

Connecticut Genealogy News

For Those Who Pursue Their Family Heritage

Winter 2020-2021 Vol. 13 No. 4



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2020 Literary Award Winners

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The Rest of the Situation

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

CSG's 2020 Membership Survey results are in! We were thrilled that we heard from over 540 of you. Thank you to the many of you who took the time to share your valued feedback with us. This is the first in-depth survey CSG has done in many years, and we will continue to give members opportunities to provide input which will help inform future priorities of the organization.

The full survey results and member comments can be found in the member area of our website, www.csginc.org, but I'd like to give you some highlights of what we learned about you and what you are telling us you want as members of CSG.

Your genealogy research level

Genealogy knowledge:				
Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
Beginner			41	8.2 %
Intermediate			293	58.9 %
Advanced			167	33.6 %
Totals			497	100%

This question was really important to us, because the results will help us in planning future programming. A whopping 92.5% of our members who answered said they were intermediate or advanced researchers. This gives us a great jumping-off point in our program planning and lets us know that you are looking for some advanced workshops and webinars to be included in our programming calendar.

In-person or virtual

What program format do you prefer? (Check all that apply)				
Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
"Live Talk"			214	46.2 %
"Live Talk" with luncheon			85	18.3 %
Webinar			311	67.1 %
Other			29	6.2 %
Totals			463	100%

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we've been so happy to connect with members from all over the world. The survey confirmed that members outside of Connecticut are very much engaged and interested in being active in CSG. While the majority (309) who answered were from Connecticut, I was delighted to see members from 37 other states, as well as Canada, Greece, Ireland, and even Japan take part in the survey. Because of our worldwide reach, confirmation that 67.1% of members who answered said they preferred webinar learning made sense. I'm happy to report we have already decided that when things get back to normal (what is normal these days?), we plan to continue offering webinars as a part of our regular programming. In this survey, we realized, after the fact, that the "Live Talk" description on this question may have confused some people and they thought "Live Talk" meant a live webinar. We should have made it clearer by saying "in person." Regardless, we know that many of our local members enjoy coming to the library to attend in-person programs. We plan to continue with those as well when it is safe to do so. We miss seeing you all and hope that our world will be in a better place soon.

Program Topics

What kind of program topics would you like to see (Check all that apply)

Answer	0%	100%	Number of Response(s)	Response Ratio
DNA			278	58.4 %
Technology			234	49.1 %
Organizing Family History Data			262	55.0 %
Ethnicity			109	22.8 %
Lineage Societies			124	26.0 %
Census			153	32.1 %
Church records			274	57.5 %
Immigration			250	52.5 %
Other			72	15.1 %
Totals			476	100%

DNA is certainly the hot topic of interest in the genealogy world, so the 58.4% of members who answered that they wanted us to offer DNA topics was a nice confirmation that the hunger is still there for our members. What I was happy to see from our respondents was that there was such a variety of things they were interested in, like church records (57.5%), organizing family history data (55%), and immigration (52.5%). This gives us some endless possibilities to bring to you.

Membership Benefits

How valuable do you find each of the following attributes of membership?

1 = 1 - Not at all valuable, 2 = 2, 3 = 3, 4 = 4, 5 = 5 - Very valuable

Answer	1	2	3	4	5	Number of Response(s)	Rating Score*
Connecticut Genealogy News "blue pages"						432	3.6
Educational programs						440	3.7
Discounts to events						424	2.9
Access to CT repository research						461	4.4
CSG Library and Databases						463	4.3
Networking						430	3.1
Website content						437	3.7
Membership overall						444	4.2

*The Rating Score is the weighted average calculated by dividing the sum of all weighted ratings by the number of total responses.

We felt it was time to check in with our members to see what benefits they were enjoying and where we could do better. That was honestly the whole reason behind creating the survey in the first place. The comments we received overall, and especially with this question, were truly gold to us because you suggested things we hadn't included in the survey. Here are just a few of the hundreds of comments we received.

"Anything that the Society can do to improve the availability of online vital records and family/town histories would be most beneficial."

"Members should be able to interact more easily with each other in regards to common interests."

“Publish more information. Town records, church records, probate records, deeds, etc. If the information is in more than one place, the better.”

“I would like to see more research aids to access on the website for members. Maybe a members-only section where members can ask & answer questions related to research...like Roots Web used to have?”

“Partnership with subscription-based organizations to provide a discount to CSG members would be nice”

“Increase online content by perhaps scanning library books that are not currently available at Archive.org, GoogleBooks, etc. Although I have visited the library in the past, it is difficult as I live in NYS. Access to online books would be super-convenient.”

“Consistent scheduling of webinars would allow me to participate more.”

“Just keep updating and evolving!”

Going forward, we will use all the information we received, especially your comments, to continue to grow as an organization and to provide the resources and support to our valued members.

Thank you, again, to all who participated. We are listening.

Stay well,
Jenny Hawran, President

Editorial

It saddens me once again to have to say goodbye to another very dear CSG friend, Janet Horton Wallace. She may not have known it, but she taught me much about dedication and commitment. Even when technology changed, she would push to keep up not only for herself but with CSG as well. We wish her husband, Bruce and her family peace and comfort in their time of sorrow. They are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. I dedicate all the columns in this issue to Janet.

The editor and staff of *Connecticut Genealogy News* congratulate the winners of the 2020 Literary Awards Contest. We have included write-ups about the authors with their winning books on pages 6-9. We have included the winning “Tell Your Family Story” Essay contest essays on pages 10 & 17 respectively. I hope you enjoy the essays as much as I did. Thank you to Don Naples, the chair of the Literary Awards Committee for providing the book reviews for all the winning books for this issue.

Thank you to Diane LeMay for shining our spotlight on the Connecticut Town of Coventry and to Dick Roberts for elaborating on the Hale Family of Coventry, Connecticut.

Our thanks go out to Helen Schatvet Ullmann for providing a more in-depth look at “genealogical literature,” building off of Susan McClen’s article, “The

Whole Situation” found in Volume 13 No. 2, Summer 2020 of *Connecticut Genealogy News*.

If you have not seen your town highlighted and would like to write the spotlight article, contact the CSG office at csginc@csginc.org or call 860-569-0002 Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for more information.

Also, Connecticut Genealogy News is still looking for Book Reviewers. If you would like more information on that, please contact the CSG office.

It seems early as I write this, but I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday season.

~ Stephanie Hyland, Editor

About the Cover

The “Nathan Hale Homestead” at 2299 South Street in Coventry was built by Deacon Richard Hale in 1776, replacing the original smaller home on the property. Although now designated the “Nathan Hale Homestead,” Connecticut’s State Hero, Nathan Hale, never lived in the “new” house as he was serving in the Army at the time it was completed. The Homestead was preserved through the efforts of George Dudley Seymour, who purchased the property in the early 1900s. Today it is maintained by Connecticut Landmarks, www.ctlandmarks.org. Photo by Richard C. Roberts.

In Memoriam: Janet Horton Wallace

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680



The Connecticut Society of Genealogists is sad to report the unexpected death of long-time active member and past president Janet Horton Wallace on September 3, 2020. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bruce, her husband of 64 years; son Brian Wallace and daughter Sandra Amoroso and her husband Brian Amoroso; and her grandchildren, Helen Spencer-Wallace and Jillian Amoroso.

According to her obituary in the September 11 issue of the *Hartford Courant*, Janet was born on October 1, 1933 in Detroit, Michigan to Charles J. and Elouise G. Horton.

She resided in Detroit for several years before moving back to Hartford with her family. There she attended Hartford Public Schools and was a graduate of Bulkeley High School, class of 1951. Growing up, Janet attended South Congregational Church in Hartford, beginning a lifelong association with an organization that provided her with numerous opportunities and much happiness. She was a member of the Motion Choir, a Sunday school teacher, an usher and a deacon. She fulfilled more specific roles as well.... The most important moment of her church affiliation was when she met her future husband, Bruce Wallace, where they both attended Sunday school. She went on to marry Bruce in April of 1956. Together, while raising their family, Janet and Bruce enjoyed traveling around the United States, Europe--including the Highlands of Scotland, the Caribbean, and her beloved Bermuda, a place she treasured for its natural beauty and the many personal friendships and longstanding organizational connections she formed there. Janet's lifelong enjoyments included cross country skiing, bike riding, reading, sewing, figure skating, loving her cats, hosting beautifully prepared holiday dinners, as well as the avid pursuit of

family history and genealogy. She was a member of and past president of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, and a member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogy Council. Janet also enjoyed her work at the Connecticut Bank and Trust Company, where she met many lifelong friends, and her work at a local law firm. Janet was employed by the Fellowship of North Eastern Congregational Christian Churches. Right up until this past school year, she had been a volunteer in her daughter's Kindergarten classroom at Stevens School in Rocky Hill.

Janet served as a member of CSG's Board of Governors from 1997-2006 and 2016-2017. She served as Vice President in 2006-2007 and she served as President in 2007-2009. Having joined CSG in 1976, she was an active member for 44 years. Through the years she was always ready to help on any committee, including Ethics, Government Relations, Personnel, Publications, Strategic Planning, and our 50th Anniversary Committee.

In conjunction with her role as CSG's delegate to the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, she served as the Conference Committee Secretary in 2006-2007, Hospitality Chair of the 2007 conference, and as Queries Chair from 2000-2015. She was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation at CSG's 50th Anniversary Celebration on May 19, 2018.

Janet joined the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor in June 1997 and served as its Secretary in 1997-1998 and as a Director from 1998 until 2008. She was newsletter co-editor from 1999 until 2001. She became a member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council in 2000. She served as its Corresponding Secretary for many years and was a volunteer at most of the Council's Ancestor Road Shows. She was Chair of the Council's Donna Holt Siemiatkoski Acquisition Fund from its establishment in 2001. The purpose of this permanent fund is to purchase genealogical materials and to donate them to area repositories such as the Connecticut State Library and Connecticut Historical Society. Janet was also a member of the Welles Family Association.

Winner of the 2020 Literary Awards Contest Genealogy Category

The Durgin Family of Fisherville, New Hampshire

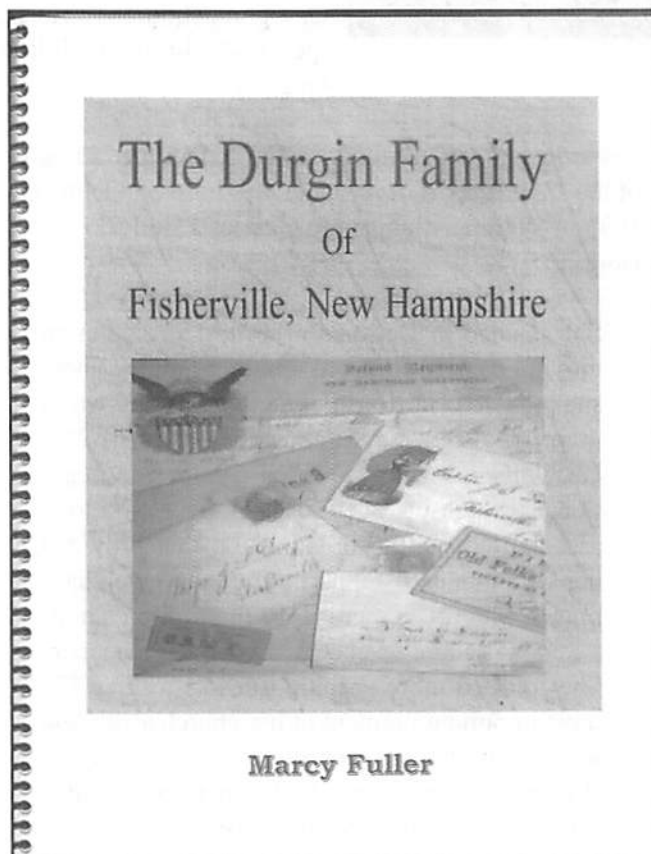
by Marcy Fuller



Marcy E Fuller is a radiographer by profession and a genealogist by vocation. She graduated from Boston University's Genealogical Research Program in 2015 but has been researching her family heritage for over twenty-five years.

She is currently serving on the Board of Trustees for Godfrey Memorial Library and she is recording secretary for the Westbrook Historical Society. She volunteers at the Westbrook Library monthly to help anyone interested to genealogy and has been a member of the DAR for over 25 years, currently with the Jordan Freeman Chapter in Old Saybrook. She is also a member of the Shoreline Civil War Roundtable group that meets monthly in Old Saybrook. She has a general interest in local and U.S. history and is an avid reader. She had an article published in *Connecticut Explored* about Fred A. Law, her great grandfather, and his involvement in the development of early American automobiles while working for Pope Manufacturing Co. in Hartford. Marcy also wrote the chapter about Westbrook for the "Connecticut 169 Club" guidebook to exploring Connecticut by Martin Podskoch.

One day Marcy received a box from her father who told her, "You might be interested in these." Inside were about eighty old letters dating from the Civil War. They were all from the Durgin family, father and sons, relating their experiences during the war. That is what prompted her research into the Durgin family and developed into her book about them. It was a journey that would take her years to research and complete, but she found every step intriguing. It really tells a more personal and different view of the Civil War than we learned about in school.



**Winner of the 2020 Literary Awards Contest
Resource Publication Category**

*New Milford, Connecticut,
Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths: Volumes H-K
1879-1902*

Transcribed and Indexed by Kathleen Zuris



Since 1990, **Kathleen Zuris** has resided in New Milford, Connecticut. She has provided genealogical research for over 25 years at museums and at her business: Bostwick Typing & Genealogy Service.

She was the main contributor to the Danbury Museum & Historical

Society's publication *Images of America: Danbury*, Arcadia Publishing's best seller for 2001. In 2015, she wrote *Images of America: New Milford Revisited* to commemorate the New Milford Historical Society's 100th anniversary.

She received an Honorable Mention in CSG's Literary Awards Contest Genealogical Resource category in 2014 for *New Milford Connecticut's African Americans in the American Civil War 1861- 1865*.

Kathleen supplied information on Jeruel and Samuel Phillips (two African American soldiers from New Milford) to the Roger Sherman Chapter NSDAR for their grave marking ceremony held on October 11, 2020.

She is a member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists and a member (and past trustee) of the New Milford Historical Society & Museum.

NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT,
RECORDS OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS:
VOLUMES H-K-1879-1902
(with every-name index)



Transcribed and indexed by Kathleen Zuris

**Honorable Mention in the 2020 Literary Awards
Genealogical Resource Category**

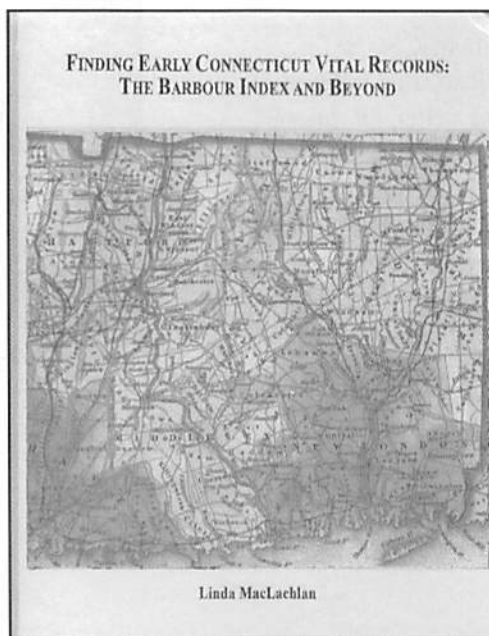
***Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records:
The Barbour Index and Beyond***

by Linda MacLachlan



Linda MacLachlan's recent book, *Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond*, is becoming a staple for Connecticut genealogists. Previously Linda published two other genealogy books and many articles in refereed journals and as editor of the *Mount Vernon Genealogical Society Newsletter*. Linda earned an Honorable Mention in the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2012 Literary Awards Contest for *New Copies of Old Records from Hebron, Connecticut 1708-1875*.

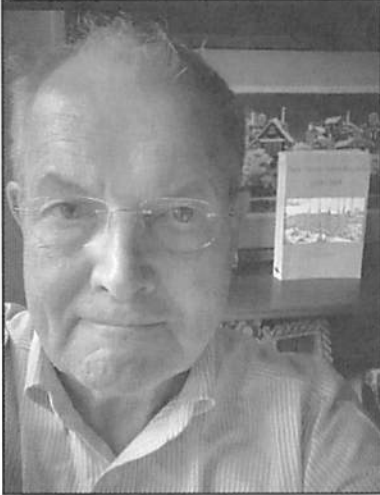
She served as President of Mount Vernon Genealogical Society (MVGS) and is also a member of the Fairfax Genealogical Society (FXGS), New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the Godfrey Memorial Library, and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. She presently is on staff at the McLean (Virginia) Family History Center. She leads monthly workshops in the MVGS Research Center on operating important genealogical websites and sponsors the New England Study Group of MVGS and the FXGS. She is a retired lawyer and a State Administrative Law Judge.



Honorable Mention in the 2020 Literary Awards Genealogical Resource Category

New Haven Town Records, 1769 - 1819

by Peter J. Malia



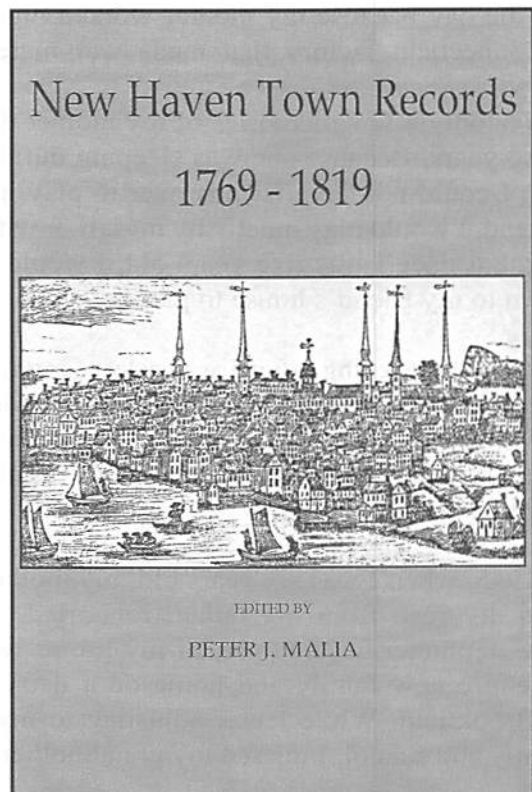
Peter J. Malia is a veteran of the editing, publishing, and book marketing industries. Trained as a classical historian at Providence College, who received his graduate training in Early American History at Trinity College and Fordham University, he

served as chief research historian at Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc., Assistant Editor of Sleepy Hollow Press, and Editor-in-chief at The Connecticut Historical Society.

A resident of Cheshire, Connecticut, Mr. Malia is a longtime member of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. He is also an award-winning writer, editor, and principal of The Connecticut Press, which specializes in regional history, biography, photography, decorative arts, and reference works. In 2010, The Connecticut Society of Genealogists presented Mr. Malia with its Best Genealogical Resource Award for *Visible Saints: The Colonial History of West Haven, Connecticut, 1648 - 1798*.

Malia is also the author of the highly acclaimed *Flying Horses: The Golden Age of American Carousel Art, 1870 - 1930*. He is currently editing, annotating, and publishing two American Revolutionary War diaries.

The first is by Philip Van Cortlandt, a wealthy New Jersey planter, whose first-hand, contemporary account of the war as a Loyalist officer in service to the Crown provides a compelling alternative to the American version of the Revolution. The second autobiography is by Thomas Painter, a young American patriot from West Haven, Connecticut, who served as an infantryman, privateer, and finally as a blockade runner to the Caribbean -- including two stints on British prison ships and a first-person account of his hair-raising escape by jumping overboard into Wallabout Bay in New York.



**Editor's Note: The following essay earned first prize in
The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020
"Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contest.**

My Search for My Sister
by Janice Howard, CSG # 11836

My father left us when I was two years old, and, to my knowledge, my mother never heard from him again, but someone in our family did, through letters they exchanged for a brief time in 1944 and 1945.

As a young child, I often wondered about my father. While I had no memories of him, I did have many questions. Why did he leave us? Where was he? Most importantly to me as I grew older was what I might say to him if we ever met. Would he tell me why he left, where he had been, and why he had never contacted me?

I sometimes felt anger toward him, blaming him for changes that took place in my life. After he left, my mother and I moved in with my maternal grandmother and uncle in Danbury, Connecticut, and remained with them throughout World War II. My grandmother became my caregiver during the day because my mother worked nights in a Connecticut factory that made war materials.

I have only a few memories of my mother during those years. Because she was sleeping during the day, I could not have friends over to play inside. Instead, I would play quietly by myself or with my dog, but once I was five years old, I would walk down to my friend's house to play.

Later in the evening, after I was asleep, my mother would leave for work. I might not have seen her all day. When I started first grade, it was my grandmother who saw me off to school and was always there when I came home.

In 1945, when I was six years old, my mother, by then divorced from my father, remarried, and a new stepfather became part of my life as well as an entire new family and home on a dairy farm in Brookfield. While I was adjusting to my new family and school, I missed my grandmother, who

had been the center of my life for the four years we had lived with her. She died when I was 12.

When I was a teenager, my Great-Aunt Lu, my maternal grandmother's sister, gave me two letters, one she had received from my father in 1944 in which he had written he was in Chicago after returning from the south, where he apparently had been ill. He asked my aunt to tell my mother he was sorry things had to end the way they did. He wrote that I was a sweet child that he loved dearly and wished there was something he could do for me once he was feeling better. However, during all the years that followed, I never heard from him, not even a card on my birthday.

My aunt must have replied to his letter because the second letter she gave me was dated 1945 and was from his new wife, Mary Lou, who apparently thought Aunt Lu was my father's aunt. His wife's letter was filled with news about their baby daughter, Barbara. I now knew I had a half-sister, six years younger, but how was I to ever find her? With no connection to my birth father, it did not seem likely I would ever know.

His wife referred to me in her letter. Did she sometime in the future tell Barbara about me? If so, would Barbara look for me? Again, it was something I might never know.

In the early 1980s, I became interested in genealogy and joined a group that met at our local library. My intent was to find my birth father and Barbara. The first question I asked of the members was how I might find them. One suggestion was that I contact Social Security, asking if there was a current address for my father, and, if so, would it be possible for a letter from me be forwarded to him. I thought it was worth a try.

I wrote Social Security, including a letter to my father in a stamped envelope, in the hope somebody would forward it to him. Then, I waited to see if I would receive a reply either from Social Security or perhaps my father, as I hoped.

I did receive a reply, but it was not what I had hoped. Social Security informed me my father had died in 1973 in Michigan. My mother, prior to her death in 1971, had told me some of her memories about my father, but she had no knowledge of his whereabouts. Now, with knowledge of his death, I would never have an opportunity to meet him or ask those questions I always hoped he would answer.

Following a call to the funeral home in Michigan, I received a copy of his obituary notice. In it, I found no reference to a widow named Mary Lou or a daughter Barbara. What I had discovered, quite by accident, was a whole new family, his last, consisting of a widow, Margaret, two daughters and two sons.

Now I had a new dilemma. Should I contact them? If so, how would I do so? I did not feel comfortable contacting his widow and her family directly, especially if he had never told her he had two previous wives, and at least two other children. I could only imagine how shocked she would be if she had never known about us.

The obituary notice I received mentioned the family had gathered following the funeral at the home of my father's brother-in-law. I contacted the funeral home to obtain his address and telephone number. I decided to write to him and included my telephone number, thinking he might be able to tell me if his sister knew about Barbara and me and how she might react if I were to contact her.

Once my letter to her brother was in the mail, I waited, not knowing if he would even reply. He never did because he was in the hospital when my letter arrived, and his wife, seeing my letter referred to her sister-in-law, took it to her.

It was late one night when my telephone rang. It was his widow, Margaret, and to say she was shocked by receiving my letter is an understatement, becoming my father's fourth wife instead of his second. I learned later that she knew he had been divorced from a previous wife before his marriage to her, but

she was not Barbara's mother, but had a son, another half-sibling I might never have known about, and, as with Barbara, not be able to locate.

When I asked Margaret about how her children might react if I were to contact them, she said she would tell them about me, but would leave it up to them if they wanted to contact me. As it happened, only the oldest, René, contacted me. I have been so blessed to have her in my life for almost 40 years. I remember her telling me she had always wanted a big sister, and I have loved being one every minute of those years.

In the mid 1980s, René visited my family for a week. While we traveled to various historic and scenic places in Connecticut, we talked a lot, and I learned things about our father I would never have known. I began to see him as the man he had become, a good husband and father, rather than the man he had been when he left us. René showed me a different side of our father that I might never have known because she had real memories of him.

One of the first things I told René about was my long and elusive search for Barbara, who in addition to me, she had not known anything about. I had been blessed in finding René, and it only made me more eager to find Barbara for both of us.

Through the years, René has been supportive of my frustrating search for Barbara. Other than what I knew about her from the letter my great-aunt had received, I could find no record of her or her mother. I was beginning to believe I would never find her, and I was right. I didn't, though I continued to research with the information I had, but with no success.

On Christmas in 2017, René received a DNA test as a present. In July 2018, I was doing genealogy research when the phone rang and it was René, who sounded excited about something. But before she would tell me, she asked about my health. "I'm fine," I said, "Is it good news, or bad?" She replied it was good. "Tell me," I said, and I heard words I never expected.

"Barbara found me," René said. For a moment, my brain clutched. Barbara found René? Then I remembered the DNA test René had submitted. Somewhere, at about the same time, Barbara had also submitted a sample and found René, who told her about me. I had not submitted a DNA test,

saving it as a last resort while continuing research I hoped might turn up information about Barbara's mother or Barbara through vital records, such as marriages, or other sources, such as newspapers. I had almost given up finding Mary Lou or Barbara. I thought I would never know Barbara as I have known René. Now, thanks to two DNA tests, we are three.

In 2019, my children planned an 80th birthday luncheon for me. It was not a surprise. I told my two sisters about the party, but since they live in Ohio and Michigan, I did not expect them to attend.

The real surprise came the Thursday night two days before the party, a surprise kept by several people without my ever knowing. I was so happy and totally amazed when I saw Barbara walking into my kitchen and heard her say, "Hi, I'm Barbara." We hugged, and I did not want to let go of her. It was unbelievable that she was there. Though René, one of the secret keepers, was unable to attend, Barbara and her daughter, Linda, stayed until their flight the following Monday.

I was so proud and happy to introduce them to my family and friends at the party. In addition, the next day we went to the farm where I grew up.

We also spent a great deal of that short, precious time in my home, looking at photographs and genealogical materials I had on our mutual family. I later sent copies to Barbara, and I am sure René has shared her real-life memories of our father with Barb, whom he had also left when she was two years old. We also enjoyed a three-way phone call with René, the only one we have had.

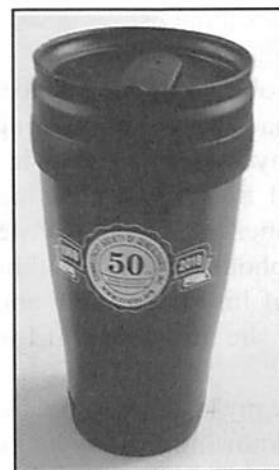
When Barbara and Linda stopped at my house that Monday before catching their flight back home, I hated to see Barbara leave. I knew it would probably be the only time I would see her, just as with René all those years ago.

Though separated through time and by distance, we keep in contact with e-mails, newsy telephone calls and cards. Thanks to two DNA samples, we are now three. My searching is over for Barbara, but somewhere in the world is a man who is our half-brother, a few years older than René, who apparently has not submitted a DNA sample. Perhaps he never will, but my research continues.

CSG 50th Anniversary



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**Editor's Note: The following essay earned an Honorable Mention in
The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020
"Tell Your Family Story" Essay Contest.**

The Sweet Surprise of Family

by Robin Rhein Hurwitz

It was the lake that did it. And the pudding. The mental image of family, generations together, laughing, making pudding. That's what made it all real.

Who knew we had family in Connecticut? Not us. Mom's Fiala line was 100% Czech. Her Douglas line, 100% proud Scottish. Until, well, Mudge. Not fudge, like Mom's award-winning confection. Mudge. We'd never heard of such a thing. Yet, there they were. Back past the dead-end-Douglasses in the Midwest, through Canada, past New York, and into Connecticut.

Mother and daughter, we set out from Maryland to discover our newly found family. The Sharon Historical Museum welcomed us. Gathered the staff to hear our stories and provide some ideas and documents. Dug out an intern's project, discovering for all of us that the graves had in fact been located and no longer have stones.^[1]

The lake, now known as Silver Lake, was once part of the Ebenezer and Abigail (Skinner) Mudge's property. Ebenezer was one of the original Sharon Proprietors, land purchasers when the township was sold in May, 1738.^[2] In 1743, he settled on the western border of Skinner's Pond, which became Mudge Pond. The home remains, although it has been moved up the hill from the location by the pond. Locally known as Mudge Manor, the home has been restored and was part of a Trade Secrets Tour in 2013.^[3]

It's beautifully cared for, and we are thankful. Mom descends from Ebenezer and Abigail's son Micah, through his son Elijah, Elijah's son Evert, Evert's son Stephen, Stephen's daughter Sarah, Sarah's son Harry Douglas, to Harry's son, Jack - Mom's father. Around 1750, Micah Mudge built a grist mill along a nearby river. Ebenezer and his six sons and their families lived in the area until Ebenezer died in 1758. It's still easy to see in that natural setting what their lives may have been like. A large farm, a stone home, a gathering place for the clan to laugh and

work and simply be a family. To make that pudding. The pudding. In a history of the Mudge family, the author notes of Ebenezer, "He brought up a very numerous family; and it is said he had a family party, on which occasion they boiled a huge pudding by the side of Mudge Pond, and upwards of eighty children and grandchildren did eat thereof."^[4] Family. Our family.

As we stood by the lake shore, a local woman said hello, and asked if she could help us. We explained our history, our discoveries, our connection to the lake. She was so excited for us! She'd been swimming here for years. How had she not known the history of the lake? She introduced Mom to the other swimmers and fishermen. "This lady's ancestors gave us this lake!" she said. And yes, in a way, they did. The Mudge Pond Town Beach is maintained by the town of Sharon. Once busy as a mill and iron works, the lake now provides peace and restoration for a community. A place to swim, fish, read, relax. A place to be with family. To laugh together. And perhaps to share some pudding.

Sources:

- ¹ Sharon Historical Society: original-home-lots/plot #558. Historical Society provided map as the stones have disappeared [July 2016].
- ² Sharon Historical Society: The Proprietors of the Common and Undivided Land in the Township of Sharon.
- ³ <http://www.countytimes.com/lct/monthly/mudge-manor-in-sharon-just-onegarden-gem-on-this-years-trade-secrets-tour/article446b6990-5fc8-534b-9d50-420c0f78f920.html>.
- ⁴ Alfred Mudge, *Memorials: A Genealogical (&c.) Account of the Name of Mudge in America* (Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1868), p. 53.



Spotlight on Connecticut Towns & Cities

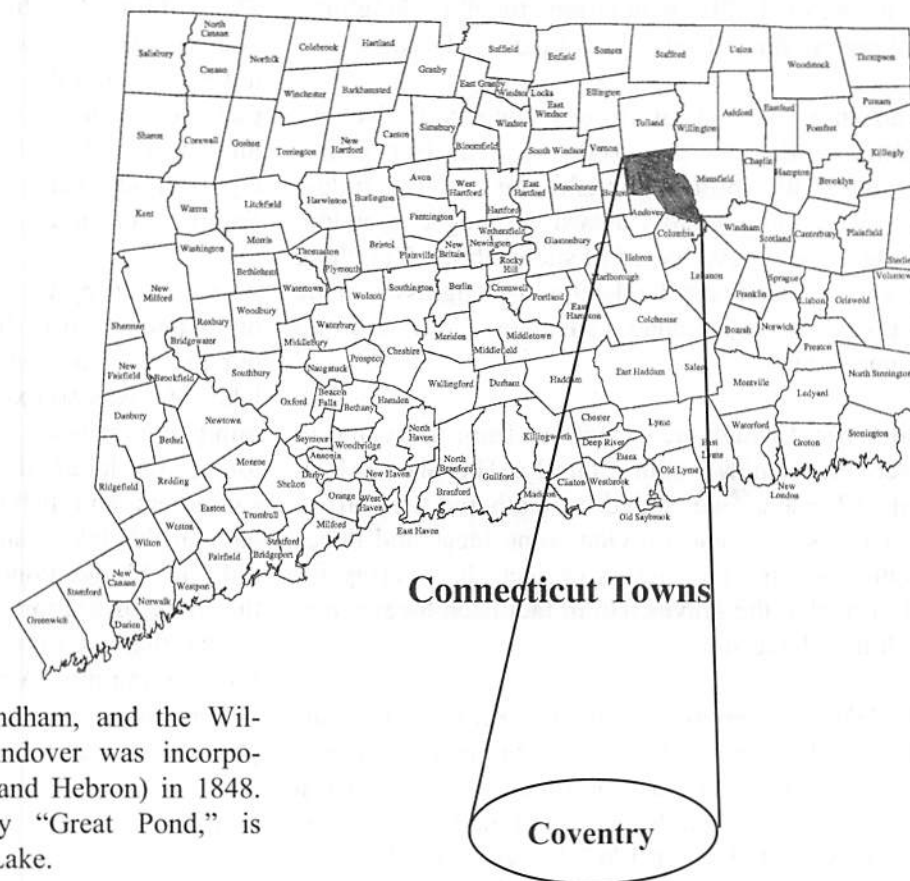


Spotlight on Coventry

by Diane K. LeMay,
CSG #7571 L

Geographic and Historic Profile

Coventry is a town of woods, farmlands and historic sites in Tolland County. It covers 37.3 square miles, slightly larger than Windsor and more than twice the size of Hartford. Coventry is bordered by Columbia on the south, Vernon, Bolton and Andover to the west, Tolland to the north, and Mansfield, Windham, and the Wilimantic River to the east. Andover was incorporated from parts of Coventry (and Hebron) in 1848. Wangumbaug Lake, originally "Great Pond," is commonly known as Coventry Lake.



The town boasts that it was the birthplace of Nathan Hale, a Captain in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. Every year his birthday is celebrated on June 6 at the Nathan Hale Homestead [see cover photo], 2299 South Street, one of Coventry's ten structures on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located just west of the Homestead, at 2382 South Street, is the Strong-Porter House and Museum [see Figure 1], built circa 1730 by Aaron Strong, which serves as the Historical Society's Museum. Through the years various expansions occurred, and the 2 ½ story wooden structure existing today has a classical saltbox appearance.



Figure 1 - Strong-Porter House

The Brick School House [see Figure 2] on Merrow Road was used through 1953 and is the second structure, completed in 1825 after the original one burned.



Figure 2 - Brick School House

The Bidwell Tavern [see Figure 3], established in 1822, remained one of the top five employers of the town through 2018.



Figure 3 - Bidwell Tavern

The former Brigham's Tavern [see Figure 4] in far northeastern Coventry is at 12 Boston Turnpike (Route 44) at the corner of Brigham Tavern Road. Dating to the early eighteenth century, it is one of the town's oldest buildings, and it has historically been associated with George Washington, who stopped here for a meal in 1789. Now a private residence, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Figure 4 - Brigham Tavern

Another site on the National Register is the Coventry Glass Factory Historic District, a 32-acre district along Route 44. The glassworks was established following the War of 1812 to meet the demands for glass objects, previously supplied by English companies. It operated from 1813 until 1845. The district includes many homes that had been built for workers and proprietors. One such home is the Turner-Stebbins-Chamberlain House [see Figure 5], 290 North River Road and Route 44.

First Settlers and their Church

In 1706 the General Assembly of the Colony of Connecticut assigned a committee to map out the town near the "Great Pond." In March, 1708, 75 house lots were mapped out around the lake, with four lots reserved for the minister, a parsonage, a school and the meeting house. Coventry was settled in 1709, named in 1711 for Coventry, Warwickshire, England and incorporated May, 1712. One of the first families, Thomas Root, his wife Thankful and their nine children left Northampton, Massachusetts in the spring of 1709. In all, twelve families left Northampton as a group, many of them bound by family ties. The others were Ebenezer Alexander, Samuel Allen, Benoni and Freedom (Carpenter) Barnard, Isaac and Silence (Janes) Bridgeman, Benjamin Carpenter, Samuel and Experience (Rust) Gurley, Benjamin Janes, David Lee, Joseph Petty, Nathaniel Rust and Ebenezer Searl. Three daughters of Jedediah and Freedom (Woodward) Strong had married Carpenter, Lee and Root. These families settled northeast of the "Great Pond" on the highest point in town, Wicket Hill, (now known as Ripley Hill). Their land lined both sides of what became Main Street from Ripley Hill Road to Root Road. More members of the Strong family followed. Peter Buell and John Crane from Killingworth and Timothy Alcott from Hartford joined the families on Wicket Hill. The Northampton men dominated the government of the town for a number of years. Thomas Root was chosen town clerk at the first town meeting and held that position for 12 years.

In 1718, 78 lots of one hundred acres each were mapped out, mostly in North Coventry, which had remained unsettled. The remaining land was parcelled out over the next 13 years. To the south, Coventry was then bounded by an area called the Mile and Quarter, or Abimileck's land. The line between Coventry and the Mile and Quarter was never clearly established, nor was a formal attempt made to establish a town there.

Litigation with Abimileck's heirs and Captain Peter Mason over titles and boundaries dragged on until 1728.

The Mill Brook flowing out of the "Great Pond" had provided water power for mills as early as 1716 when Jonathan Hartshorn built and operated a gristmill. Mill Brook served as a dependable source of water power for the mills. At various times 17 different sites were dammed on the brook for power for the increasing number of factories. There were machine shops, an iron works, a woolen mill, a paper mill and saw mills.

Church and state were not separate in early Connecticut. The church and the Bible were the center of the lives of the families. Attendance at church was required by law. The First Congregational Church in town was organized in 1712. The original structure was built in 1716 on the town green facing Lake Wamgumbaug, and also served as the town meeting house. In 1749 it was enlarged. A new structure was erected in 1849 [see Figure 5] on Main Street near the village center. The original building burned down on June 2, 1897. Coventry's first minister, Joseph Meacham was born February 18, 1686, the son of Isaac and Deborah (Browning) Meacham of Enfield, then a part of Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard College in 1710, was ordained on October 18, 1714 and began his preaching in private homes in Coventry. Less than a year later, on June 21, 1715, he married Ester Williams. Of their nine children, only five grew to adulthood.



Figure 5 - First Congregational Church

Thomas Root's son Ebenezer and his bride Sarah Strong moved into the home built by Samuel Gurley and soon owned a 60-acre farm, which remained in the Root family for 133 years, until his granddaughter Sally sold it in 1850. A private residence, the Root homestead [see Figure 6], stands at 1827 Main Street at Ripley Hill Road. Ebenezer was active in church affairs through the 1740s. Ebenezer's son Jesse (1736-1822)

was sent to the College of New Jersey, in Newark, later Princeton College, to be a minister. Although he had a wife and young family of nine children, Jesse Root served as a delegate to the Continental Congress in Philadelphia for the last four years of the Revolutionary War, 1778 to 1782. In 1784, after his mother Sarah died at 86, Jesse Root finally bought land in Hartford. He and his son Ephraim, a graduate of Yale College and employee in his father's Hartford law office, were among the founders of the Hartford County Bar Association. Jesse Root was appointed State's Attorney for Hartford County in 1785, a post he held for four years.

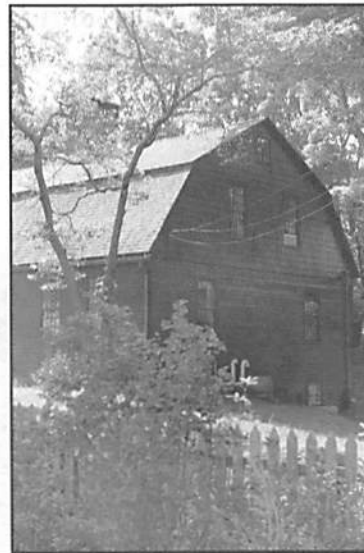


Figure 6 - Root Homestead

Jesse and his brother Ephraim Root, signed the document ratifying the United States Constitution on January 9, 1788 in Hartford. Jesse represented Hartford, while Ephraim represented Coventry. Not long after, in 1789, the General Assembly appointed Jesse to be one of the four judges of the Connecticut Superior Court. He served until 1807.

Many of the settlers had as many as 11 children, so the population of the town grew due to such large families and settlers coming in from other areas. One such newcomer was noted silversmith John Potwine, who settled by 1740. His son Thomas was ordained as first pastor of East Windsor.

Deacon Richard and Elizabeth (Strong) Hale sent six sons, of their 12 children, to the Continental Army. Nathan Hale was born June 6, 1755. After graduating from Yale in 1773 and teaching school for about two years, he resigned his position as schoolmaster and marched

with the New London troops to Massachusetts. Nathan soon rose to the rank of Captain, and when he heard that General Washington called for a volunteer to go as a spy into the English camp, he volunteered. He gave his life for the safety of the Continental Army and his country at New York, September 22, 1776, and was probably buried on Manhattan Island.



Figure 7 - Nathan Hale Memorial

There is a statue erected in Nathan Hale's honor on Veteran's Memorial Green in Coventry [see Figure 7]. The home where Nathan was born was built by his father about 1746. The house still standing today was built in 1776 and in the 1930s was restored by George Dudley Seymour, the owner at that time. During the American Revolution Captain Paul Brigham of Coventry was a company commander from 1777 to 1781. In his diary he told of the summer of 1777 when his Fifth Regiment was stationed with General Israel Putnam and Jesse Root near Peakskill. He and his company took part in the Battle of Germantown on October 4, 1777. Twenty-two men from the regiment were killed, wounded and missing. Two Coventry men, Corporal John Green and Private John Badcock, were taken prisoner and died during the next winter. After the war Brigham moved his wife and four children to Norwich Vermont, where he was elected lieutenant governor in 1796 and served until his retirement in 1820.

The population decreased steadily for at least 20 years from 2,130 to 1,938 in 1810. Coventry had hilly rugged terrain, not conducive to farming by many generations. Lands to the north and New Connecticut (Ohio) prom-

ised cheap fertile land. Much like the twelve families who left Northampton, Massachusetts and settled in Coventry, Major Elias and Sarah Buell, their son Solomon and new bride Sophia (Root) Buell, fifty relatives, friends, and neighbors left about 1789 and went north to Vermont to settle towns near the Canadian border. They settled Coventry, Coventry Gore, and Buell's Gore, where Elias built a home for his family and lived for at least 16 years. Buell's Gore was later annexed to Huntington, Vermont, named for his mother, Martha (Huntington) Buell. By 1795, Jesse and Mary Root's eldest son Ephraim was able to purchase an entire township in Connecticut's Western Reserve lands in the northeast corner of what was to become Ohio.

Jesse's nephew, Captain Nathaniel Root, and his large family remained in Coventry. All the other Roots had moved to Hartford, or north to New York, Vermont and New Hampshire. Nathaniel had served in the American Revolution as an officer under General George Washington. In 1794 he represented Coventry in the General Assembly. He was one of six men from northeastern Connecticut who asked the General Assembly in 1797 for permission to form a turnpike company to improve roads. Nathaniel became a key figure in the Boston Turnpike Company, serving for many years as clerk and agent, active with the building of the first turnpikes in Connecticut. In 1815 and 1816 he was deputy in the legislature. At the age of 56, Nathaniel, and his sons Nathaniel and Ebenezer, established the Coventry Glass Factory on January 14, 1813. The workers owned their own homes, and, along with other investors, were part owners of the small factory. Thomas Stebbins is credited with the design of the first American portrait flask, produced in 1824 or 1825, by the Coventry glassworks.



**Figure 8 - Museum of Connecticut Glass
Located at the Turner-Stebbins-Chamberlain
House**

Other distinguished citizens of the town were Samuel Huntington (1765-1818) one of the early governors of Ohio, Benoni Irwin (1840-1896), American portrait painter and George Norman Barnard (1819-1902), photographer who joined Matthew Brady in recording the Civil War.

There is so much more I could say on the many individuals and their contributions to Coventry, the state of Connecticut, the formation of the nation, the American Revolution and Connecticut's Western Reserve lands. I highly recommend Messier's book entitled *The Roots of Coventry, Connecticut*. It is very enjoyable, very informative, well sourced and well indexed. The Root family letters and the extensive family genealogy make the book priceless.

Genealogy Research

Except for the cemeteries, I didn't have access to these facilities to gather any further information due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the cemeteries in town are known by multiple names, which I have included. They include Babcock (on Babcock Hill Road, 8 stones, 1831-1848); Grant Hill* (on Grant Hill Road, aka North, Strong, Flint, Minister Hill, 1773-present); Matthewson (on Old Eagleville Road, one stone, 1844); Nathan Hale* (Lake Street, 1716-present) [see Figure 9]; New* (392 Main Street at Memorial Drive, a.k.a. Coventry, 1979-present); Center Yard (Old & New sections, 1405 Boston Turnpike, Route 44, 1785-present) Carpenter* (on Silver Street, aka Silver Street, 1774-1868); Saint Mary's (Route 31 at Plains Road, 1890-present); Old South Yard* (on South Street, aka South Street, Holy Grove, 1740-1922); and Warren (on Flanders Road, six stones, 1839-1868). Five of these are managed by the town and are designated with an

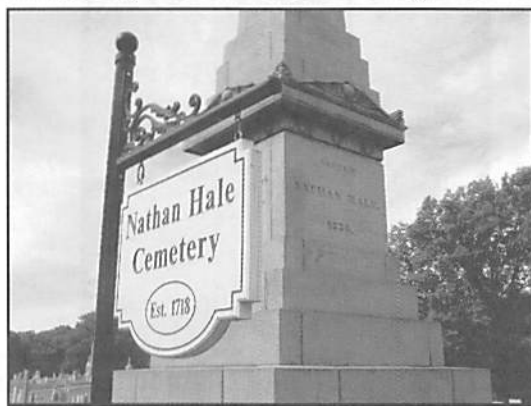


Figure 9 - Nathan Hale Cemetery

asterisk (*) following its name. For more detailed information, contact Sherry Chapman, the Sexton of the town's Cemetery Commission, 860-336-1375.

Built in 1911, the Booth & Dimock Memorial Library [see Figure 11] was a gift from Henry F. Dimock and is located at 1134 Main Street, P.O. Box 129, Coventry, CT 06238. 860-742-7606. Since the 1960s, Coventry Historical Society, P.O. Box 534, Coventry, CT 06238 has compiled an extensive archives collection. The Society opens the Brick School Museum [Figure 2] and the Strong-Porter House Museum [Figure 1] from the spring to mid-October, and admission is free. Check the website and/or email the Society. There is no telephone.

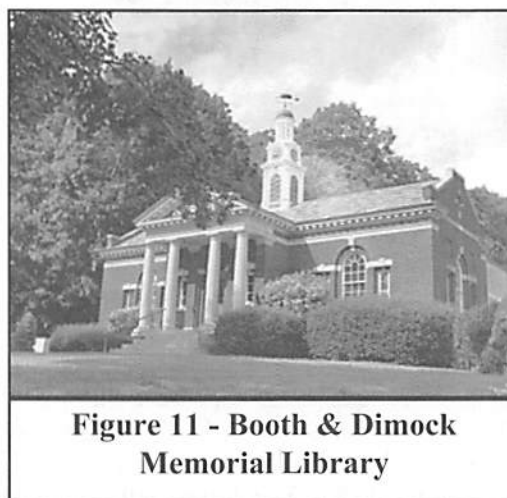


Figure 11 - Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

Probate Records

Over the years, Coventry has been served by several Probate Districts:

October 1711 - October 1719, Hartford District
October 1719 - May 1789, Windham District
May 1789 - June 18, 1849, Hebron District
June 19, 1849 - January 5, 1999, Coventry District
January 6, 1999 - January 4, 2011, Mansfield District
January 5, 2011 - Present, Mansfield - Tolland District, which serves the towns of Coventry, Mansfield, Tolland, and Willington. It is located at Town Hall, 21 Tolland Green, 2nd Floor. Tolland 06084-3028. Hours are: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, but it is always a good idea to call first at 860- 871-3640.

Many original Coventry Probate Court Record Books before 2011 may be found in the Coventry Town Hall. Call 860-742-7966 for more information as to holdings and how to access them.

Original Coventry Probate Files, 1849-1932 (Accession 1918-002); are held by the State Archives, Connecticut State Library. Those files, as well as the Coventry Probate Court record books, Volumes 1-8, 10-11, 13-15, 1849-1917; and inventory control book (Godard Digest) were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and are available for use in the History and Genealogy reading room or through FamilySearch. Access is also available at Family History Centers and FamilySearch affiliate libraries. Call the Connecticut State Library at 860-757-6500, Monday-Friday between 9:30-4:00 for more information.

Vital Records from 1712 to the present are with the Coventry Town Clerk, Town Office Building, 1712 Main Street, P.O. Box 189, Coventry, CT 06238-0189 860-742-7966. Around the turn of the twentieth century seven volumes of existing church records were published. Volume Seven of *Early Connecticut Marriages* includes Coventry marriages from 1764. Coventry town and church vital records to 1844 were abstracted by Susan Whitney Dimock and published in 1897 as *Births, Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths from the Records of the Town and Churches in Coventry, Connecticut, 1711-1844*. It is available as an ebook at <https://archive.org/details/birthsmarriagesb00dimo>.

Sources:

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Connecticut Secretary of the State, *State of Connecticut Register and Manual, 1995* (Hartford, CT: Secretary of the State, 1995).

Booth & Dimock Library website: www.coventrypl.org.

Connecticut Gravestone Network and Ruthie Shapleigh-Brown: www.CTgravestones.org.

Town of Coventry: www.coventryct.org.

Coventry Historical Society: www.ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.org.

Tolland County: www.Ctgenweb.org.

Photos by Diane K. LeMay.

The Hale Family of Coventry

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680

Deacon Richard Hale (28 February 1717-1 June 1802), son of Samuel and Apphia (Moody) Hale of Newbury, Massachusetts, became a prosperous livestock farmer in Coventry, Connecticut. He and his first wife, Elizabeth Strong (2 February 1728-21 April 1767), had 12 children, of whom 10 -- eight sons and two daughters -- reached adulthood. Through Richard, the children were the great-grandchildren of the Rev. John Hale (8 June 1636-15 May 1700), the minister of the Beverly, Massachusetts church at the time of the 1692 Salem Witch Trials. Through their mother, Elizabeth Strong, the children were descendants of Elder John Strong (who although not a Founder of Windsor lived there beginning about 1647 before ultimately removing to Northampton, Massachusetts) as well as Windsor Founders Samuel Allen and Thomas Ford.

Elizabeth died 21 April 1767 in Coventry "in her 40th year" and is buried with Richard in Nathan Hale Cem-

etery, Coventry. Richard married, second, on 13 June 1769 Abigail (Cobb) Adams, born 19 January 1720 in Groton, Connecticut, the daughter of Capt. Gideon and Margaret (Fish) Cobb and widow of Capt. Samuel Adams. She died 21 August 1809 in Canterbury, Connecticut, "aged 89," and is buried in Carey Cemetery, Canterbury.

With 12 children there was ample labor to run the farm. In 1776 Richard Hale built a new house for his large family, replacing the original smaller home on the property. A strong supporter of the Patriot cause, he donated supplies as well as sheltering Continental Army soldiers. When Richard died in 1802, he left his property to son John, who died months later. Arguments between Richard's children and his second wife ensued, and the homestead was sold out of the family in the 1820s. Under subsequent owners, the property gradually became run down, but through the efforts of George Dudley Seymour, who

purchased the property in the early 1900s, the Homestead was preserved. Today the "Nathan Hale Homestead" at 2299 South Street in Coventry is maintained by Connecticut Landmarks, www.ctlandmarks.org. Note that although now designated the "Nathan Hale Homestead", Nathan Hale never actually lived in the "new" house as he was serving in the Army at the time it was completed.

Although Nathan is the most famous of the Hale brothers, all of them have interesting stories.

Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale was born 6 June 1755 in Coventry, Connecticut, one of the 12 sons and daughters of Richard and Elizabeth (Strong) Hale. Nathan grew up farming, fishing, reading, and, with his younger brother Enoch, studying with the local minister, the Rev. Joseph Huntington (5 May 1735-25 December 1794) -- the younger brother of Governor Samuel Huntington. In 1768, when Nathan was 14 and Enoch was 16, they were sent to Yale College in New Haven. Both young men were studious, and both were in the debating club. Nathan is said to have debated in favor of the question of whether young women should be allowed to attend Yale.

Following graduation from Yale at age 18 in 1773, Nathan taught school, first in East Haddam, a small village town on the Connecticut River, and later in New London. There he even taught a class for young ladies from 5:00-7:00 in the morning, before young men came in for their classes. At the breakout of the war, he resigned his teaching position. Several of his brothers had already left Coventry at the time of the Lexington Alarm; Nathan joined a Connecticut militia unit and participated in the siege of Boston. His Army diary, now at the Connecticut Historical Society, provides a record of the time he was a Lieutenant and Captain. The soldiers surrounding Boston grew tired of waiting for action -- in his diary Hale talks about sitting around playing checkers -- and some deserted; many others wanted to leave. Hale was able to convince his men not to desert. Seeking action, Nathan eventually became part of the Seventh Connecticut Regiment and by 1776 was commanding a small unit defending New York City.

In August 1776 General George Washington charged Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Knowlton of Ashford, Connecticut with forming an elite group to carry out reconnaissance missions. Nathan Hale became one of "Knowlton's Rangers". Following a disastrous defeat in the Battle of Long Island on August 17, 1776, Washington called for someone to infiltrate and spy on British Army positions in the vicinity of New York City. Nathan Hale was the only

volunteer. On September 12 he took a boat across Long Island sound and disguised himself as a Dutch school-teacher. Stories vary on how he got captured. One story from the past -- that a cousin recognized him and reported him to the British -- is now generally agreed to be inaccurate. However, at six feet plus and good looking, he perhaps stood out in a crowd. In addition, he had had no formal training as a spy. What is known is that Hale was "apprehended", probably by Major Robert Rogers (of Rogers Rangers fame), on September 21 and hanged in New York on September 22, perhaps on the grounds of the Dove Tavern at what is now the intersection of 66th Street and Third Avenue (although two other sites have also claimed the distinction). Whether or not he said the specific words, "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country," his willingness to sacrifice his life for his beliefs is unquestioned.

Nathan Hale's body was never recovered. However, a large monument to him stands in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry. A statue of Nathan Hale by noted sculptor Bela Lyon Pratt is on the campus of Yale University. Other castings of Pratt's statue are located at Fort Nathan Hale in New Haven; outside the main lobby of CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia; at the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice Building in Washington, DC; and at the Chicago Tribune building. In 1985 Connecticut's General Assembly designated Nathan Hale the official State Hero.

Samuel Hale (25 May 1747-17 April 1824) served in Capt. Thomas Knowlton's Company, Putnam's Regiment. He was in Boston at the time of the Lexington Alarm and was captured at Fort Washington on 16 November 1776. He returned from the war "infirm". Although it is unclear as to what that actually means, he may have suffered from what future generations would term "shell-shock" or "post-traumatic stress disorder". He never married and lived in isolation; his brothers took care of him. He is buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry.

John Hale (21 October 1748-18 December 1802) married Sarah Adams (1 November 1753-6 November 1803) on 19 December 1771 in Coventry. He served in the militia at the time of the Lexington Alarm in 1775. He was made Lieutenant and later Captain of the 4th Co., mpany-5th Regiment. John and Sarah had no children. Her will included a bequest to the Coventry church of one thousand pounds -- worth about \$4,000 in today's money -- in memory of her husband to establish a fund that would create and maintain a library of religious and theological books and provide financial aid for "poor boys who worked to become missionaries, particularly among the

heathen and for the evangelical ministry.” Major Hale’s books became the basis for the Hale Donation Library, a source of information and inspiration for those students’ education and which is now housed at the First Congregational Church of Coventry. The scholarship fund also continues to assist those preparing for ministry in the United Church of Christ. John and Sarah are both buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry.

Joseph Hale (12 March 1750-30 April 1784) married Rebecca Harris (18 April 1749-10 March 1814) on 21 October 1778; they had five children. Rebecca married, second, Thomas Abell and is buried in Plains Cemetery, Franklin Connecticut. Joseph was Corporal of the Coventry militia at the time of the Lexington Alarm. He was Ensign, Col. Ward’s Regiment, in 1776. As Lieutenant he was taken prisoner during the Battle of Fort Washington on Manhattan Island on 16 November 1776 and spent time on a British prison ship but was later exchanged. In 1777 he was Second Lieutenant in Col. Ely’s Regiment and continued to serve with the militia in 1780 and 1781; in May 1782 he was Lieutenant of Militia “at Washington’s call.” Joseph is buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry. Legend has it that after his death he haunted the old Hale Homestead, clanking his prison chains in the cellar.

Enoch Hale (28 October 1753-4 January 1837) married Octavia Throop (7 July 1754-18 August 1837) on 30 August 1781 at Bozrah, Connecticut. Enoch graduated from Yale College in 1773 and became a Congregational minister, serving as minister of the Westhampton, Massachusetts Congregational Church for 56 years. Enoch and Octavia had eight children; their grandchildren included Edward Everett Hale (3 April 1822-10 June 1909), a Unitarian minister, writer, and activist noted for social causes including abolitionism and as the author of “The Man Without a Country”. Both are both buried in Center Cemetery, Westhampton.

Richard Hale, Jr. (29 February 1757-12 February 1793) married Mary “Polly” Wright (24 September 1756-22 December 1818) on 16 March 1786 in Coventry. They had three children, of whom only daughter Laura survived into adulthood. Richard entered military service on 8 January 1778 and served in Rhode Island under Capt. Benjamin Clark. He died of consumption on St. Eustatius Island in the Caribbean Island chain at age 37; his name is on a headstone in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry. Mary married, second, Nathan Adams (1749-4 February 1837) and is buried with him in Carey Cemetery, Canterbury, Connecticut.

Billey Hale (23 April 1759-7 September 1785) married Hannah Barker (20 June 1767-) on 19 January 1785 in Franklin. They had three children. Hannah married, second, Samuel Hutchinson. Billey served under Capt. Daniel Dewey’s militia company in 1778 and was also in service in Rhode Island at the same time as his brother Richard. He died of consumption at age 26. He is buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry.

David Hale (15 December 1761-10 February 1822) married Lydia Austin (9 December 1764-1 May 1849) on 19 May 1790 at Lisbon, Connecticut. They had one son. David graduated from Yale and served as pastor of the Lisbon, Connecticut Congregational Church. In 1803 he left the ministry and returned to Coventry, representing the town in the Connecticut General Assembly for several terms between 1805 and 1811. David and Lydia are both buried in the Nathan Hale Cemetery, Coventry.

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The Rest of the Situation

by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG, CSG # 3794

Susan McClen's article in the Summer 2020 issue of *Connecticut Genealogy News*, titled "The Whole Situation" is an excellent little review of most genealogical sources, but although she does mention "journal articles," she really doesn't discuss the genealogical literature on the whole. What do I mean by "genealogical literature?" Far more than journal articles.

Fifty years ago, when I was bitten by the genealogy bug, I was lucky that my mother was named in two published genealogies, both of which I still think are sound sources. But they covered only part of her parents' ancestry. Recent generations of my father's progenitors that I could link to easily had never been treated in print. And print was my first resort in the 1960s. After that, there were trips to Boston and Hartford (for my southern New England families) to find the kind of sources Susan lists. And there was the U.S. Mail for vital records, along with a check and a SASE each time. No Internet, no Family History Centers. My Norwegians were out of reach.

So how does one find the genealogical literature? There are published genealogies and histories, of course the journal articles, and possibly manuscripts in various archives or in private hands. I usually start with library catalogs, looking for books on the surname in question. But another way is to browse online, especially in Ancestry.com and Family Tree on FamilySearch.org, and look for sources for your people. Ancestry often has links to published sources, but it's discouraging that sources on those family trees are usually – but not always – limited to the kinds of original sources found on the Internet. However, sometimes there are excellent references to published sources on those trees.

Thousands of out-of-copyright books and many current journals are online. In fact, many copyrighted books are online via the Family History Library catalog, though you may have to be in a Family History Center or affiliate library to access them.

Journal articles are really important. You can often find one by searching for a name on AmericanAncestors.org. CSG members can search *The Connecticut*

Nutmeggers on the CSG website at www.csginc.org under Members. Both sites include many scholarly journals – at least for Northeastern U.S. ancestry. PERSI, the Periodical Source Index online at <https://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index> is an important tool, though it's somewhat difficult to use.

Over the last few decades, most journal editors have become very precise when citing sources. Which brings me to an important point: how does one evaluate that literature? Recently it's become mandatory to cite sources. And you can often check those sources online. But back in the 19th century, when so many wonderful genealogies were published, there's rarely a source in sight. I spent many months looking for little Cynthia Ballard, named in a very nice Ballard genealogy. After exhausting every possibility I could think of, I concluded the Ballard book was probably right about her. The author must have corresponded with living family members.

Recently, while editing an article, I found a published genealogy claiming certain ancestry for the subject. However, given the other good sources we had, it was certainly fictional. And some authors have deliberately been fraudulent. So be careful!

So, ransack the Internet for original records, but a find in the genealogical literature can open a whole new window on the family you're looking for.

Book Reviews for 2020

Literary Awards Winners

by Don Naples, CSG # 14420

Chair, Literary Awards Committee

The Durgin Family of Fisherville, New Hampshire by Marcy Fuller, self-published, 2018. Softcover, spiral bound, 8 ½ x 11 inches, 55 pages. For ordering information, contact Marcy Fuller at 1732 Boston Post Road, Westbrook, CT 06498 or at marcyfuller@sbcglobal.net. Price: \$39.95 (check with author about shipping and handling charges).

This book won first prize in The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020 Literary Awards Contest in the Genealogy/Family History category. It's a fairly small book, but it's packed with interesting information, both about the Durgin family members and the area of Fisherville, New Hampshire (now part of the city of Concord) from the early 1850s to the end of the nineteenth century. The Civil War was an important part of this period. Letters from two Durgin sons who served in the 2nd New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry are given prominence. These letters contain military information that would never get past the censors in later wars. The letters, along with return letters from home, apparently had no trouble reaching their destination despite war-time conditions. Overall, the book is easy to read and search through, helped by an index that includes names of places as well as people.

New Milford, Connecticut, Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths: Volumes H-K ~ 1879-1902, transcribed and indexed by Kathleen Zuris, self-published, 2020. Softcover, comb binding, 8 ½ x 11 inches, 721 pages. For ordering information, contact Kathleen Zuris a 102 Grove Street, New Milford, CT 06776-3633 or bostwicktypingservice@frontier.com.

This book won first prize in The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020 Literary Awards Contest in the Genealogical Resource category. Transcribing 23 years of New Milford's vital records, along with bold-print corrections added by town clerks over the years is a tremendous accomplishment. The detailed "every name" index (114 pages in itself) makes searching the records easy. This book will be a valuable reference for New Milford birth, marriage and death information to family history researchers for many generations to come.

Finding Early Connecticut Vital Records: The Barbour Index and Beyond, by Linda MacLachlan, published by The Genealogical Publishing Company for the Clearfield Company, 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, 2019. ISBN 9780806358963, hardcover, 9 x 11 ½ inches, 345 pages. Order from The Genealogical Publishing Company, 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202 or online at www.genealogical.com. Price: \$75.00.

This book won an Honorable Mention in The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020 Literary Awards Contest in the Genealogical Resource category. Researchers of pre-Civil War Connecticut vital records often begin with the Barbour Index, created by Lucius B. Barbour, Connecticut Examiner of Public Records from 1922 to 1934. The Barbour Index is the key to the *Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records prior to 1850*, which contains well over a million entries. In this book, Linda MacLachlan provides a 21-page Introduction to explain the various published versions of the Barbour Index and lays out how to find vital records from 149 early Connecticut towns. The book is well laid out and includes a variety of search tips and "where to look" updates. It also has over 1,100 footnotes and a handy section called "Glossary, Citation Forms, and Acronyms" which spells out the many abbreviations used in the book. There are some errors in the page numbers in the Table of Contents and Index of Locations for the town listings, but since the towns are listed in alphabetical order, this should not be a problem.

New Haven Town Records 1769-1819, edited by Peter J. Malia, published by The Connecticut Press, 36 Wildlife Court, Cheshire, CT 06410, 2020. Softcover, 6 x 9 inches, 438 pages. Order from The Connecticut Press at <http://www.connecticutpress.com>. Available in hardcover for \$45.00 or paperback for \$27.50. Check website for shipping and handling charges.

This book earned an Honorable Mention in The Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2020 Literary Awards Contest in the Genealogical Resource category. In the Literary Awards Committee's opinion, this book is a great contribution to New Haven research. To our knowledge the information in the book is not readily available elsewhere or been previously published. It covers a full half-century "from when New Haven grew from a small colonial seacoast town on the British Empire into a vibrant American city and leader

edge of the British Empire into a vibrant American city and leader of its Industrial Revolution.” Beyond simple minutes of town meetings, it transcribes considerable details of who said what in those meetings. The book has an excellent introduction and a 57-page “every name” index.

Book Reviews

by Richard C. Roberts, CSG # 8680

The Micro-Historian’s Guide to Research, Evidence, & Conclusions by Reginald W. Bacon, published by Variety Arts Press, P.O. Box 489, Newburyport, MA 01950, 2018. ISBN 978-0-9977528-4-7, Library of Congress Control Number 2018905458. Soft cover, 9 x 6 inches, 112 pages. Order from: Variety Arts Press, <http://varietyartspress.com/> including Price: \$16.00 including shipping and handling. It has also been republished by Rowman & Littlefield at www.Rowman.com at a cost of \$25 for a paperback or \$23.50 as an eBook.

This book was an entry in Resource Category of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists’ 2019 Literary Awards Contest. It consists of five chapters: Research Planning, Research Execution, Evaluation of Evidence, Formulation of Conclusions, and The Summary Narrative. Appendices include Local History 101, Genealogy 101, and Source Citation 101. The volume includes a Table of Contents, Introduction, Endnotes at the end of each chapter, an extensive Bibliography, and an Index. Opposite the first page of each chapter is a worksheet, template, or chart highlighting the contents of the chapter. Additional useful forms scattered throughout the book are a Source Documentation Form (page 22), Research Execution Checklist (page 26), Research Log (page 29), History Writer’s Checklist (page 72), Family Group Sheet (page 101), Checklist for Researching Individuals (page 102), and examples of source citation formats (pages 103-4). A drawback is the book’s relatively small page size, which would make enlarging the checklists and charts to a useful 8 ½ x 11 notebook size a bit difficult.

Bacon continually emphasizes the importance of historical context and micro history “focusing on daily lives rather than monumental events.” He writes clearly, exudes a sense of humor, and incorporates numerous examples based on his personal experience.

This book is highly recommended for all beginning

and intermediate genealogists and family historians as well as others seeking information on “foundation of method”: how to develop a research plan, gather evidence, cite sources, and draw valid conclusions prior to moving on to more specialized works such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*, Elizabeth Shown Mills’ *Evidence Explained*, Robert Charles Anderson’s *Elements of Genealogical Analysis*, and Thomas W. Jones’ *Mastering Genealogical Proof*. It would also be an excellent resource for use in genealogy classes.

Our Family History by Nancy Lee Carr Raker and Gilbert Dunkin Raker; edited by John F. Suggs, published for the authors by Art Bookbindery, 1377 Border Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, MB, R3H 0N1, Canada. 2018. Hard cover, 8 ½ x 11 inches, 610 pages. For ordering information, contact John F Suggs, Family Orchard LLC, 1177 High Ridge Rd., Suite 136, Stamford, CT 06905, jsuggs@family-orchard.com.

This book was an entry in the Family History category of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists’ 2019 Literary Awards Contest. Although nicely presented, the book is not a typical family history. As described in the brief Introduction, John Suggs conducted a series of interviews with members of the Raker and Carr families. Transcriptions of those 13 interviews make up the first 299 pages of the book. They are followed by 33 pages of clearly reproduced family photos, ranging from nineteenth century sepias to more recent color prints. An Appendix includes reproductions of letters, birth announcements, obituaries, military records, pages from previously published genealogies, and other source material. The book concludes with an ahnentafel genealogy report for Todd Dunkin Raker, Geoffrey Scott Raker and Courtney Raker, the children of Gilbert and Nancy Raker.

The present volume preserves a wealth of material which could prove to be invaluable for those researching specific Carr and Raker lines. Unfortunately, while it includes a Table of Contents, there is no Index, the Introduction provides no information on how to use the book or explain what an ahnentafel report is, and the ahnentafel report has no citations or references back to the resources provided in the earlier sections. Perhaps some future family historian will evaluate and build upon the material contained within the covers of this book to produce a standard family history complete with citations, endnotes, bibliography, and indexes.



www.CSGINC.org

Connecticut Society of Genealogists Annual Family History Seminar *“What Scares You in Genealogy?”*

Saturday, October 31, 2020

Live via Zoom

- 12:30 p.m.: Zoom “Waiting Room” Opens
1:00 p.m.: Welcome and Opening Remarks (including introduction to speaker lineup)
1:15-1:30 p.m.: Presentation of CSG's 2020 Literary Awards
1:30-2:00 p.m.: *“Creating Connecticut: Critical Moments that Shaped a Great State,”*
Dr. Walter Woodward (live webinar)
2:10-3:30 p.m.: *“Beyond the Cemetery Gate: The Graveyard as a Genealogy Resource,”*
Gravestone Girls/Brenda Sullivan (live webinar)
3:30 p.m.: Wrap up.

Monday, November 2, 2020

Live via Zoom

- 6:00 p.m.: Zoom “Waiting Room” Opens
6:25 p.m.: Welcoming and Opening Remarks
6:30 p.m.: *“Scaring Up Cousins with Genealogical Cousin Bait,”* Marian Burk Wood (live webinar)

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Live via Zoom

- 6:00 p.m.: Zoom “Waiting Room” Opens
6:25 p.m.: Welcoming and Opening Remarks
6:30 p.m.: *“Funeral Homes and Family History: They’re Dying to Meet You,”* Daniel Earl (live webinar)

On-Demand Presentations Available October 31 - November 14, 2020 Include:

“Who’s Afraid of Self-publishing? Tips for Your Family History Book,” Diane Boumenot

“Top Ten Scary Irish Genealogy Tips,” Nora Galvin

“Seventeenth Century Origins of Colonial Connecticut,” John Putnam

“Who’s Afraid of Some Paperwork? Navigating the Application Process for the Revolutionary War Lineage Societies,” Bryna O’Sullivan

Cost: CSG members \$25; non-members \$35 **Deadline to Register:** Wednesday, October 28.

Attendee _____ CSG# _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email (required) _____ Telephone # _____

Make checks payable and mail to: CSG, Inc., PO Box 435, Glastonbury, CT 06033-0435

To register online or for more details, visit us at www.csginc.org or call 1-860-569-0002

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