



Bibliography of Middletown Local History & Genealogy

Prepared with notes by R.W. Bacon, Editor, The Middler, Newsletter of the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants

The following concise bibliography is in two parts: (1) Regional & Local History, and (2) Connecticut & Middletown Genealogy. Each part proceeds from entries of general regional interest to specific Middletown references.

The Regional & Local History section is augmented with a list of books on life in the Colonial era that will provide the genealogy researcher with further contextual background on Middletown ancestors.

The Connecticut & Middletown Genealogy section includes the commonly known compilations, plus court and vital record books. Also included is a list of compiled genealogies of Middletown families.

All of these volumes have in some way contributed to the your compiler's understanding of Connecticut history and genealogy. When deemed useful, brief comments are appended to selected entries.

Regional & Local History

CONNECTICUT HISTORY

Native Americans

DeForest, John William. *History of the Indians of Connecticut from the Earliest Known Period to 1850*. Hartford, Conn.: Hamersley, 1853. (Dated, but compendious. - RWB)

Colonial Period

Trumbull, Benjamin, D.D. *A Complete History of Connecticut, Civil and Ecclesiastical, from the Immigration of its First Planters, from England, in the Year 1630, to the Year 1764, and to the Close of the Indian Wars, Vol. I & II*. New London, Conn.: H.D. Utley, 1898.

Van Dusen, Albert E. *Puritans Against the Wilderness - Connecticut History to 1763*. Chester, Conn.: Pequot Press, 1975. (This is a concise 150-page masterwork of Connecticut history in the Colonial period. - RWB)

Love, William DeLoss. *The Colonial History of Hartford*. Hartford, Conn.: Centinel Hill Press, 1974. (This reprint of the 1935 edition treats the subject in depth, and includes informative maps of the early settler house lots. - RWB)

General State History

Barber, John Warner. *Connecticut Historical Collections*. New Haven, Conn.: Durrie, Peck & Barber, 1836. (This is an indispensable 1836 "travelogue" of Connecticut towns. It is now available in paperback from the University Press of New England. - RWB)

Van Dusen, Albert E. *Connecticut*. New York, N.Y.: Random House, 1961. (This is a large-format illustrated survey of Connecticut history by the state's premier historian.)

Slavery in Connecticut

Steiner, Bernard C. *History of Slavery in Connecticut*. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1893.

The Connecticut River

Bacon, Edwin M. *The Connecticut River and the Valley of the Connecticut*. New York, N.Y.: Putnam's & Sons, 1906. (An excerpt from this book relevant to Middletown is on the SMFSD web site. - RWB)

Delaney, Edmund. *The Connecticut River, New England's Historic Waterway*. Chester, Conn.: Globe Pequot Press, 1983.

MIDDLETOWN

General Middletown History

Field, David Dudley, D.D. *A Statistical Account of the County of Middlesex, In Connecticut*. Middletown, Conn.: William B. Casey, 1819. (This work provides a detailed look at the state of Middletown's economy in 1819. - RWB)

Field, David Dudley, D.D. *Centennial Address, with Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle-Haddam, Middletown and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: William B. Casey, 1853. (The *Centennial Address* is an indispensable resource for Middletown history and genealogy. - RWB)

Whittemore, Henry, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884. (This work is valuable for its excerpts from Middletown's town records, extracted from the originals by Frank Farnsworth Starr. The book also includes histories of churches and organizations, and lists of public servants. -RWB)

Wallace, Willard M. *Middletown 1650-1950*. Middletown, Conn.: City of Middletown, 1950. (This is a mid-20th-century look at Middletown by a noted Wesleyan University professor, prepared for the Middletown Tercentenary. - RWB)

Hall, Peter D. *Middletown: Streets, Commerce, and People 1650-1981*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University, 1981. (This is essential reading for those who want to see the "big picture" of Middletown history. - RWB)

Warner, Elizabeth A. *A Pictorial History of Middletown*. Virginia Beach, Va.: Donning Co., 1990. (This is the best single-volume survey of Middletown history, and includes art, images, and photographs from all periods. -RWB)

McKinney, Hannah J. *The Development of Local Public Services 1650-1860: Lessons from Middletown, Connecticut*. Portsmouth, N.H.: Greenwood Press, 1995. (The author's research illuminates the complicated pecking-order of the inhabitants of early Middletown, and includes many extracts from original town records. - RWB)



Middletown's "Upper Houses"

Adams, Charles Collard. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908. (This book is valuable for both its historical and genealogical information. Verify, verify, verify. - RWB)

Middletown & Slavery

Caron, Denis R. *A Century in Captivity, The Life and Trials of Prince Mortimer, a Connecticut Slave*. Durham, N.H.: University of New Hampshire Press, 2006. (While this book is a case study of just one individual's intersection with the justice system, it does provide a good look at Middletown in the waning years of slavery. - RWB)

Middletown's Maritime History

McConaughy, James L. *Middletown and the Connecticut River - Maritime Middletown*. Middletown, Conn.: Middletown Tercentenary Committee, 1950. (For those with ancestors in the maritime trades, this brief article provides an overview of Middletown's maritime heyday. - RWB)

Middletown in the Revolutionary War

Van Dusen, Albert E. *Middletown and the American Revolution*. Middletown, Conn.: Middlesex County Historical Society, 1950. (Anything by Albert Van Dusen is worth reading, and this is the best survey of Middletown's participation in the Revolutionary War. - RWB)

LIFE IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

Formation & Growth of Towns

Powell, Sumner Chilton. *Puritan Village - The Formation of a New England Town*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1963. (This study of Sudbury, Mass. received the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1964. - RWB)

Daniels, Bruce C. *The Connecticut Town: Growth and Development 1635-1790*. Middletown, Conn.: Wesleyan University Press, 1979.

Bushman, Richard L. *From Puritan to Yankee - Character and the Social Order of Connecticut, 1690-1765*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1967. (Economic growth and social change in Connecticut are explained in this book, awarded the Bancroft Prize in American history. - RWB)

Daily Life

Hawke, David Freeman. *Everyday Life in Early America*. New York, N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1988.

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten: The Archeology of Early American Life*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday Co., 1977. (This book - and its author - are both classics. - RWB)

Ulrich, Laurel Thatcher. *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650-1750*. New

York, N.Y.: Alfred A. Knopf, 1982. (This classic by the renowned scholar/historian paints an insightful picture of the life of Colonial-era women in New England. - RWB)

Daniels, Bruce C. *Puritans at Play: Liesure and Recreation in Colonial New England*. New York, N.Y.: St. Martins Press, 1995. (The author's scholarship dispels some of the stereotypes associated with early New England Puritans. - RWB)

Farm Life & Agriculture

Russell, Howard S. *A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1982.

Domestic Architecture

Kelly, J. Frederick. *Early Domestic Architecture of Connecticut*. New York, N.Y.: Dover Publications, Inc., 1963. (First published by Yale University in 1924, this book illustrates the distinguishing characteristics of Connecticut homebuilding 1650-1800. - RWB)

Isham, Norman M.; Brown, Albert F. *Early Connecticut Houses: An Historical and Architectural Study*. New York, N.Y.: Dover Publications, Inc., 1965. (First published by Preston & Rounds in 1900, this book is replete with sketches and detailed framing diagrams. - RWB)

Connecticut & Middletown Genealogy

GENERAL CONNECTICUT GENEALOGY

New England & Connecticut Compilations

Savage, James. *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May, 1692, on the Basis of Farmer's Register*. Boston, Mass.: Little, Brown & Co., 1860-1862. (Still a standard reference for New England genealogy after all these years. Available online and on CD-Rom. - RWB)

Cutter, William Richard. *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation*. New York, N.Y.: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911. (Information on 1000 families. Verify, verify, verify. - RWB)

Roberts, Gary Boyd, ed. *Genealogies of Connecticut Families*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-1983. (This is a compilation of 400 articles, referencing 75,000 persons, published in the NEHGS Register since 1847. Also available on CD-Rom. - RWB)



Anderson, Robert Charles, FASG. *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633, Vol. I-III*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1996. (This series sets a high standard for thoroughness. When completed the project will include summaries of research on all individuals that arrived in New England up to 1640. Online access is available by subscription. - RWB)

Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, New Haven, Fairfield

Barbour, Lucius Barnes. *Families of Early Hartford, Connecticut*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977. (Originally published 1896-1906; covers 950 families from 1645-1825. - RWB)

Starr, Frank Farnsworth. *The Goodwins of Hartford, Connecticut*. Hartford, Conn: James J. Goodwin, 1891. (Much detail on central Connecticut families. - RWB)

Starr, Frank Farnsworth. *Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin and Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin of Hartford, Connecticut*. Hartford, Conn: James J. Goodwin, 1915. (Much detail on central Connecticut families. - RWB)

Stiles, Henry R. *Families of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1904. (Verify, verify, verify. - RWB)

Stiles, Henry R. *Families of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1892. (Verify, verify, verify. - RWB)

Jacobus, Donald Lines. *Families of Ancient New Haven*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974. (This work was originally published 1922-32 as the first eight volumes of *The American Genealogist*. - RWB)

Jacobus, Donald Lines. *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991. (Originally published 1930-32. Information on 50,000 individuals compiled by the father of scientific genealogy. - RWB)

Jacobus, Donald Lines; and Waterman, Edgar Francis. *Hale, House and Related Families Mainly of the Connecticut River Valley*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1952. (No Middletown families per se, but many related central Connecticut families in genealogies as presented by the master. - RWB)

MIDDLETOWN GENEALOGY

Field, David Dudley, D.D. *Centennial Address, with Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle-Haddam, Middletown and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: William B. Casey, 1853. (Listed in the history section, the *Centennial Address* does contain some genealogical information. - RWB)

Commemorative Biographical Record of Middlesex County, Connecticut, Containing Biographical Sketches of Prominent and Representative Citizens, and Many of the Early Settled Families. Chicago, Ill.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1903. (Even though this is a stereotypical “mug book” there is some narrative information about early Middletown families that is unavailable elsewhere. Verify, verify, verify. - RWB)

Adams, Charles Collard. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908. (This is the essential compendium of Middletown genealogy, especially for families in the “North Society” or “Upper Houses.” - RWB)

Starr, Frank Farnsworth. “The Settlers of Mattabesock 1650-1660.” Middletown, Conn.: Middletown Penny Press, Oct. 11, 1900. (Also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.) (This collection of informal sketches of Middletown’s early settlers cites no specific sources. But the high standard of Starr’s other work places him among the most reliable researchers and most credible of genealogists. - RWB)

Bacon, Reginald W. *Early Families of Middletown Connecticut - Volume I: 1650-1654*. Newburyport, Mass.: Variety Arts Press, 2012. (This book includes in-depth profiles of Middletown’s first 23 families, plus timelines, land grant maps, and chapters on locally-focused historical and cultural context. - RWB)

VITAL RECORDS & COURT RECORDS

Vital Records

White, Lorraine Cook, Gen Ed. *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*. (Middletown Vols. 27 & 28) Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000. (The statewide card index is still at the Connecticut State Library, but these two volumes are a great convenience. - RWB)

Ricker, Jacqueline Ladd, ed. *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006.(CD-Rom) (Using the complete Barbour Index on CD-Rom is like using the statewide card index at the Connecticut State Library – but without the tactile reward of thumbing the well-worn cards – or the social aspect of rubbing elbows with other researchers. - RWB)

Probate Records

Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995. (Originally published 1904-1906. These three volumes comprising 2224 pages are essential references for early Connecticut history and genealogy. - RWB)



Court Records

Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928. (These earliest court records for the Connecticut Colony provide a fascinating window into the Puritan society of the time. - RWB)

Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Hartford County, Conn., County Court Minutes, Vol. 3 & 4, 1663-1687, 1697*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2005. (This transcription picks up where the Particular Court records leave off. - RWB)

Rapaport, Diane. *New England Court Records, A Guide for Genealogists and Historians*. Burlington, Mass.: Quill Pen Press, 2006. (This book will improve the comfort-level of anyone researching of early court records. - RWB)

Ullmann, Helen Schatvet, CG, FASG., ed. *Colony of Connecticut Minutes of the Court of Assistants 1669-1711*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2009.

General Court Records

The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, from April 1636 to October 1776. Hartford, Conn.: Brown & Parsons, 1850-1890.

FAMILY GENEALOGIES

A note on published family genealogies:

Your compiler has experienced the exhilaration of discovering his grandpa's name in a published family genealogy – complete with an official-looking number and index entry. “My work is done!” I said to myself. But I soon learned that my work was just beginning – the work of verifying every “fact” in a big, fat, hardcover book with no source citations. Books without source citations, like most of those listed below, can be properly regarded only as collections of clues to be verified. ***Verify, verify, verify.***

Beyond the verification of names and dates, the user of compiled family genealogies would do well to regard any narrative biographical detail with healthy skepticism. Keep in mind that many compiled family histories, especially in the late 19th century, were a small part of the general reaction to social change occurring at the time. The late 19th century was a time when long-established New England families, rich and poor, were disturbed by the changing world around them. Industrialization, immigration, public education, urbanization, transportation, and new wealth combined to threaten the old order. The response was to look back to an idealized pre-industrial age and proselytize to new Americans about the values that built our country. Educational and philanthropic initiatives of the period were sincere, but also protective. In family genealogies the tenor of this period is manifested in the narrative tone and

content. Almost always our intrepid early settler ancestors are bestowed with a stratospheric level of nobility, piety, resourcefulness, industriousness, etc. For the contemporary researcher trying to extract the facts of an ancestor's life, this type of narrative tends to obscure, rather than illuminate biographical detail. Some authors are more self-indulgent than others, and after reading and comparing a few of these genealogies, you will be able to make your own credibility ratings. ***Verify, verify, verify.***

COE-WARD

Coe, Levi Elmore. *Coe-Ward Memorial and Immigrant Ancestors*. Meriden, Conn.: Converse Publishing Co., 1897.

CORNWELL

Cornwall, Edward E., M.D. *William Cornwall and His Descendants*. New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor Co., 1901.

GOODWIN

Starr, Frank Farnsworth. *Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin and Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin of Hartford, Conn.* Hartford, Conn.: Goodwin, 1915. (First class work. - RWB)

HALE / HOUSE

Jacobus, Donald Lines, and Waterman, Edgar Francis. *Hale, House and Related Families*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952. (A model of genealogy from the acknowledged master. - RWB)

HALL

Hall, Rev. David B. *The Halls of New England*. Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell's & Sons, 1883.

Hall, Charles S. *Hall Ancestry*. New York, N.Y.: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1896.

HAMLIN

Andrews, H. Franklin. *The Hamlin Family*. Exira, Iowa: Published by the author, 1900.

HUBBARD

Hubbard, Harlan P. *One Thousand Years of Hubbard History*. New York, N.Y.: Published by the author, 1895.

KIRBY

Dwight, Melatiah Everett. *The Kirbys of New England; a history of the descendants of John Kirby of Middletown, Conn. and of Joseph Kirby of Hartford, Conn.* New York, N.Y.: The Trow Print, 1898.

RANNEY etc.

Adams, Charles C. *Middletown Upper Houses, A History of the North Society of Middletown, Connecticut from 1650 to 1800 with Genealogical and Biographical Chapters on Early Families*. New York, N.Y.: The Grafton Press, 1908.



SAGE

Sage, Charles H., and Sage, Elisha L. *Genealogical Record of the Descendants of David Sage*. Batavia, N.Y.: Charles H. Sage, 1919.

SAVAGE

Savage, James Francis. *The Family of John Savage of Middletown, Conn.* Boston, Mass.: David Clapp & Son, 1894.

STOCKING

Stocking, Rev. Charles Henry Wright, D.D. *The Stocking Ancestry*. Chicago, Ill.: The Lakeside Press, 1903.

TREAT

Treat, John Harvey. *The Treat Family*. Salem, Mass.: The Salem Press, 1893.

WARD

Ward, George K. *Andrew Warde and His Descendants*. New York, N.Y.: De La Mare Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd., 1910.

WARNER

Warner, Lucien C., and Nichols, Josephine G. *The Descendants of Andrew Warner*. New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse, & Taylor Co., 1919.

WEBSTER

Webster, Noah. *Webster Genealogy*. New Haven, Conn: Privately printed, 1836.

WHITE

Kellogg, Allyn S. *Memorials of Elder John White*. Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood, & Co., 1860.

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