706; his probate notes the house, a cellar, the "little" and "old" shops and an orchard. In a 1728 deed the house was described as "old". David Ellsworth, father of Oliver Ellsworth, may have built portions of the existing home around 1740; Oliver commissioned Windsor architect and builder Thomas Hayden to expand it in 1781-1783.



**Oliver Ellsworth Homestead**

In the spring of 2017, a radar survey was conducted on the south lawn of the existing Oliver Ellsworth home. Excavation uncovered an archaic stone axe, Native American pottery, German Westerwald, speckled earthenware, unidentified yellow glazed earthenware, English slipware, a dotware decorated pipe stem, a small belly pipe bowl c. 1650, an iron knife blade, a bone knife handle, and a brass knife bolster. Small finds included a brass trade token with a fleur-de-lis pattern, and a cross with triangular terminals. Artifacts found within the large, filled cellar on the south lawn all predate 1740.

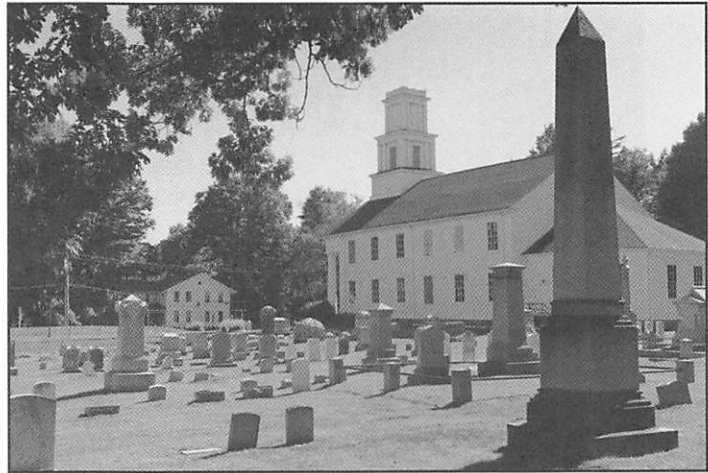
This is a very significant site, associated with both the Stiles and Ellsworth families and it may be one of the first lots occupied in Windsor. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is currently the home of the Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution (CTDAR) Library and Archives. It is open for tours mid-May to late October. Call 860-688-8717 ahead of time to ensure that the Museum is open or to arrange for a tour.

### The Amy Archer Gilligan House

In 1907, Amy Archer and her then-husband James Archer purchased a home on Prospect Street where they opened a “Home for the Elderly.” James died in 1910, and in 1813 Amy Archer married Michael Gilligan who, although appearing to be in good health, died just three months later, leaving her his entire estate. In 1917 Amy was charged with murdering a boarder, Franklin R. Andrews; public opinion held that she had murdered as many as 50 other borders by administering arsenic. Amy was eventually charged with five murders and tried in June 1917. Granted a stay of execution by the Governor, she died April 23, 1962 at Connecticut State Hospital in Middletown. The play and subsequent movie *Arsenic and Old Lace* is based on her story.

### CEMETERIES

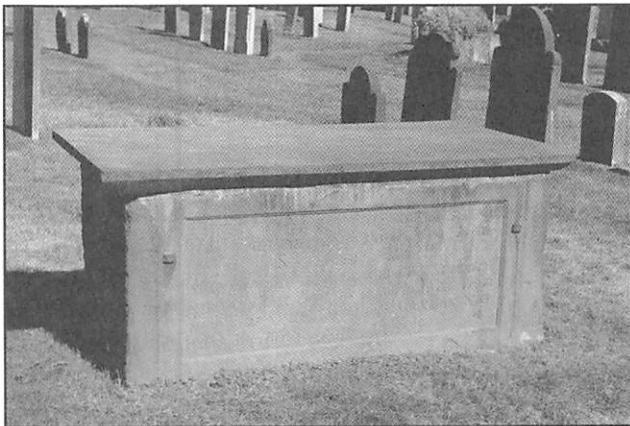
Adjacent to the First Church is the historic Palisado Cemetery. The oldest grave is that of Rev. Ephraim Huit, a minister of the church from 1639 until his death on September 4, 1644. Among those buried there are Oliver Ellsworth and Roger Wolcott, colonial governor of Connecticut from 1750 to 1754. However, although most of the early settlers who died in Windsor were probably buried there, only a relatively few graves of the men and women of the first generation are still marked. The Windsor Historical Society holds an index and plan of graves, 1644-1898.



Palisado Cemetery

Additional cemeteries indexed in the Hale Collection of Connecticut Cemetery Inscriptions include Riverside

Cemetery on Pleasant Street, Elm Grove Cemetery on Poquonock Avenue, Old Poquonock Cemetery on Marshall Phelps Road, St. Joseph Roman Catholic Cemetery on Poquonock Avenue, Northwood Cemetery on Matianuck Avenue near the Hartford border, and Archer Cemetery. In 1929 the Abigail Wolcott Ellsworth Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution compiled *Cemetery Inscriptions in Windsor, Connecticut*; a second edition containing additions, corrections, and an all-name index was published by the chapter in 2000.



Grave of Rev. Ephraim Huit

### GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN WINDSOR

#### Town Hall Records

In 1638, the General Court (Connecticut’s colonial legislature) established the three river towns: Hartford, Windsor and Wethersfield. At the October 10, 1639 session of the General Court, it was determined that, “The Townes aforesaid shall each of them provide a Ledger Booke, with an Index or alphabet vnto the same: Also shall choose one who shall be a Towne Clerke or Register, who shall before the Generall Court in Aprill next,

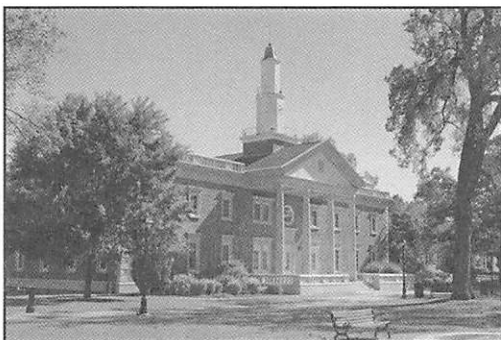
record every man’s house and land already graunted and measured out to him....” In 1644, town clerks were made responsible for registering births and marriages, and in 1650 they were made responsible for registering deaths. As the governments of communities and the state changed, the Town Clerks’ job became more encompassing and more complex.

Today, most Connecticut Town Clerks’ offices have five primary functions: Public Records, Licensing and Vital Statistics, Elections Support, Notary/Trade Names/Veterans Records, and Information Assistance. For many years Town Clerks ran elections (including referendums) including preparing supplies, machinery, and posting and publishing notices, but those functions are now handled by the Registrars of Voters. In some towns, the Town Clerk serves as Clerk of Council, attending



Town Council meetings and sub-meetings, posting agendas, taking minutes, and publishing and advertising notices. However, in the town of Windsor, that function has moved the Town Manager's office, which bring the records to the Clerk for recording.

The Town Hall is located at 75 Broad Street, Windsor. The Town Clerk's hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and the office may be reached by telephone at 860-285-1902. For additional information, visit <https://townofwindsorct.com/townclerk/>. The main page includes an online index to land records recorded since January 1, 1970, information on how to access vital records, and more.



**Windsor Town Hall**

#### **Records at the Connecticut State Library:**

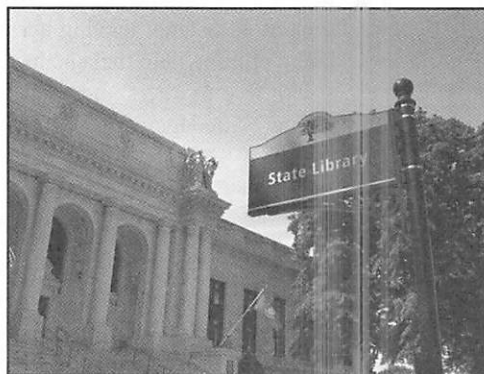
The Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, holds:

- Proprietor's Records 1650-1787 (on microfilm)
- Vital Records 1638-1910 (on microfilm)
- Land Records 1640-1902 (on microfilm)
- Church records:
  - First Congregational Church Certificates of Dissenters, Withdrawals and Members, 1781-1865 (but use microfilm in the History and Genealogy Reading Room).
  - First Congregational Church Notices of Society Meetings, 1768-1865 (use microfilm).
  - First Congregational Church Records, 1636-1932 – indexed in the State Library's Church Records Index; use microfilm.
  - Grace Episcopal Church Petition ... requesting an investigation into the affairs of Grace Church Parish, and letters signed by church members desiring Rev. Wilfred L. Green to continue as Rector. October 19, 1931 (in Archives).
  - Second Congregational Church at Poquonock. Meetings of the Poquonock Ecclesiastical Society, 1854-1924 (in Archives).
  - Second Congregational Church at Poquonock Records, 1771-1782. Pastorate of Rev. Dan Foster (use microfilm).
  - Second Congregational Church at Poquonock Records 1841-1936. In the Archives; no microfilm.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church Records, 1835-1923 (use microfilm).

Many of the microfilmed records may be available through FamilySearch.

For more information, visit [www.ctstatelibrary.org](http://www.ctstatelibrary.org) or call 860-757-6580.



**Connecticut State Library**

#### **Probate Records**

Over the years, Windsor has been served by multiple Probate Districts:

1633 - July 3, 1855, Hartford District

1649 - 1677, Particular Court Records

May 1759 - May 1768, Stafford District (covered Ellington Parish until it was set off with the Town of East Windsor in 1768)

July 4, 1855 - January 4, 2011 Windsor District

January 5, 2011 - Present, Region #4 District. The Windsor Probate District merged with the East Windsor Probate District to create the Region #4 Probate District, which serves the municipalities of East Windsor, South Windsor, and Windsor. The Greater Windsor Probate Court (PD04) is located at Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT 06074-2786, Telephone: (860) 644-2511 x 371. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Probate record books, volumes 1-35, 1855-1952 are in the State Archives, Connecticut State Library. Record books, volumes 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 15, 1847-1916, were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and are available for use in the History and Genealogy reading room. Court record books 36-93, 1947-1977 are held by the Windsor Historical Society.

Probate files, 1847-1977, the majority 1855-1976, are held by the State Archives, Connecticut State Library.



Windsor Historical Society

### The Windsor Historical Society

The Windsor Historical Society holds many treasures of interest to family historians. Hours are Wednesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Windsor: Bridging Centuries, Bridging Cultures, the Society's permanent exhibit, tells Windsor's story over the past 400 years, displays treasures from the WHS collections, and links the displays to additional learning experiences at the Society and other institutions. Each of the Society's galleries tells a different part of Windsor's story. The colonial gallery recounts Windsor's founding and explores its development from a Native American home site to an English-modeled town. The post-1800 gallery follows Windsor's history as it grew from a farming community to bustling suburb. Be sure to explore the events and meet the people that have shaped Windsor's history in this permanent exhibit!

Each year hundreds of researchers use the Society's Research Library to explore local and family history. Of special interest to those with ancestral lines to early Windsor families is the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor's computer database compiled from information submitted in DFAW Lineage Applications as verified by DFAW's Registrar and Genealogist. However, the library houses many other historical resources relating to the town of Windsor and its people, including more than 350 published genealogies of Windsor families, family correspondence files, and subject files. There are thousands of historic photographs, 17th-20th century manuscripts (many indexed by date and family name), copies of local cemetery records and vital records, regional and state histories, town reports, local newspapers, school yearbooks, city directories, ephemera, and maps as well as Merwin Funeral Home Account Books, 1877-1906. Detailed descriptions of some of their collections and guides to their contents can be found on the Finding Aids section of their website, [windsorhistoricalsociety.org](http://windsorhistoricalsociety.org). Because it is a research library, materials cannot be borrowed or checked out. Lockers and a coat closet are provided for your purse, briefcase, and other personal items. You may use a laptop

or mobile device, and free Wi-Fi is available. You may use digital cameras or photocopies can made for \$0.25 each. The Society periodically hosts Genealogy Support Group and other genealogy-related programs. For more information, call 860-688-3813.

### The Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor (DFAW)

Established in 1983 as an outgrowth of Windsor's 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor's charge is to record and preserve the history and genealogy of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, their families, and their descendants. DFAW recognizes Founders as individuals who appear on records pertaining to Windsor by the end of 1641. Over 130 such heads of households, including some females, have been identified and are presented in the society's Founders List, posted on its website, [www.ancientwindsor.org](http://www.ancientwindsor.org). However, members are not required to be direct descendants of a Founder; all those supportive of DFAW's purpose are invited to join. DFAW offers a process for active members with lineal descent from one or more Founders take a second step and earn a Certificate of Lineage. Submitted Lineage Forms and accompanying proofs of descent are reviewed initially by the Registrar and later verified and entered into a genealogical database by the Genealogist. The database is available at the Windsor Historical Society. In addition, DFAW has been publishing a series of books, "Some Descendants of ..." based on member submitted lineages, supplemented with additional sources. Membership benefits include a quarterly 12-page Newsletter which includes articles on new genealogical findings, upcoming meetings, and other items of importance to Windsor descendants, a "Cousins Exchange" that links members with other "cousins" researching Founder's lines, and Fall and Spring meetings featuring a speaker, food, sales, and opportunities to network. There are some exciting changes coming in 2020, including a newly updated website with additional member features.

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Photo credits: All photos were taken by the author.

## About the Cover

This memorial to Major John Mason originally stood on Pequot Hill in Groton, erected to commemorate his leadership in the English victory over the Pequots in 1637. Controversial almost from the start, it was moved to Windsor's Palisado Green in 1996 and a new plaque installed recognizing Mason's many accomplishments rather than one event, the Pequot campaign.

Photo by Richard C. Roberts



# Genealogy and the Interview

by Justin Piccirillo

When immigrants made the trip to the United States at the turn of the century, it was often a scary experience. Think of their stories of the Old World, the burdens of travel, the not knowing what America may have in store for them. Think of how many of these dramatic, life-changing remembrances that have become lost because it wasn't shared or passed down to following generations.

Regretfully, my grandmother passed away right before I was really starting to grasp the importance of getting information from my elder relatives. I had never thought to try and obtain any information before something might happen and it would not be able to be passed onward. Grandma was a war bride from World War II and was really our only connection to Europe. Most of her siblings were deceased, and her few remaining contacts overseas were, well, distant. Her story would read like a true-to-life.

For the decade that my grandfather would outlive her, I tried to get as much information as I could from him about her homeland and the way her culture was. He obliged, but for me it wasn't the same. I had missed the opportunity. My premise for this article – *don't let this happen to you*.

Getting relatives to share their stories isn't always easy. Here are a few step-by-step ideas for a successful family history interview!

**1. Do not assume anyone will be around forever.** Find the older relatives today, and schedule some time in advance to talk to them. They have a story inside, and most likely they are eager to share it. But scheduling with advance notice gives everyone a chance to prepare.

**2. Prepare a list of topics or questions beforehand.** Remember that if the conversation goes elsewhere, allow it. Prioritize your important questions to ask first, too, and be patient. Older folks may need a moment to think about what we as genealogists are asking of them. Think of questions which have more than a simple 'yes' or 'no' answer. Try to elicit facts, feelings, stories and descriptions. That is the goal – to get their story written down.

**3. Write it. Record it. Video it. Somehow document all that is said.** Be sure to be upfront with whichever mode of recording you choose, but respectful to the interviewee's wishes too. Don't forget extra pencils and paper, or memory cards or batteries if you will be digitally recording it.

**4. Use heirlooms whenever possible.** Old photographs and treasured family items may bring back memories and inspire more remembrances. In fact, adding a second elder relative into the conversation may also

inspire additional twists to the stories of these items as well. This is always fun, as they could correct one another's stories and, remind one another of other stories.

**5. Don't schedule more than an hour or two.** Yes, they may ask for you to continue, but always be ready to stop, take a break, maybe even continue another time. I know it may sound a bit confusing, but remembering life items from a half a century ago does require some concentration and work. So, be very appreciative.

**6. Don't push for your answers.** Don't try to correct the responses, nor interrupt the interviewee. Also, if a sensitive topic arises, just allow painful moments to happen and allow the person to dictate where the conversation should go next. Just be patient. If need be, offer a Kleenex. Ask if they need a break. Be prepared to change topics immediately, or possibly just move onto something else and avoid sensitive issues altogether.

**7. Transcribe, transcribe, transcribe.** Transcribe and share your information in a timely fashion. This is vital. Consider it as a tangible thank you to your relative for their participation. This is two-fold. It is now available as a document, but it also allows the interviewee the opportunity to proofread it and ensure its accuracy.

**8. Have fun.** Take an active part in the dialogue while being a creative listener. Remember that this is not only for you but for future generations too. Let your relatives' story shine.

These are easy to follow when a subject is right beside you, but what if you must conduct an interview through the mail? Can it be done? Why, of course! For relatives who are miles away and a face-to-face meeting cannot be possible, I have found that writing a letter with a few questions and leaving ample space for them to fill in answers works great. At times, I will also include a pedigree chart to see what they may be able to complete. Additionally, I would also like to say that I would encourage including return postage as most older folks are on a limited budget and may not be able to afford the stamps. Do not forget to follow up, whether in-person or not, thanking them for their time and their sharing of their stories with you.

The goal is to get the stories written down. Remember that interviewing is a great way to get more information to add to your family history research. It is also rather easy to believe that by getting these stories and memories of your elder relatives, there is no doubt, your research will grow, and you have a better sense and greater understanding about your family's roots.

**“The Case of David Bolles” continued from page 12**

- <sup>14</sup> *Connecticut Courant* (Hartford), 5 January 1819; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*; *American Mercury* (Hartford), 12 January 1819; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>15</sup> *Connecticut Mirror* (Hartford), 4 January 1819; digital image at [www. Genealogybank.com](http://www.Genealogybank.com).
- <sup>16</sup> *Connecticut Mirror* (Hartford), 11 January 1819; digital image at [www.Genealogybank.com](http://www.Genealogybank.com).
- <sup>17</sup> *American Mercury* (Hartford), 19 January 1819, p. 3; digital image at [www.Genealogybank.com](http://www.Genealogybank.com).
- <sup>18</sup> This is technically not true. While Judge Bolles’s father had been born in New London, he himself was born in Ashford.
- <sup>19</sup> An undated article from the New London *Republican Advocate*, republished in “Rotation in Office,” *Hartford Times* (Hartford, Conn.), 2 Feb. 1819, pp. 2-3; digital image at [www.Genealogybank.com](http://www.Genealogybank.com).
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>22</sup> It is unclear as to what actions the paper is referring.
- <sup>23</sup> *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 2 February 1819, p. 3; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>24</sup> The *Connecticut Journal* implies that “Philip Howard” may actually be P. Haywood. *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 16 February 1819, p. 3; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>25</sup> *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 9 March 2013; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>27</sup> *Connecticut Mirror* (Hartford, CT), 15 February 1819, p. 3, column 1; digital image at [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com).
- <sup>28</sup> Undated *Republican Advocate* article, republished in *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 23 February 1819, p. 2, col. 2; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>29</sup> “Judge Bolles,” *Connecticut Journal* (New Haven), 23 March 1819, pp. 2-3; digital image, *America’s Historical Newspapers*.
- <sup>30</sup> Brown University, “Brown University, The Corporation of Brown University,” <https://www.brown.edu/about/administration/corporation>.

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# Make a bequest to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, and demonstrate your belief in the importance of family history...



Patricia Jane Waite loved researching her family. She was a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists because she believed in its mission to encourage and promote genealogical research and publication, to maintain and elevate genealogical standards, and to provide instructional and educational programs and publications.

Like other members, Patricia probably also enjoyed the camaraderie of other genealogists and the enjoyment of sharing a discovery or making a connection. When she passed away in November of 2008, Patricia left a bequest to CSG so that its work could continue and flourish.

When you make a bequest, you join others like Patricia Waite whose gifts have a long lasting impact.

Donations directly support:

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- \* The Membership Office where dedicated staff serve the Society's members
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- \* Working with other organizations to promote family history as a basic element of our culture

To make your bequest to the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, simply give the following language to your attorney for inclusion in your will or trust.

A specific bequest might read as follows:

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