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# Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Summer 2020

Vol. 13 No. 2



## *In This Issue...*

*In Memoriam: Margaret Jenkins and Russell DeGrafft  
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 Fifth Connecticut Regiment During the Civil War  
 Growing Up With My Four Grandparents  
 The Whole Situation  
 To Celebrate the Day That She Was Born  
 Spotlight on Guilford  
 Plus Much More ...*





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# Connecticut Genealogy News

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

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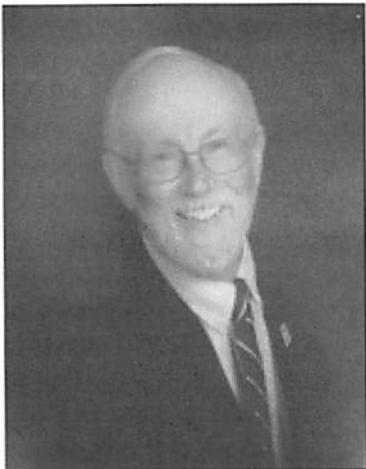
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## President's Message



In early March the CSG Board of Governors was finalizing plans for a March 21 program featuring Sandra Taitt-Eaddy speaking on "The Connecticut-Caribbean Connection," an April 18 program featuring Edwin W. Strickland speaking on "More Than a Will: Understanding Probate Records,"

and our May 16 Annual Meeting featuring Casey Duckett's presentation, "Dead Men's Tales: A Discussion of Piracy in New England and Beyond." Then the world changed, and we found ourselves in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. The Board cancelled the March 21 meeting; Sandra Taitt-Eaddy's presentation has been rescheduled for September 19. We held Ed Strickland's April 18 presentation and our May 16 Annual Meeting via Zoom.

In my lifetime, I have lived through some scary times before. In elementary school we practiced "duck and cover" drills. In October 1962, while I was in high school, there was a 13-day period in which it seemed possible that there would be an all-out nuclear war. In April and May 1970, while I was stationed in Pleiku, South Vietnam, our compound came under almost daily rocket attacks, which ended only after the U.S. and South Vietnamese armies made an "incursion" into Cambodia. For a while on September 11, 2001 it was uncertain as to what other potential targets might come under attack. None of those events were quite like this most recent one.

Even as over 100,000 people in the U.S. have died and our state, our country, and the world have struggled to maintain a balance between keeping people safe while preventing the economy from collapsing, I have experienced some positive outcomes while observing social distancing. I have participated in many, many Zoom meetings, ranging from conducting business for various volunteer organizations (including CSG) to church services. Our extended family has conducted "nostrovia" gatherings each Saturday, with all our children and grandchildren participating from their homes across the country. We even celebrated the first birthday of one

grandchild via a Google hangout (the highlight was a "make your own party hat" contest) and the birthday of another grandchild via Zoom. I have been able to take part in several virtual genealogy presentations, as well as the Massachusetts Genealogical Council's Virtual Seminar, which I probably would not have been able to travel to under "normal" conditions. And I have found more time to get outside to work in the yard and garden than I have had for several years.

Although we experienced some technical issues, it was wonderful that "attendees" of CSG's Annual Meeting included folks from California, Florida, and Ireland. As we start our 53<sup>rd</sup> year, CSG will continue to use technology to provide alternatives to "live" meetings at our office. This summer we are offering a Summer Webinar Series on the first Monday and third Saturday of each month (see page 15). Our September 19 program with Sandra Taitt-Eaddy and our Annual Seminar in October may also be conducted via Zoom. Speaking of the October 31 Seminar, it too will be "virtual," with a great program planned around the theme "What Scares You in Genealogy" (see inside back cover).

Having just completed my most recent term as President, I want to express my sincere thanks to the Officers, Governors, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work this past fiscal year. It has truly been a privilege to have served as President with such a great team. I look forward to remaining on the Board as Secretary under the leadership of your new President, Jenny Hawran, and Vice President, Pauline Merrick. I also want to personally extend a warm welcome to Jennifer Zinck, the newest member of the Board.

*~ Richard C. Roberts, President*

## Editorial

I hope this finds you all well. First, let me thank the CSG Board of Governors for their unwavering dedication to this Society through the COVID-19 pandemic. They have made tough decisions and have kept the Society going even though the State of Connecticut essentially shut down all non-essential businesses. Also, let me welcome them all back. Their service is greatly appreciated. Thank you to Jenny Hawran and Pauline Merrick for stepping up to the offices of President and Vice President and to Richard Roberts for stepping in to fill the Secretary position. I'd also like to welcome to the Board of Governors long-time CSG member, Jennifer Zinck. I know she will make a great addition to the Board. For a complete list of all the Board members, duly elected at the CSG Annual Meeting, held "virtually" on 16 May 2020, please see page one.

Our thanks also go out to all the store, public safety and healthcare workers as well as to those restaurant workers that provide take-out so that we can still get a bit of variety. You are all heroes and we appreciate your sacrifices to keep us safe, healthy and sane.

It saddens me, however, to say good-bye to both Margaret Jenkins and Russell DeGrafft. Both served as CSG Board members, and their contributions to CSG were held in high esteem. As part of the Publications Committee, Russell DeGrafft never tired of providing content or, especially, Book Reviews for this magazine. Both will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

Speaking of Book Reviews, we have not forgotten that we promised to publish book reviews of the 2019 Literary Award entries. We have found someone to write them and are just awaiting their return.

Thank you to CSG members Arthur W. Cole, Peg Limbacher, Susan McClen and Richard Roberts for their well-written and very interesting articles. Our thanks also go out to CSG member, Terry J. Thomas, who has shined our "spotlight" on the Connecticut Town of Guilford, a town with a very rich history.

Please stay safe.

~ Stephanie Hyland, Editor

### In Memoriam

#### Former CSG Board Member, Margaret Jenkins, CSG # 13309



Margaret Ellen Jenkins, who served on the CSG Board of Governors in 2008-09, passed away on Sunday May 3, 2020, after a long illness.

According to her obituary in the May 6 issue of *The Bristol Press*, Margaret was born on

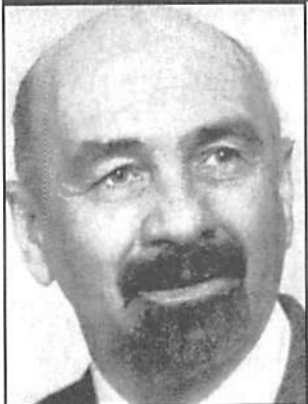
July 11, 1941, in Bristol, the daughter of the late James and Mary Sullivan. After graduating from St. Anthony's High School in Bristol and Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, she taught Spanish at New Britain High School. Later she obtained her degree in the French language and substitute taught Spanish, English, and French in several central Connecticut school districts.

After retiring, Margaret volunteered at an LDS Family History Center. She loved to travel to her ancestral lands, Poland and Ireland, with a special group of friends and with her husband. In addition to genealogical research, she enjoyed needlework and spending time with her cousins, children, grandchildren and friends and neighbors. Margaret was a longtime active member of St. Rose Church in Meriden. In her younger years she was an active member of the League of Women Voters.

In addition to her husband Peter, she is survived by her son Alden; her daughter Sarah Nowak; her three grandchildren, Rebecca, Anna and Mark Jr.; her brother Michael Sullivan and his wife Patricia and many cousins and nephews.

## In Memoriam

### Former CSG Board Member, Russell A. DeGrafft, CSG # 19174



Russell Allen DeGrafft, of Old Lyme, passed away April 7, 2020. He was elected to the CSG Board of Governors in May 2016, served on the Publications and Literary Awards Committees, and will be remembered for his many Spotlight articles on Connecticut

towns and book reviews in *Connecticut Genealogy News*. He resigned from the Board in 2019 due to health issues.

According to his obituary in the April 15 issue of the *New London Day*, Russell was born March 6, 1940, the oldest of three children of James Lewis DeGrafft Jr. and Madelyn Helen (Batchelder) (DeGrafft) Gagnon. He was a graduate of North Attleborough (Massachusetts) High School and Lyndon Teachers College (now Northern Vermont University). He did graduate work at Rhode Island College of Education, the University of Connecticut, and the University of Hartford.

Russ first taught at Lillie B. Haynes Elementary School, later moving on to East Lyme Junior High School, as their Reading Consultant and Reading Teacher, and to East Lyme High School, where he served as an English Instructor, Reading /Language Arts Coordinator and the Connecticut Mastery Test school district monitor. For many years he taught study skills/reading classes at Saint Thomas More School in Montville. He held a Visiting Professorship at Mohegan Community College (now Three Rivers Community College). He took early retirement in 1995, after serving the students and the community of East Lyme for many years.

After retiring he spent about 35 years researching his family and organizing their generational histories. Russ investigated more than 2,000 family

connections. He willingly shared his knowledge by instructing classes in genealogy research and providing one-on-one researching hints for interested genealogists. His band of researchers stretched around the world.

In addition to CSG, Russ was a member of the East Lyme Historical Society, serving as its Co-Docent Coordinator and tour guide; the New England Historical Genealogical Society; the Massachusetts and Rhode Island Genealogical Societies; and was an early contributor and advocate of the Descendants of Textile Workers of America. He was Treasurer of the East Lyme Puppetry Project and was a member of the National Education Association for over 60 years.

Russ married Norma Iris (Woodard) DeGrafft, a college classmate, on August 17, 1963, in Barton, Vermont. In addition to Norma, he is survived by his daughter Karen Lyn (DeGrafft) Palmerone (Christopher); his son Brian Jon Woodard DeGrafft (Amy); as well as two step-grandchildren, Andrew and Haley Wilkes of Voluntown; a grandson (Michael) Cody Rankin-DeGrafft of Colorado; Julia Maria and Jack Matteo DeGrafft of New London; Elizabeth Victoria Palmerone of Virginia Beach, Virginia; and his two sisters, Linda (DeGrafft) Corbett and Carol (DeGrafft) Midgley (Robert) of Massachusetts; as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Donations in his memory may be made to Northern Vermont University, Lyndonville Campus, 1001 College Road, Lyndonville, Vermont 05851 or the Connecticut Society of Genealogists Inc., P.O. Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

## Addison M. Whitlock and Clothing Issued to Company A, Fifth Connecticut Regiment, During the Civil War

by Arthur W. Cole, CSG # 11785

Among the Civil War papers belonging to my great-grandfather, Addison M. Whitlock of Bethel, Connecticut were two sheets that show various issues of military clothing — Blouses/Trousers/Drawers/Forage Caps/ Infantry Boots — issued to 40 officers, non-commissioned officers and privates in Company A, Fifth Connecticut Regiment. On the back of the first page is written "Month of May," which appears to be written in the same hand as the data on the front. No full date or place is given. The sheets were included in a folder with other of Addison's various certificates, commission papers, muster-out papers, travel papers, etc., that eventually was handed down to me. The sheets are 12 1/2 x 15 1/2 inches, with a paper seal mark.

On the original sheets are numbers added up to the side, which appear to be dollars and cents for the various articles; many amounts are repetitive.

Addison entered the army as a corporal, and perhaps was at some point in charge of clothing issue and held on to this one month's tally.

I understand that Company A was made up exclusively of men from the Danbury area. I've checked the sheets against the initial roster of names of this company as given in Bailey's *History of Danbury*, pages 388-9, and find many of the same names.

### Some Added Background on Addison and His Service Record

Addison Myron Whitlock was born September 19, 1840, in Redding, Connecticut, son of Zalmon and Eunice (Gilbert) Whitlock. Zalmon was a State Assemblyman to Hartford in 1873, representing the 15th District (Bethel). In 1856, at age 16, Addison sent a letter to then Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, requesting an appointment to West Point Military Academy. The letter, dated November 12, 1856, is filed in the National Archives of the United States, Washington, D. C. Two follow-up letters written by him the following year requesting status and response of his initial request are also on file. His name also appears on the Register of Cadet Applications for the State of Connecticut. He does not seem to have had a recommendation from a Congressman, State Representative, Judge or someone other of high stature in the state

or community, which would have been most beneficial and perhaps required to receive a West Point appointment. Within his military papers there is no receipt or response of any kind from the War Department.

At the outbreak of war and the President's call for troops (as per *History of Danbury*), Addison, age 20, joined the Danbury Zouaves under the command of Captain Henry B. Stone. The list of names shows Addison as corporal. A first cousin, Private Hiram M. Cole, also of Bethel, is also listed on this roster. This was the third muster of men at Danbury and the first to respond to the three-year enlistment. On May 16, 1861, this company of approximately 106 officers and men, after some fanfare, boarded a train at Danbury for Hartford, where they remained encamped at Camp Putnam until, on July 26, 1861, they were organized into Company A, Fifth Regiment. Three days later, on July 29, the company traveled by rail to Baltimore, Maryland, where they become part of General Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia. While stationed at Hartford (per promotion certificate), Addison was appointed Sixth Corporal on June 21, 1861. The certificate was dated at Hartford one month later on July 23, 1861 and signed by Orris S. Ferry, Colonel, Regiment Commander. This promotion is not found in other outside sources. Also from Addison's papers, on October 1, 1862, at Frederick City, Maryland, Corporal Whitlock was appointed Sergeant, Company A, Fifth Regiment, Connecticut Volunteers. This certificate was signed on October 7, 1862, by Captain James A. Betts, Commanding the Regiment. Both Edwin E. Marvin's regimental history and S. R. Smith's *Record of Connecticut Men* show an earlier date of September 13. This was after his regiment saw action at Cedar Mountain (August 9) and the Battle of Second Bull Run (August 29-30). Another certificate, dated March 5, 1863, Stafford Court House, Stafford County, Virginia shows that on March 1, 1863, Addison was appointed First Sergeant by Colonel Warren W. Packer, Commanding the Regiment. The regimental history and *Record of Connecticut Men* also show the March 1 date. Addison's regiment was present at the Battle of Chancellorsville (April-May 1863) and with 324 infantrymen was present at the Battle of Gettysburg, at Culp's Hill (July 1-3, 1863). During the fight, the Fifth was also sent to reinforce the Second Corps during Pickett's Charge.

Towards the end of 1863, Addison, on November 16 (per certificate), was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry Company A, Fifth Regiment per an order signed by William Buckingham (then Governor of Connecticut) at Hartford on November 21. The regimental history and *Record of Connecticut Men* show a date of December 1. Lieutenant Whitlock was present at the siege of Atlanta, July-August, 1864 and per muster-out roll was mustered out from there, being the end of his three-year enlistment (as an old member) on July 22, 1864; however, an additional enlistment is evident, as an entry from the diary of Colonel Warren W. Packer, for date of "Tuesday Nov. 1st" of 1864, found in Marvin's regimental history, page 348, mentions the mustering out of several officers, including Lieutenant Whitlock "... mustered out of service to date from this date." A second entry (Sat. 5th) reads: "The officers who were discharged have bade us good-bye and started for home." Addison returned to Connecticut. Smith's *Record of Connecticut Men* reflects this date; however, Marvin's regimental history provides a resignation date of December 1, 1864. (The Connecticut Fifth was mustered-out of service the following year, July 1865.)

Following his discharge (possibly within months), Addison enlisted in the U. S. Veterans Volunteers, as among his military papers is an extract of a special order, dated Columbus, Ohio, August 14, 1865 (after the conclusion of the war and President Lincoln's assassination) which directs that "Private Addison M Whitlock, Company C, 4th Regiment, U S. Veterans Volunteers, First Army Corps, is hereby detailed on detached service and will proceed to Detroit, Michigan, and report to Lieut. Col. O. H. Hart, A.A.G., Head Quarters Dept. of the Ohio, for duty as clerk." This extract states that the Quarter Master's Department would furnish the necessary transportation and is signed by order of Colonel James A. Wilcox, "Chf. Mastg. & Disch Officer of the Ohio." This extract places Private Whitlock at Camp Chase, Ohio. Camp Chase, within the City of Columbus was a military staging and training camp, which also included a large Union-operated prison for Confederate prisoners; the camp closed in 1865. This exact dates of his enlistment in the Veterans Volunteers, duty at Camp Chase, or length of service at Detroit are presently unknown.

Upon his final return to Connecticut and Bethel, Addison was employed as a bookkeeper with the Cole Ambler hat shop, of which his father (hatter) and sister Sarah Jane (hat trimmer) and several other family members of both the Whitlock and Cole families were for many years employed. Addison died of typhoid fever at his South Street

home in Bethel on September 10, 1881, aged 41. He was buried in the Whitlock plot, Center Cemetery in Bethel.

Addison married at Bethel on November 23, 1870, Mary Elizabeth Sturges. She died on April 16, 1915, aged 70. In war claim #218 696 of the Treasury Department (Auditor for the War Department), dated May 18, 1895, Mary Sturges Whitlock, widow, received payment of \$113.23 (less \$11.27 attorney fee) due to her husband being underpaid while in military service. The bulk of payment was a difference of pay between First Sergeant and Second Lieutenant; also included travel subsistence from Atlanta to Danbury.

#### Sources:

- ~ James Montgomery Bailey, *History of Danbury, Conn., 1684-1896, Compiled with Additions by Susan Benedict Hill* (New York, N.Y.: Burr Printing House, 1896).
- ~ Homer Worthington Brainard, Harold Simeon Gilbert, and Clarence Almon Torey, *The Gilbert Family: Descendants of Thomas Gilbert 1582(?) - 1659 of Mt. Wollaston (Braintree), Windsor, and Wethersfield* (New Haven, Conn.: 1953), 340, Family #687, Ichabod Gilbert.
- ~ *Danbury News*, Danbury, Conn., November 30, 1870, marriage announcement.
- ~ \_\_\_\_\_, September 14, 1881, obituary of Addison M. Whitlock.
- ~ \_\_\_\_\_, April 17, 1915, obituary of Mary Sturges Whitlock.
- ~ Headstone Inscriptions, Center Cemetery, Bethel, Connecticut.
- ~ Edwin E. Marvin, *The Fifth Regiment Connecticut Volunteers: A History Compiled from Diaries and Official Reports* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of Wiley, Waterman & Eaton, 1889).
- ~ Oral Family History.
- ~ Promotion and Commission Certificates; Addison M. Whitlock.
- ~ Stephen R. Smith, et. al., *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion* (Hartford, Conn.: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Company, 1889).

We the undersigned [see table on page 7] Non-commissioned Officers Artificers & Privates of Company A Fifth Regt. Conn. Vet Vols. do hereby acknowledge to have received of the several articles of Clothing set op[p]osite our respective names.



	Blouses	Trousers prs	Drawers prs	Shirts	Socks	Forage Caps	Inf Boots
*John Carney	1		2				1
*John Grouse		1	1	2	2		
*Otis G. Lewis		1	1	1	1		
Patrick Morgan				1	1		
Thomas Carmichael		1	1	2			
*John B. Johnson	1	1	2	1	2		
John Collins	1	1	1				
*William H. Lockwood					1		1
*Chas H. Durant			1		2		1
*G. A. Bradley	1	1	1		2		
Joseph Hamandy	1	1					
*David O. Comstock	1	1	1				1
Matthew Eagan	1			1			
William Coy		1	1		2		1
James Creevey		1					
William Stephenson			1				
John Mc Neal			1			1	
Thos. Caughlin			2	1		1	1
Wm. Johnson	1		1	1	2		1
John Anderson	1	1		1	1		1
William Keough		1					
*William N. Mix		1				1	1
*Henry Manning		1					
James Adams		1			2		1
Barney Dolan			1				
*L. M. Morehouse			1				
*W. M. Burritt			1				
*B. F. Squires	1	1					
*Daniel Odell					1		1
John Mc Cardy (?)					2		1
George Hicks					1		1
Lewis Larkin							
John Smith					1		
L. M. Welsh	1				1		1
*Enos A. Sage					5		1
Henry Hughes					2		1
William Hutchins					1		1
Hermandy					1		
*G. N. Johnson							1
James Cooper							1

\* Names that appear on Bailey's list of soldiers who left Danbury for Hartford on May 16, 1861.

## Growing up with My Four Grandparents

by Peg Limbacher, CSG # 9579

I have told the story so many times, I've lost count. However, truth be told, I love telling this story.

Growing up, I had a really small family – nine in total. I was born in New Haven, Connecticut, the only child of Edward John Limbacher (who was also an only child) and Helen (Black) Allison (who had one half-sister). In addition, I was the only grandchild of John Phillip Limbacher and Carrie Louisa (Doebele) Limbacher and of Alexander Allison and Margaret (Watson) (Urquhart) Allison and the only niece of Frank J. Barry and Jessie (Allison) Barry.

My mother's family came to New Haven from Scotland between 1910 and 1915. My father's maternal family (Doebele-Nagel) had been in New Haven since the mid-1800s, and on his paternal side (Limbacher-Bauer) Limbacher had been in New York, then to Bridgeport in about 1876 and finally to New Haven in about 1890. Katie Bauer came to Bridgeport about 1875.

My Scottish grandparents and various members of my grandmother's family lived in apartments in the East Rock section of New Haven. New Haven is divided into many sections, such as East Rock, West Rock, Westville, Newhallville, and Fair Haven.

In 1924, John and Carrie D. Limbacher purchased a house at 386-388 Shelton Avenue, New Haven (in the Newhallville section) and lived on the second floor until my grandmother sold the house early in the 1970s. In 1935, Alexander and Margaret (Urquhart) Allison moved into the first floor, number 386. The next year, 1936, with the approval of both families, my parents eloped and were married in Cambridge, Massachusetts, near where my father had gone to Northeastern University. After my parents married, they lived in a small apartment on the third floor of 388 Shelton Avenue, before moving to their first home at 87 Bayard Avenue, North Haven.

By today's standards, having both sets of grandparents in the same state or part of the country is unusual, so to have all four living in the same house is incredibly rare.

Since none of my grandparents drove, my parents did their grocery shopping every Friday night, and then we would take the groceries to 386-388 Shelton Avenue. Therefore, I saw my grandparents at least once a week. However, I also spent weekends and school time off -- generally with my Scottish grandmother -- on the first floor. But all I had to do is go up or down the back stairs.

The first floor had a wonderful front porch which was my "window to the world." In the morning, my mother or my Nanna would bring all of my playthings to the porch, and there I spent many wonderful hours on the glider, watching the goings on up and down the street. The house was on a trolley line, with a pharmacy and a meat store across the street.

Since I saw all four of my grandparents all at the same time, I had different names for each: Favee and Grandma Limbacher and Grandpa and Nanna Allison. You are wondering where "Favee" came from. I am told that when I was very young, I repeated what I thought I heard my Dad say, "my father called," etc.

When I stayed with my Nanna, she and I would take the trolley into New Haven. We made the same stops each time, Sharpenburgs, a (huge--to my eyes) department store with a wonderful system for taking money that was put it in a tube; suddenly it would be whisked away, and in a few moments my Nanna's or Mother's change would come back. We also visited the Mohegan Market, which had sawdust on the floor and lots of very smelly cheese. Other stops included Elm City Pies, Liggett's Pharmacy and Gilbert's bakery, before we would take the trolley home. As I got older, my aunt added to this list the "antique" stores on State Street. My personal description of these stores was "junk," but my aunt could always see the beauty in a three-legged stool or a bureau with missing drawers, etc.

In September of 1956, my German grandfather died of a cerebral hemorrhage after a leg amputation caused by diabetes. The following July, 1957, my Scottish grandmother died of what today would be described as some form of dementia. It was then that my Scottish grandfather moved to the small two room

apartment on the third floor. After retirement, he continued to work in the kitchen of St. Raphael's Hospital and had dinner with my German grandmother. When

my grandfather got sick, he then moved to the second floor and lived in my grandmother's second bedroom.

What an adventure. It was like the two of them were married. My grandmother had someone to cook for and take care of and my grandfather had someone to take care of him.

I remember once my parents answering the phone in the middle of a snow storm and my grandmother said to my mother, "your father wants to walk to work today." He had retired from Winchester and was now working at St. Raphael's Hospital in the kitchen and he thought the kitchen wouldn't survive without him. So, my mother said, "Well, take his shoes away." Then one time I re-

member hearing that my grandmother had gone to a church meeting and apparently told my grandfather she would be home by 9:00. So, when she came in, about

9:05, he was waiting at the top of the stairs pointing at his watch.

But what I remember most is that care and concern kept them both alive. I never once heard either one of them use a first name, it was always "Mr. Allison" or "Mrs. Limbacher." My grandfather died in 1967 after a long battle with cancer, and my grandmother often said how much she missed "Mr. Allison" and she was very lonely. She later moved to the Lutheran Home in Southbury. She died in 1975, two years after my mother, after falling out of a chair and breaking her hip.

## The Whole Situation

*by Susan Fenn McClen, CSG # 13050*

All genealogists know to research birth, marriage, and death certificates in tracing their line. Inconsistencies can often be solved in looking at who gave the information. For example, the only vital record that you provide your information on is your marriage certificate. Someone else fills out your birth and death certificates.

While vital records provide basic information, how do you find out more about your ancestors? Obituaries can fill out more about the person, telling about schooling, career/jobs, interests, etc. They may also include the names of siblings, spouses, children, stepchildren, in-laws, etc. Details on military service, employment and community activity can also be listed.

While an idea of what the person was like might be assumed based on an obituary, more information is sometimes needed to determine what was really going on. Remember, obits usually cast the deceased in a positive light. As an example, a will is written in which the husband leaves everything to his wife. No mention of any children. A review of her will shows her surviving children. But she leaves her estate to her daughter and nothing to her son, "as he has been successful in life." Did she disown her son? Is there a family feud? A review of all records providing information on the births, marriages and deaths of the children may be needed.

Your research would next be expanded to include obits, other newspaper reports, gravestones, more wills, possible military pension records, journal articles and anything else you can get a hold of. Your search might require visits to archives, town halls and historical societies/town museums. Also, other close relatives may have information in their obits, wills, property transfers, etc. The more information that can be found, a better picture of the person emerges.

Going back to the family above, a big clue after reviewing both the husband's will and property records is what the widow did with the real estate she inherited from her husband – she transferred it to her surviving son. A review of her obituary notice shows both surviving children were named, and the obit of the son lists his sister as a survivor. No family feud.

The more documents you can find, the better the picture of your ancestors can emerge. Just looking at a will may appear to show a child being disinherited, but real estate transfers can show a beloved child who received their share another way. What is going to be a problem for future genealogists is that we are now doing things that do not always leave a clean-cut record. Paying for college and weddings, helping with a down payment on a home, etc. may not always leave a public record.

## To Celebrate the Day That She Was Born

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680

Alex Haley, the author of *Roots*, once noted that “the decline of the American Family may be slowed by holding family reunions and writing family histories.” The family of William Watson and Nancy Hoyt (Bean) Roberts bears testimony to the accuracy of Haley’s observation, for when William and Nancy were married in 1831 they started a family that has never really lost touch of its “roots” and which has celebrated annual reunions for 138 years.

At first glance there appears to be nothing remarkable about Nancy. She perhaps never knew that one of her ancestors, John Hoyt, was one of the original commoners of Amesbury, Massachusetts or that another, John Bean of Exeter, New Hampshire, was born John MacBean in Inverness-shire, Scotland. But she did know that “family” was important. Born just “Nancy Bean,” her belief in family ties led her to be remembered by her children and grandchildren as “Nancy Hoyt Bean Roberts.”

Nancy was born August 8, 1806 in Poplin (now Fremont), New Hampshire, a small farming community where her father, Obadiah, had a cooper shop. Her father died about 1828, leaving a widow and twelve children. About that time Nancy, the oldest child, at least two sisters, and her mother arrived in Lowell, Massachusetts where the young women worked as factory operatives and their mother as a house mother in one of the boarding houses. Lowell also attracted skilled foreign weavers, most of them from England and Scotland. In 1828 William Watson Roberts, a young Englishman, emigrated to America to work in Lowell’s growing textile industry and soon thereafter became a carpet weaver at the Lowell Manufacturing Company, one of the predecessors of Bigelow Carpet. William and Nancy were married in Lowell in March 1831.

The couple moved several times -- from Lowell to Portsmouth, New Hampshire; from Portsmouth to Albany, Vermont; from Vermont to Connecticut, where William is believed to have worked in the mills in Tariffville. Then, in the late 1830s, because of an economic recession and increased mechanization, William was laid off. Through a friend he was able to get a job as a lumberman, clearing the woodlands of East Hartland, Connecticut, for a sawmill run by the Goddard family of Granby. One of the logging operations is said to have taken him to McCarthy Road. In 1841 Nancy made the first of several land purchases for what was to become their farm on McCarthy Road on the East Hartland-Granville, Massachusetts state line. Going out the front door, they would have been in East Hartland; going out the back door they would have been in Granville.

It must have been hard for William Roberts, a product of England’s Industrial Revolution, to adjust from life as a mechanic to live as a farmer. But as his children -- seven boys and two girls -- grew up on the farm, he and Nancy must

have been proud to see them work and play together, growing up with a strong commitment to their parents and to one another.

Five of the boys -- William Henry, Joseph Warren, Charles Watson, John Obediah, and Stephen Spelman -- served in the Civil War. Joseph, a sergeant in Company F, 27th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, was killed in battle at Drury’s Bluff, near Petersburg, Virginia on May 16, 1864. Charles was captured as a prisoner of war in the same battle and was confined in Libby and Andersonville Prisons. Ham Allen Barnes, husband of Adelaide, one of the Roberts girls, died just a month later following the amputation of his leg after suffering a leg injury while tearing up railroad track near North



**Nancy Hoyt (Bean) Roberts (front row, center)  
and Her Family**

Anna River, Virginia. A year later, one of Adelaide's daughters died. Maria Louisa (Roberts) Holcomb lost her first two children in infancy. Then William, Sr. died unexpectedly on December 1, 1871.

These tragedies only served to bring the family closer together. To help cheer Nancy, her children organized a special party for her 75th birthday. It proved so successful that every year until her death in 1903 they made a special occasion of her birthday celebrations and the tradition has continued ever since in the form of the annual Roberts Reunion.

Back in 1981, Louise Schlosser of Granville, Massachusetts, then one of the oldest living descendants of William and Nancy Roberts, recalled that the first Reunions were always held at Nancy's home on South Lane, Granville, where she lived with her son, Charles Watson Roberts, and his wife, Sarah Seymour. "The tables were set up, planks on carpenter horses, along the road, under the big elm trees in front of the house. The folks came by horse and buggy and everyone brought baskets of food. There were no benches to sit on, just tables to hold the food."

Each year the Roberts brothers would try to find a unique way to convey their birthday greetings to their mother. Because Nancy's children were all musically inclined, the traditional procedure would be for the brothers to compose a special musical tribute. The highlight of the afternoon would come when the men rolled the pump organ out of the parlor onto the front lawn. Stephen would begin the song on organ; Edward would join in on accordion, and then the entire family would join in a special Reunion song. This would be followed by Civil War songs and hymns.

One year the family tried to surprise Nancy with a new treat; someone brought a freezer of ice cream. "It was the first that most of us children had ever known," recalled Louise Schlosser, "and apparently the first that Grandma Roberts had also, for when they brought her dish of it, she asked that they put it in the oven a little while to warm it up a bit." About the last year that Nancy was living, the boys made a tremendous kite and painted her name and the date on it. When they flew it and all the string had been reeled out, a sudden gust of wind broke the string, and the kite sailed away toward Granby, Connecticut.

After Nancy's death in 1903, the Reunions began to be held at Southwick Ponds which, during the Gay Nineties, had become the most popular recreational area between Northampton and New Haven. A favorite place for the Roberts clan was Babb's Grove where there was bathing, boating, a pavilion, and an organ. Family members from Springfield and Westfield would take the train to Southwick and then cross the lake on Nelson Babb's launch.

They brought many goodies -- baskets and boxes of them. "Melia" Roberts, wife of Stephen, always brought molasses cookies made with cinnamon (not ginger) and would put two together with red raspberry jam between. Another of her special dishes was baked lima beans. Several years a group of the young men went fishing the night before the Reunion and "Melia" fried the fish over an open fire. Lucy (Roberts) Stebbins, recalling the old picnics at Babb's Grove, remembered her family bringing "corn, watermelons, and all kinds of goodies and we six (children) ate and ate."

As the years rolled by, the means of transportation to the Reunions changed. Margaret Pratt, Louise Schlosser's daughter, remembered going in an old touring car with "baskets of goodies packed in the running board carrier, down to Canton, and over the dirt roads through the Game Preserve, and on to Congamond Ponds. It was an occasion we looked forward to all summer." Joseph and Mabel Roberts and their sons, Lloyd and Arthur, would take the trolley from Hartford to Tariffville, where William Hansen picked them up in a Model T and, later, in a 1922 Dodge touring car.

Nearly everyone who has attended a Roberts Reunion has a special memory of what Reunion time means to them. Some memories involve games and entertainment, which have always played an important part at Reunions. Margaret Pratt remembered Bert Oppenheimer organizing games when she was a child, inspiring her to do the same in later years. Wilhelmina Tryon recalled her brothers and other young people dancing to slow music during the 1920s. In the 1930s there was traditionally a horse-shoe pitching contest, followed by a tug-o-war between the single men and the married men. There have always been relay races for the children and special awards for the youngest person present, oldest person present, the family coming the farthest, etc. Another tradition is trying to guess the number of beans in a large jar in tribute to matriarch Nancy's maiden name, but over the years there have

been a number of interesting variations, with the items including candies, pennies, and blueberries.

In the 1950s, the site of the Reunions was moved first to Granville State Forest and later to Stanley Park in Westfield, Massachusetts. Most of the Reunions of the 1960s were held at the home of William and Margaret Pratt on South Lane, Granville. For a new generation of family members, these sites represented the Reunions of the “good old days.” For many, the most memorable features of these Reunions were Fred Roberts’ accordion and trampoline. Beginning in 1953, Fred and his daughters performed a trampoline act, and the trampoline became a regular feature at Reunions for the next quarter century. Fred always gave all children a brief introductory lesson and then let each child present have a chance to jump. The Pratt’s unique swimming pool, which one family member has described as a “cement pond”, also seems to have left a lasting impression on many family members.

For many years in the 1970s, Reunions were held at Sunrise Park in Suffield, Connecticut where activities included fishing, swimming, and paddle boats. Following the 1981 Centennial Reunion in Granville and in Stanley Park, the site of the Reunions changed several times. In 1983 and 1984 it returned to Babb’s Beach in Suffield for the first time since the late 1940s. After alternating between several other locations, recent Reunions have been held at Sunrise Park.

Yet of all the memories of past Reunions, perhaps the longest lasting and most meaningful deal with the reason

the Reunions originally came about, family ties. One family member remembers Reunions as a time of “lots of chatting and families.” For another it was seeing all her relatives at the Reunions she attended as a child. And still another notes that, “As a kid, swimming” was “all that interested me” but that in recent years what has made the Reunions special is “getting acquainted and re-acquainted with the Roberts clan.” Perhaps what best expresses what has drawn members of the Roberts family together each August for 138 years is: “It’s fun to see who all your relatives are, past and present, and each generation represents such a bonding of families.”

This bond has extended across the country. During much of the twentieth century, concurrent Reunions were held in Cawker City, Kansas, home of Ranford Rice Roberts and Charles Allen Barnes, two descendants who “went west” in the late 1800s. The Kansas Reunions were held at “Rice’s” farm along the river where the day was spent visiting, eating, and swimming. A postcard depicting both Kansas families and mailed to Emma Roberts Hansen in Granville, Massachusetts on August 8, 1910 is symbolic of the ties that helped keep the Roberts family together in the past just as e-mail and the Roberts Reunion Facebook page do today.



**Fred Roberts Playing the Accordion**



**Fred Roberts' Trampoline**



**1981 Roberts Reunion at Stanley Park**

*“To Celebrate” continued on page 28*



# Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities

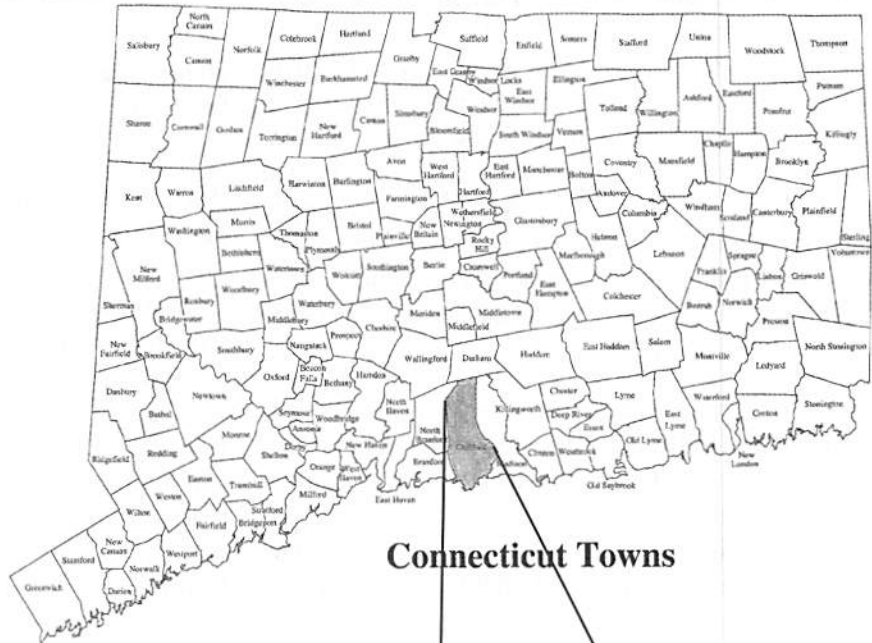


## Spotlight on Guilford

by Terry J. Thomas,  
CSG # 19336

### Historic and Geographic Profile

The current town of Guilford in New Haven County, Connecticut, has, as its southern border, Long Island Sound. It is bounded on the east by Madison, on the north by Durham, and on the west by North Branford and Branford. The town is approximately five miles wide and 12 miles in length, totaling 47.6 square miles. The Guilford Town Green lies 16 miles east of New Haven, 34 miles south of Hartford and 36 miles west of New London.



Connecticut Towns

Guilford

The historic town center occupies an area approximately four-square miles, lying between the East and West Rivers and bounded by I-95 on the North and Long Island Sound on the South. The population of the town of Guilford was 22,375 in the 2010 census.

As communities and parishes developed in early colonial towns, they adopted their own village and borough names. Due to Guilford's location on Long Island Sound, many seaside resort communities developed including Mulberry Point, Sachem's Head, Indian Cove, Chaffinch Island, Jacob's Beach and Leete's Island, along with other communities such as North Guilford, Dudleytown and Lake Quonnipaug. Each has its own unique history and ancestral genealogy associated with it. The "village" of Guilford was incorporated as a "borough" in 1815.

The major thoroughfares in Guilford are: the Boston Post Road (Route 1), which runs east/west along the shoreline; Foxon Road (Route 80), which runs east/west through North Guilford and Long Hill Road, which traverses from Route 1 northward and terminates at Ledge Hill Road in North Guilford. Running parallel to Long Hill is Durham Road (Route 77), which is a state-designated scenic road and runs from the Guilford Green northward to Durham, where it intersects with Routes 79 and 17.

### First Settlers

With preparations underway to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1620 landing of the Pilgrims, we should not forget all of the courageous immigrants who preceded and followed that treacherous journey across the Atlantic to arrive at various ports along the eastern seaboard. The *Mayflower* was one of many ships carrying passengers

who were escaping religious persecution or seeking personal refuge for other reasons, as well as merchant-adventurers who were seeking fortunes.

Some of the ships that followed the *Mayflower* were the *Fortune* in 1621, the *Anne* and *Little James* in 1623, the *Charity* in 1624 and the *John* in 1639, which brings us to the founding of Guilford, Connecticut. It was in May of 1639 that the Rev. Henry Whitfield, his wife Dorothy Sheafe, along with 25 Puritan families seeking religious freedom, sailed on the *John* from their home in Guildford, Surrey, England, and arrived in New Haven. Searching for suitable farmland, the group established a “plantation” on the coastal plain of Long Island Sound, on land inhabited by the Menunkatuck tribe. They negotiated with the squaw sachem (female chief) Shaumpishih and purchased land halfway between New Haven and Saybrook. There they established the plantation of “Menuncatuck,” which would later be known as Guilford.

Some of the names of the early settlers that are still prominent in Guilford today are: Baldwin, Bartlett, Bishop, Bushnell, Chatfield, Chittenden, Disbrow, Dudley, Fowler, Griswold, Hoadley, Hubbard, Kitchell, Leete, Meigs, Munger, Parmelee, Norton, Page, Rossiter, Russell, Scranton, Whitfield and Wilcox. For a more complete list, consult the *History of Guilford, Connecticut*, taken from the manuscripts by the Honorable Ralph D. Smith and published in 1877 by J. Munsell, Albany, New York (now available online as an ‘E’ book).

For a compilation of early Guilford families, consult Alvan Talcott’s *Families of Early Guilford, Connecticut, Vols. 1 and 2*, published in 1984 (copyright held jointly by Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc.; CSG, Inc. and the New Haven Colony Historical Society).

### Historic Buildings

Guilford has some of the best-preserved colonial houses in Connecticut, and many are within walking distance from the town green. There are over 200 historic buildings. They include: The Henry Whitfield House (1639), the oldest stone house in New England, and now a state museum located at 248 Old Whitfield Street; The Hyland House (1713), 84 Boston Post Road and The Thomas Griswold House Museum (abt 1764), located at 171 Boston Street, which functions as the home of the Guilford Keeping Society. Four locations, a lighthouse and ten buildings

are listed on the National Register of historic Places.

### The Faulkner’s Island Lighthouse

The Faulkner’s Island Lighthouse has been in continuous service as an aid to navigation on Long Island Sound since it was constructed in 1802. The island is 3.5 miles off the Guilford shore. It is under the care of the Faulkner’s Light Brigade. Its access is restricted from May to August in order to protect nesting roseate terns.

### Henry Whitfield State Museum (aka The Old Stone House)

Built in 1639 by the Rev. Henry Whitfield as a family home, this building also served as a meetinghouse for the settlers and as a fortification against the Native Americans. It is said to be the oldest dwelling-house now standing in the United States. It has undergone many renovations, but stands today as a museum and popular tourist destination. It is located at 248 Whitfield Street, just southeast of the town green. This stone house consists of two stories and an attic with walls that are three feet thick. The Whitfield House, Guilford’s only National Historic Landmark, received this designation in 1996.



Reverend  
Henry Whitfield



The Henry Whitfield House Museum  
“The Old Stone House”



### The Hyland House

The Hyland House is an historic house museum located at 84 Boston Street and named for George Hyland, the settler who purchased the land on which it stands in 1657. The two-story saltbox structure was built circa 1713 by Hyland's son-in-law, Isaac Parmelee. The National Register of Historic Places describes it as a "landmark building in the history of domestic architecture." The homestead's inhabitants included Ebenezer Parmelee, a master clockmaker, and Candace, an enslaved woman for whom Guilford's first Witness Stone was placed in the museum's front walkway.



The Hyland House Museum

### Thomas Griswold House Museum

The Thomas Griswold House (the Guilford Keeping Society) at 171 Boston Street was probably built around 1764 by Thomas Griswold III for one of his sons. It remained in the hands of his descendants until 1958, when it was acquired by the Guilford Keeping Society. The society undertook two major restorations, one in the 1970s and another in the 1990s.



The Thomas Griswold House

### Changing Town Boundaries and Ecclesiastical Divisions

The town boundaries have been fluid from the initial settlement in 1639. At that time the town spanned the coastal plain from Branford to Killingworth and only as far north as the present day I-95 highway. There were seven land and ecclesiastical divisions during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as land was purchased from the Native Americans. Later in the seven-

teenth century, Guilford became part of the New Haven Colony and then the Connecticut Colony. Guilford's William Leete was one of the first governors of both colonies.

In 1703 the farmers on the east side of town formed a society called "East Guilford" which comprised present day Madison. Before the division of the town in

1826, Guilford had four congregational societies known as: Guilford First Society, North Guilford, East Guilford and North Bristol (current day Madison and North Madison respectively).

### Early Industry

By the eighteenth century, the town had become a thriving coastal community with agriculture and oyster harvesting supporting the economy. Guilford's economy historically depended on fishing, agriculture, manufacturing, grain and sawmills, salt hay harvesting, a fish oil factory and granite quarrying.

### Sachem's Head Canning and Knowles-Lombard

This early business helped to expand Guilford's economy by canning tomatoes and pumpkins grown by the local farmers. According to the Guilford Keeping Society, the Knowles-Lombard Company was one of three canning firms that operated in Guilford during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century. The other firms (the Guilford Canning Company and the Sachem's Head

Canning Company) operated in the town center, west of the Green. Knowles-Lombard also sold sand, gravel, coal, and oil.

### **Bishops Orchards**

The Bishop farm was started in 1871 by Walter Goodrich Bishop, who engaged in general farming including dairy, vegetables and ice. The year 2011 marked the 140th anniversary of this family-owned farm market that is located at 1355 Boston Post Road. In 1975, the farm and family were awarded the Century Farm Award by Governor Ella Grasso and the Connecticut Board of Agriculture, honoring its 104th year of operation under the same family ownership. In 2020, the seventh generation of the Bishop family is now involved in the business. The family has deep roots in Guilford -- ancestors emigrated from England in 1639.

### **Pages Hardware**

Built in 1858 by James Monroe, the current Pages Hardware building, located on the south side of the Guilford Green at 9 Boston Street, housed Jasper Monroe & Sons, a general store. In 1875 Mr. Beverly Monroe, who became the first Treasurer of the Guilford Savings Bank, had a safe in the back of the store, which constituted the "bank" (now a small in-store museum) until 1880 when the bank was moved. At this time Monroe changed his general store into a food market. In 1896 E.H. Butler purchased the building and moved his hardware business into the store. Butler ran the hardware store until 1939 when Harry L. Page, Jr. purchased the building and business. Since then, the store has been owned and operated by the Page family.

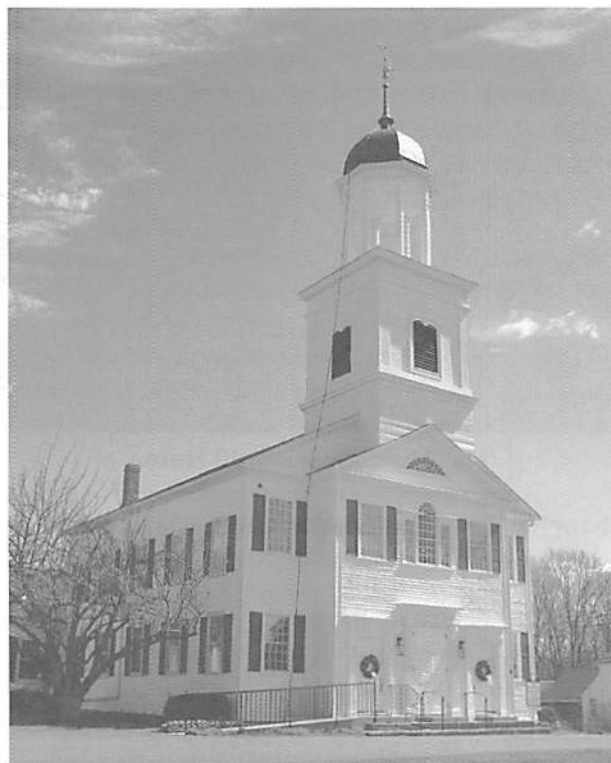
### **John Beattie's Leetes Island Quarry**

The Beattie Quarry is perhaps most famous for providing the granite used in the base of the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge. John Beattie, a Scottish immigrant and son of a stone cutter, bought 400 acres of land at Leetes Island in 1869. Included in this land was a part of the huge vein of granite that ran into the Stony Creek section of Branford. On August 5, 1884, a six-ton block of Beattie's granite became the cornerstone for the Statue of Liberty's base. At one point, Beattie temporarily ceased his granite shipments for the project due to a lack of payment, but the famous publisher Joseph Pulitzer stepped in and helped raise the funds necessary to pay Beattie for the remainder of the statue's granite base.

### **North Guilford**

The area in North Guilford was purchased from the Native Americans in 1686 but was not surveyed and divided until 1705. It expanded the town northward to Durham. It took many years for the inhabitants of the First Ecclesiastical Society of Guilford to clear the land and make permanent homes. They would travel northward every Monday to settle this land and then return to town in time for the Sunday Sabbath. The area therefore became known as "Co-habit." "Meeting House Hill" is the historic hilltop site in North Guilford where Long Hill Road intersects Ledge Hill Road. Here you will find two churches, three church-related buildings, Melissa Jones Elementary School, Old North Cemetery and a spectacular panorama view of farmland.

In 1719, the inhabitants of North Guilford created their own "Society" separate from the "First Society" and called it the "North Guilford Society" and later the North Guilford Congregational Church. In 1720 North Guilford was incorporated, and in 1723 a church building was erected. The first pastor was the Reverend Samuel Russell, Jr. Some of the earliest settlers in this area were the Dudleys, Chittendens, Bartletts, and Rossiters, all of whose names can be found in the Old North Cemetery.



**North Guilford Congregational Church**

From the Guilford Keeping Society's *A Short History of Guilford*: "After the death of Reverend Russell in 1746, the society split and those that broke away went on to form the St. John's Conformist Episcopal Church in 1747. The first St. John's church was built in 1754. Deacon George Bartlett was the first deacon of the church."

### Lake Quonnipaug

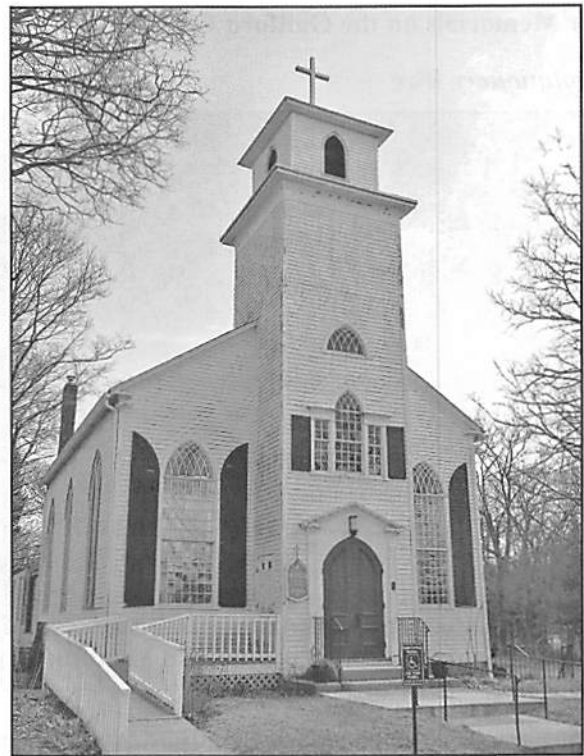
Guilford is bounded on the south by Long Island Sound, which provides boating, swimming and picnicking opportunities, and Jacobs town beach. Similar activities can be found in North Guilford at Lake Quonnipaug, a 98.7 acre fresh water lake that borders Route 77 and has a pavilion and a beach for residents.

### Native Americans

Though history shows there was harmony between the early settlers of Guilford and the Native Americans, there still were bloody battles that occurred between the Pequot and Mohegan tribes that inhabited Connecticut.

A battle in 1636 took place between the Pequots and the Mohegans. A Pequot sachem (chief) was being chased westward from the Connecticut River and ended up at a small harbor in Guilford. The cove where the skirmish took place became known as "Bloody Cove." Uncas, the sachem of the Mohegans, killed the Pequot sachem, beheaded him and placed his head in the fork of a large oak tree at the head of the harbor. Thus, the harbor became known as "Sachem's Head."

After the land that would become Guilford was purchased from the sachem queen, Shaumpishuh, the Native Americans left the town, with the exception of those who were infirmed and were allowed to stay.



**St. John Episcopal Church**

### The Guilford Green - An Ancient Burial Ground

The Guilford Green was designed and surveyed in 1643 and originally occupied about 16 acres. Today it is approximately 7.75 acres in size. As with many colonial towns, settlers built homes and churches in clusters around a common green used for a variety of purposes. They would use the green for cattle to graze and to bury their dead.

In 1800 the President of Yale College, Timothy Dwight, visited the town and was dismayed that the graves were trampled upon by men and cattle. So, by 1817 two new cemeteries were opened and the green was no longer used for burials. While the headstones were removed, some remains are still there.



**The Guilford Green**

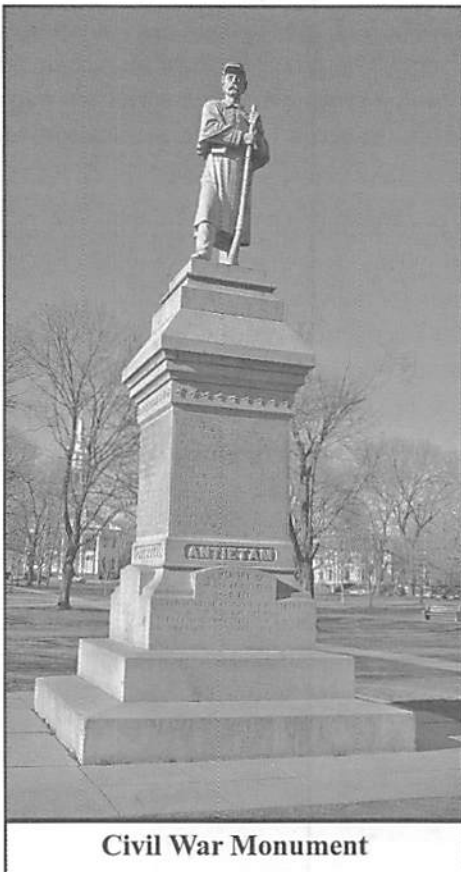
## War Memorials on the Guilford Green

### Revolutionary War



**Revolutionary War Soldier's Monument**

During the Revolutionary War, Guilford was attacked by British troops from New York. The local militia was able to defeat the invaders. This war memorial, which was placed by the Agnes Dickinson Lee Chapter of the DAR in 1940, is inscribed: "In Memory Of All The Revolutionary Soldiers Of Guilford, Connecticut."



**Civil War Monument**

### Civil War

The "Soldier's Monument" is dedicated to Guilford residents who fought in the Civil War. This impressive 15-foot monument, with a granite pedestal and a figure of a soldier mounted on top, lists the names of Guilford soldiers who served in the 14th Connecticut Volunteer Regiment. Each side of the pedestal is devoted to a separate Civil War battle. Engraved on the south face is the inscription, "*In memory of the men of Guilford who fell and in honor of those who served in the war for the Union, the grateful town erects this monument, that their example may speak to coming generations.*" It lists 14 Guilford residents who died in the war. The monument was designed by the firm of James G. Batterson. John Beattie supplied the pedestal, and Thomas Phillips and Son supplied the statue.

Other memorials on the Guilford Green are the: Guilford Spanish-American War monument; World War I monument, World War II monument, Korean War monument, the Vietnam Memorial and to the Guilford Volunteer Fire Department.

### The Guilford Agricultural Society

In the fall of 1859, the first agricultural fair was held on the eight-acre Guilford Green. As an annual affair, it had provided competitive farmers an opportunity to exhibit their prize produce and farm animals. The Fair eventually outgrew the Green, and so in 1969 a new 30-acre tract of land was purchased by the Guilford Agricultural Society. To this day, the Guilford Agricultural Fair is held on this tract off Lover's Lane, not far from the town Green. It is Connecticut's second oldest agricultural fair. It takes place annually in September.

There are still a number of working farms in Guilford including Bishops, Wettemanns, Scranton and others.

### The Dudley Family of Guilford

The surname "Dudley" is prominent in Guilford as this was a very prolific family who intermarried with many of the early settlers. Two brothers, Caleb (born 1673) and William (born 1684), were responsible for two early settlement areas, one on the eastern side of Guilford and the other in North Guilford.

### Dudleytown

The historic district known as "Dudleytown" is an eight square mile area that lies between the East River and Clapboard Hill Road. Joseph Dudley was a son of

the immigrant ancestor William Dudley (born 1608, England) and Jane Lutman. One of Joseph's sons, Caleb (born 1673, Guilford) built a home for himself and his future wife about 1699. Subsequently, eight generations of Dudleys populated this area and at one time it contained 60 sites. On the Irvine map of Guilford published in 1852, this area of town was called "Dudley's Town."

### The Dudley Farm

Another son of Joseph Dudley and Ann Robinson was William Dudley (born 1684, Guilford) and is thought to be the first to farm the land on Durham Road in North Guilford. The farmhouse was built in 1845 by Erastus Dudley, a prosperous North Guilford farmer, gristmill and tannery owner. He was descended from William Dudley and Jane Lutman, who emigrated from England in 1639. The ten acres have been farmed by the Dudley family for almost 300 years. The last owner of the farm was David Munger Dudley (1909-1991), who left no progeny. He willed the estate to the North Guilford Congregational Church and the North Guilford Volunteer Fire Company.

Rather than sell the estate, a foundation was formed for the purpose of preserving, restoring and operating the Dudley Farm Museum. It has become a successful educational and recreational destination for the general public and functions as a museum and also as a weekly farm market during the growing season.

### Slavery in Guilford

Dennis Culliton, Adams Middle School history teacher, and Douglas Nygren, member of the Connecticut Academy of Arts & Science, Yale University, have researched the involvement of Guilford in the slave trade using probate, church, property and vital records to develop a historical testimony for enslaved persons who lived in Guilford. As a result of this research, the Witness Stones Project was founded as a way to memorialize the enslaved persons owned by Guilford residents. This is an ongoing project to commemorate the enslaved persons who helped build the community they lived in and to tell their stories once lost to history. About 80 enslaved persons are being researched. Students are involved with the research and are writing biographical sketches of these enslaved persons. Then, "witness stones" are ceremoniously placed where they once lived.



**Dr. Jared Redfield House  
Now Guilford Savings Bank**



**The Dudley Farm Museum**



**Witness Stones**

## The Regicide Cellar, River Street, Guilford

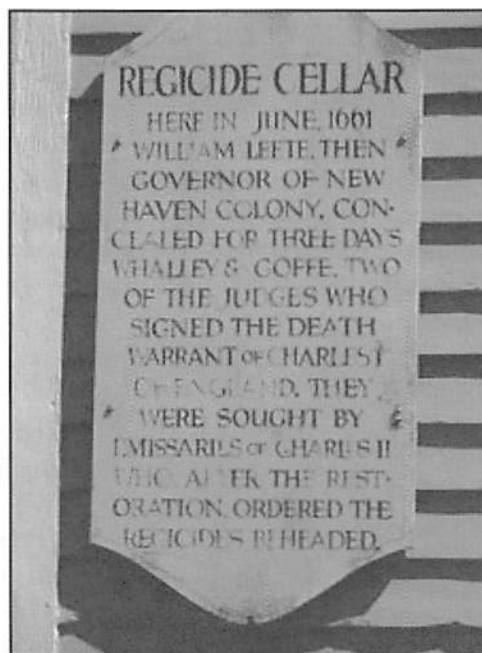
The definition of regicide is “king killer” and can be applied to anyone involved in killing a king. However, in Connecticut the term is best known in conjunction with three Puritans who signed the death warrant for Britain’s King Charles I: William Goffe, Edward Whalley and John Dixwell. After Charles II was restored to the throne in 1661, the three fled to North America, Dixwell eventually hiding in New Haven.

The story or myth that has survived is that Governor William Leete concealed Judges Goffe and Whalley in a cellar on his property at 6 Broad Street, Guilford for three days. A plaque on the surviving barn at the corner of River and Broad Streets reads:

“Here in June 1661, William Leete, then Governor of New Haven Colony concealed for three days Whalley and Goffe, two of the judges who signed the death warrant of Charles I of England. They were sought by emissaries of Charles II who after the Restoration ordered the regicides beheaded.”



The Regicide Cellar

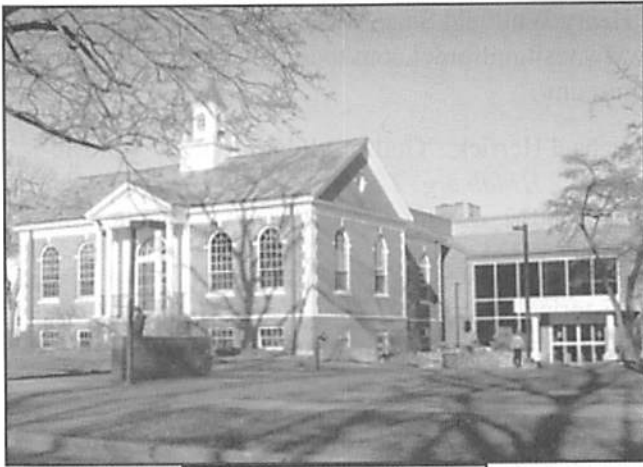


## Accessing Records

### Guilford Free Library

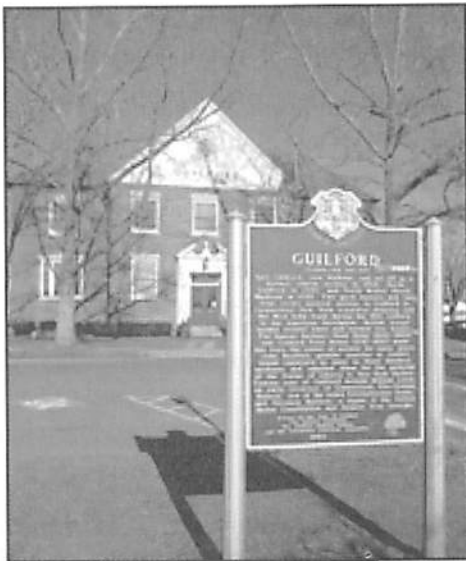
The Edith B. Nettleton Room (named after the town’s first librarian) of the Guilford Free Library, located at 67 Park Street, contains materials relating to Guilford’s history and genealogy. Included are books, diaries, letters, maps, photographs, postcards, scrapbooks, high school yearbooks, and early tax lists. Also available are microfilm reels of the federal census for New Haven and Middlesex Counties from 1800 to 1930. The *Shore Line Times* newspaper from 1877 to 31 December 2008 (when it ceased publication), and the *Guilford Courier* from its inception, 27 October 1998, are indexed and searchable through the library’s catalog. A portion of the Guilford Keeping Society’s collection of photographs, original manuscripts and documents is housed in this room as well.

The Historical Room is open during regular library hours. You may contact the Historical Room Librarian, Danielle Eadevito: [deadevito@guilfordfreelibrary.org](mailto:deadevito@guilfordfreelibrary.org) or the Historical Room Specialist, Tracy Tomaselli: [ttomaselli@guilfordfreelibrary.org](mailto:ttomaselli@guilfordfreelibrary.org).



**Guilford Free Library**

**Guilford Town Hall**, located at 31 Park Street  
 Anna Dwyer, Town Clerk  
 Scott Carle, Assistant Town Clerk  
 Paula Wilson, Assistant Town Clerk  
 For hours of operation, contact the Town Clerk's Office at: 203-543-8001 or to email, go to <http://www.ci.guilford.ct.us>, click Town Departments and follow the "Town Clerk" link.



**Guilford Town Hall**

### Guilford Probate History

Guilford Probate District was constituted October 1719 from the New Haven Probate District. It also served the following municipalities at various times: Branford, October 1719 - June 20, 1850; Durham, October 1719 - May 1752; Killingworth, October 1719 - May 1780; Madison, May 1826 - May 21, 1834; North Branford,

May 1831 - April 1937. The Guilford Probate District merged with the Madison Probate District on January 5, 2011 to create the Madison - Guilford Probate District which serves the municipalities of Guilford and Madison.

Town of Guilford, Probate District chronology:

1639 - October 1719, New Haven Colony, County Court & District

October 1719 - January 4, 2011, Guilford District

January 5, 2011 - Present, Madison - Guilford District

For Probate Court contact information and hours of operation see, Probate Court Directory, [ctprobate.gov/pages/directory.aspx](http://ctprobate.gov/pages/directory.aspx). For probate records held by the Connecticut State Library, see [ctstatelibrary.org/RG004\\_060.html](http://ctstatelibrary.org/RG004_060.html).

Repository:	Connecticut State Library
Creator:	Connecticut. Probate (Guilford District)
Title:	Guilford Probate Court Records
Dates:	1719-1900
Abstract:	Record books, None; Probate files, 1719-1900.
Identification:	RG004_060

### Guilford Cemeteries

Any family researcher appreciates that engraved headstones in cemeteries can offer a wealth of information. According to Findagrave.com, Guilford has at least 17 cemeteries and lists the following:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Alderbrook Cemetery     | Godfrey Burial Site    |
| Bluff Head Cemetery     | Saint George Cemetery  |
| Fowler Cemetery         | Smallpox Cemetery      |
| Goldsmith Cemetery      | Stone Family Cemetery  |
| Griswold-Leete Cemetery | Village Green Cemetery |
| Leetes Island Cemetery  | Foot-Ward Cemetery     |
| Murray Cemetery         | Nut Plains Cemetery    |
| Old North Cemetery      | West Side Cemetery     |
| Riverside Cemetery      |                        |

Guilford cemetery inscriptions can be found in the "Connecticut, Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629 – 1934" and are available at the Connecticut State Library and on Ancestry.com.

A tremendous resource for genealogists researching ancestors from Guilford is Alvan Talcott's two-volume compilation of early Guilford families.

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All photographs taken by Terry J. Thomas



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*“To Celebrate” continued from page 12*

This year, 2020, the descendants of William and Nancy Roberts won't be returning to Granville or Westfield or Suffield to celebrate the 139th Reunion, but will gather to learn about their heritage and to reflect on the meaning of “family” in the twenty-first century via Zoom. The descendants of William Watson and Nancy Hoyt (Bean) Roberts remain a strong “family” and will be so for as long as they gather, whether in person or virtually, “to celebrate the day that she was born.”



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