



The Middler

NEWSLETTER of the SOCIETY of MIDDLETOWN FIRST SETTLERS DESCENDANTS
CONNECTICUT, U.S.A.

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Spring 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

'Cousins' far-and-wide to explore Middletown roots at SMFSD Triennial Meeting set for Oct. 8-10, 2015

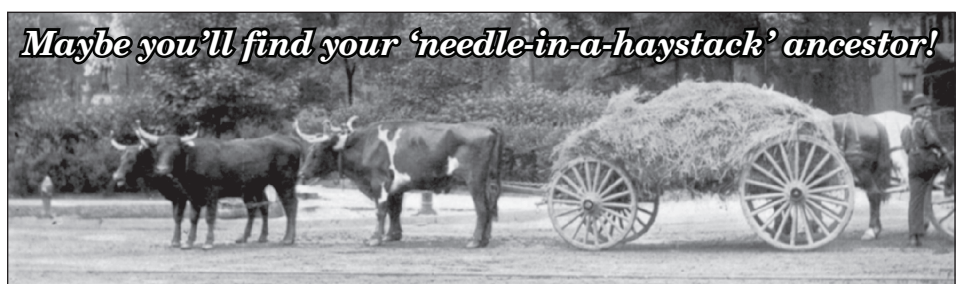
Hitch up your team and visit the ancestral town for research, exploration, discovery, and fun

By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

The SMFSD Triennial Meeting – the gathering of Middletown “cousins” every three years in the old ancestral town – will be October 8-10, 2015.

The always eagerly-anticipated gathering draws attendees with Middletown ancestors from distant points across the U.S. for research, networking, exploration, and socializing. If you haven't attended before, we hope to see you this year – 2018 is a long way off!

The Triennial Meeting registration form and schedule of activities (as of



Maybe you'll find your 'needle-in-a-haystack' ancestor!



The 2015 Triennial Meeting will be packed with research opportunities and social activities. You might even find your “needle-in-a-haystack” ancestor! (Top photo: Main St., Middletown, c. 1907)



the *Middler* publication date, but subject to change) is on page 11.

Once again this year, the headquarters hotel is the Marriott Residence Inn, Rocky Hill, Conn. Behind-the-scenes planning during the past year has been directed by Triennial

Meeting Committee Chairperson Barb Stenberg. Barb has worked at long-distance from Arizona to make arrangements and line up guest speakers, with the assistance of her committee and SMFSD members who happen to live in Connecticut.

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WHERE THEY WENT

From Middletown to western New York: The story of the Holland Land Company

By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

It is clear from the SMFSD membership rolls that a great percentage of membership descends from ancestors who left Middletown for greener pastures – or at least more expansive ones – in central and western New York. Some families stayed for generations, and descen-

dants remain today. Some stayed for just a generation or two before the family's more adventurous souls moved on to points farther west.

In the Fall 2007 issue of *The Middler*, your editor tackled the story of Hugh White (1733-1812) and his promotion of the 1784 settlement in what became known as Whitestown,

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SMFSD NEWS

A warm welcome to five new members, and a report on the New England Regional Genealogical Conference

• Welcome new members.

SMFSD welcomes five new members since the last issue of *The Middler*: **Victor Lee Pritchett**, AM-349, Methuen, Mass. (1st settler George Hubbard); **Linda L. (Bowe) Wilgus**, AM-350, Lincoln City, Oregon (1st settler Alexander Bow); **Katherine Doolittle May**, AM-351, Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (1st settlers Samuel Doolittle and William Cornwell); **Nancy (Hollis) Philipps**, AM-352, Anna, Texas (1st settler Daniel Harris); and **Arthur Edward Webster**, AM-353, Cromwell, Conn. (1st settler Robert Webster).

• **A report on the New England Regional Genealogy Conference:** SMFSD once again exhibited at the

NERGC, the 2015 event being at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, R.I. The four-day event was April 15-18, but the SMFSD booth exhibit presence was for one day only, April 16, at the event's "Society Fair" for family associations, hereditary organizations, and genealogical societies. Converging from various points to staff the booth were SMFSD members **Laura Hobbs** (from Connecticut), **Don Brock** (from Maryland), and **Reg Bacon** (from Massachusetts).

In comparison to previous conferences, the foot traffic at this year's Society Fair was underwhelming. There was a stream of lookers, just not the tidal wave of prospective

members we would have preferred. There were, however, enough interested folks to keep us busy chatting and getting brochures and surplus *Middler* copies in their hands. We talked up the Triennial Meeting to prospective members who live within easy striking distance of Middletown. (See page 3 for photos of the SMFSD booth and the main exhibit hall.)

The next day was devoted to taking in a few educational sessions, scouring the exhibit hall, and connecting with friends old and new.

The conference, held every-other-year, features speakers, educational sessions, and vendors. The 2017 event will be in Springfield, Mass. For information, visit www.nergc.org. ■



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Historian Don Brock
Registrar Hal Whitmore
Middler Editor R.W. Bacon

Can you hear the distant braying? Editor's fallibility surfaces once again

Readers of the fall 2014 issue of *The Middler* may have noticed another one of the editor's humbling oversights – in a boldface *headline*, no less. My apologies. Human fallibility surfaces once again.

In my work these days, even the rare typographical error is especially irritating, as in the past year I have turned two new books on editing and typography onto the market: *The Cranky Typographer's Book of Major Annoyances: Helpful Graphics Tips for Do-It-Yourself Designers*, and *The Cranky Editor's Book of Intolerable Fox Paws (Oops! Faux Pas!): Helpful Writing & Style Tips So You Won't Look Stupid*. When working on last fall's *Middler* issue, I had just spent the previous 15 months boiling down 50 years as an editor and typographer into two books that badger today's do-it-yourself practitioners about dumb mistakes. So of course Murphy's Law almost ensures that the expert on his high horse will

make a big, fat, public goof as his foot gets caught in the stirrup. Go figure.

For those who gave the last issue of *The Middler* only a cursory read, perhaps you are wondering exactly what and where the blunder was. I'm happy to point it out, because I would not want to deprive you of a hearty laugh, even if it is at my expense. (Be warned, though. The louder you laugh, the more likely you will be haunted by Murphy and his ever-lurking law.)

The typo was on page three of the fall 2014 issue, in the headline for the article about the Middletown DNA project: "Middletown DNA project *hass* potential to identify early settler descendants to prospective members."

So that's it. One stupid extra letter. I can say that since I began as a young journalist 50 years ago, I have made usage and spelling errors from time-to-time, but this is the very first time I have made a *hass* of myself. ■

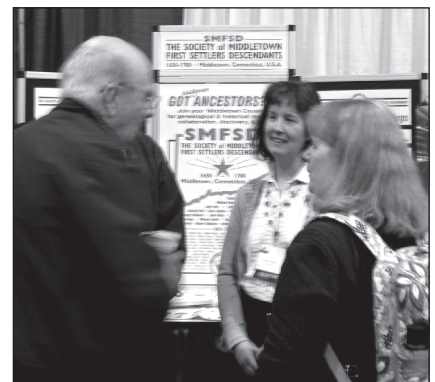
– R.W. Bacon



SMFSD exhibits at New England Regional Genealogical Conference

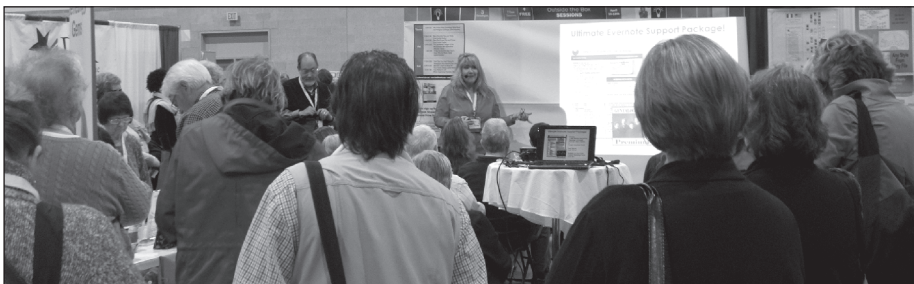
April 16, 2015
at Rhode Island
Convention Center,
Providence, R.I.

Top left: R.I. Convention Center.
Top right: SMFSD's display at the
conference's "Society Fair." In the
next row, SMFSD members Don Brock
and Laura Hobbs engage attendees.



Lively presence by Godfrey Library at 4-day conference

A substantial exhibit hall presence, on-site book sales, an informative education session, and the promotion of the Godfrey Scholar program kept the team from the Middletown-based library busy. Above left, library director Beth Mariotti and volunteer Laura Hobbs chat with a visitor. Above right, librarian Sharon Dahlmeyer-Giovannitti enrolls a new "scholar."



Wish you were there?
Miss the conference? At left are
photos of the teeming crowds ... and
a program room ready for the rush.

GENEALOGIST OF NOTE

Middletown Upper Houses is a cherished source, so let's meet the author, Charles Collard Adams

Editor's Note: Ten years ago, upon assuming editorship of *The Middler*, one category of potential content was profiles of those who made extraordinary contributions to Middletown local history and genealogy. Since then, feature articles have profiled Frank Farnsworth Starr, Fremont Rider, and Jessie Alsop. This issue profiles the author of *Middletown Upper Houses* (1908), Charles Collard Adams.

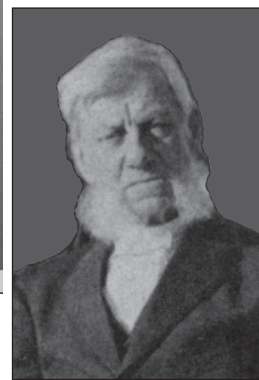
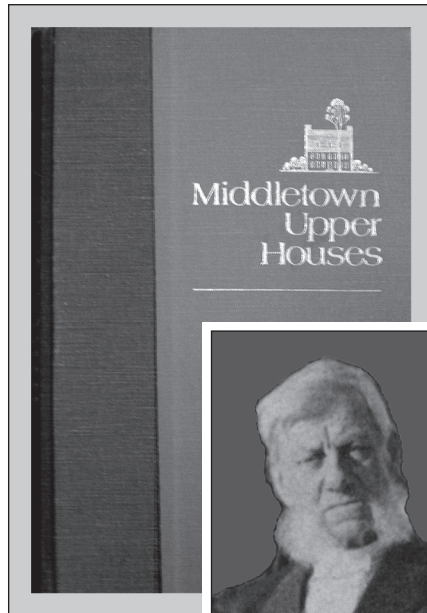
By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

Every serious researcher probing the history of early Middletown families will eventually consult *Middletown Upper Houses*, the 847-page genealogical compendium compiled over 100 years ago by Charles Collard Adams. Even though the book concentrates on the Ranney family and related families in the "North Society" of Middletown (now Cromwell, Conn.), its inclusion of intertwined families is such that even if the subject family of your research lived only in the South Farms section of Middletown, your work is not done until you have at least combed through the index of *Middletown Upper Houses*.

All it takes is the initial encounter with this book for anyone to recognize it as a monumental accomplish-



Above are Charles Collard Adams (1836-1925) and his wife, Elizabeth Gridley Ranney Adams (1833-1925). They married in 1860 and raised four children.



Middletown Upper Houses by Charles Collard Adams (1836-1925) has been a valued resource for genealogical research on early Middletown families since its publication in 1908. Above is the 1983 reprint. Inset is the author in 1910.

ment. A look into the background of the accomplishment, however, reveals that the author was working on *his wife's* genealogy, not his own. He had no Middletown ancestors, and was in fact a "Southern boy" with his family roots extending below the Mason-Dixon line. So who was this Charles Collard Adams?

Charles Collard Adams was born in Washington, D.C. in 1836, the son of George Adams (1781-1844), a merchant, and Jemima Collard (1798-1852). His respective immigrant ancestors, both from England, were Francis Adams (1642-1698), who acquired land in Charles County, Md. in 1663; and Samuel Collard (1726-c. 1776), who acquired land in Maryland in the 1750s.

Adams came to Middletown to attend Wesleyan University, from which he graduated in the class of

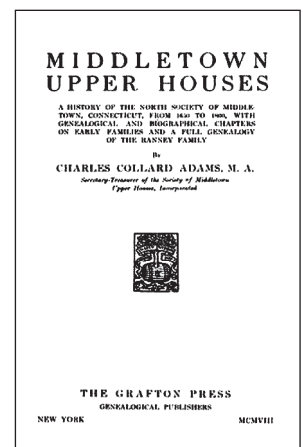
1859. His introduction to Cromwell began shortly after his arrival, when he was hired to teach the winter term at the town's Brick Schoolhouse. (His recollections of a particularly severe winter, his first in New England, still survive, and call to mind the winter just passed.)

After graduation from Wesleyan, Adams became a Methodist minister, and a year later, married Elizabeth Gridley Ranney (1836-1925) at her parents' house on Pleasant Street in Cromwell.

During the Civil War, Adams served as chaplain of the 22nd Regiment of Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. He was active in veterans organizations like the GAR throughout his life.

After his military service, Adams served as a minister to various congregations in Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Along the way he changed denominations twice, was ordained as an Episcopal minister, served as a rector in several Catholic churches in various states, and paused long enough to accept an

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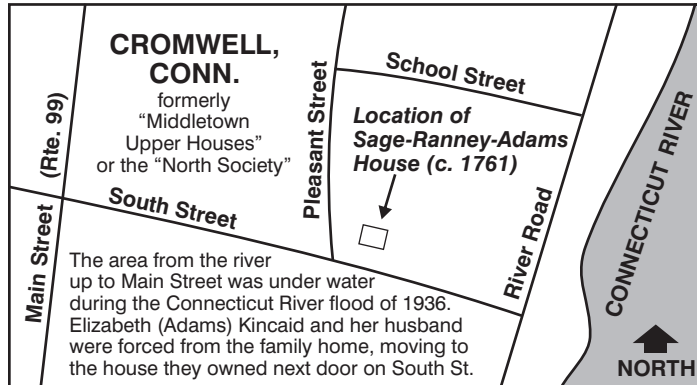


Above are the spine and title page of one of the 600 copies of *Middletown Upper Houses* printed in 1908. In 1983 a hard-cover reprint of the 847-page, 3-inch thick book was financed by the Ranney Genealogical Fund.



At far left is the view of the c. 1761 Sage-Ranney-Adams house pictured in the 1908 publication of *Middletown Upper Houses*. At near left is an undated view from later in the 20th century.

At right is a map showing the location of the c. 1761 Sage-Ranney-Adams house on the corner of Pleasant and South Sts. in Cromwell, Conn. The house suffered damage in the Connecticut River flood of March 1936. The house on the lot today bears no resemblance to the 1761 house.



continued from page 4

honorary master's degree from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

Particular career strife for Adams began in 1881, when the Episcopal Bishop sent him to Escanaba, Michigan to head a congregation. He discovered he had been misled: There was no church, and the hall where the tiny congregation met had been leased to a Roman Catholic group. He was similarly disappointed with church leadership after postings in Menominee, Wisconsin and Fort Dodge, Iowa. In 1883 he left the Episcopal Church, entered the Catholic Church, and returned to Connecticut. He had his fill of being a minister, and began a second career as a newspaper journalist working for publications in the Naugatuck Valley and in Hartford.

In 1888 he moved with his family to Cromwell, residing in his wife's family home, the house on the corner of South and Pleasant Streets that was originally built for John Sage (1727-1805) and Ann (Ranney) Sage (1723-1778) in 1761.

In the last decade of the 19th century Adams' interest turned increasingly to local history and genealogy. Leading up to the publication of *Middletown Upper Houses*

was his organization of the Ranney Memorial and Historical Association and the Society of Middletown Upper Houses. These efforts not only brought people together for historically-themed reunions and celebrations, but they also built a network of potential supporters for the book project. He was not shy about leaning on his wife's Ranney "cousins" for support, as evidenced in this "pitch" from the 1905 reunion brochure:

"The undersigned has now entered on his seventieth year and is anxious to hasten the completion of the preparation, and to see the publication of this work. ... He, therefore, signifies his desire that any so disposed should now send part or full payment for the volume, and thereby hasten the work of preparation for the printer. Two hundred and fifty dollars are needed for this purpose. While he greatly desires to live to meet you in person at our next celebration, his present desire is to see the volume issued from the press. You will hasten the realization of this desire if you weigh well these final words. - Charles Collard Adams."

[Full disclosure: Your editor's 2nd-great-grandfather, Samuel Wilson Clark (1838-1920), a Ranney descendant and charter member of the

"society," responded to this pressure and kicked in five bucks. His mugshot is opposite page 472.]

Despite the fund-raising efforts for the book, its publication after four years of intense work left Adams \$4000 in debt. To add insult to injury, the publisher, Grafton Press, which printed the short run of 600 copies, soon went out of business and the manuscript and plates were lost.

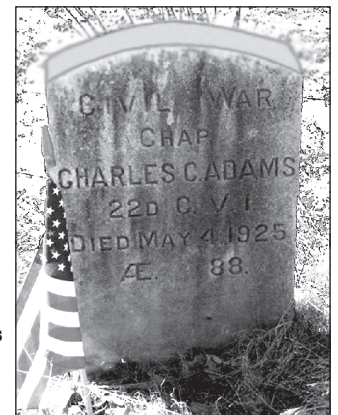
Thanks to the Ranney Genealogical Fund, *Middletown Upper Houses* was reprinted in an attractive, robust hard-cover edition in 1983, and can be found on the shelves of major genealogy libraries. *Middletown Upper Houses* is in the public domain, and is also easily and freely downloadable in digital form from the Internet Archive (www.archive.org).

The impact of Charles Collard Adams on his adopted community of Cromwell is still evident today. He was the driving force in the development of Patriots Corner that honors war veterans, an extension of his earlier initiative to care for the gravesites of Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. In Middletown to the south, he was active in the Grand Army of the Republic, and he attended every reunion of the Wesleyan University Class of 1859 through 1924. (He was a frequent reunion speaker - the transcription of his often hilarious remarks and shaggy anecdotes is good reading.)

His articles on history, education, and town affairs were published in local newspapers, as were his frequent letters to the editor on envi-

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At right is the headstone of Charles Collard Adams located at Old Center Cemetery, Cromwell, Conn. When he died he was the town's oldest male resident.



Far western New York was a destination for those seeking more 'elbow room' in the early 19th century

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N.Y., a vast expanse of the New York frontier, but centered around the present-day Utica region. The focus of this article, another in a series on the post-Revolutionary War exodus from Middletown, is on the move to the far western New York and Pennsylvania lands promoted by the Holland Land Company.

The Holland Land Company was a group of 13 Dutch investors who wanted to invest in the new United States. Because non-citizens were not permitted to own land in the U.S., this group of investors engaged representatives to purchase land in western New York and Pennsylvania in the 1790s.

The machinations of this company were complex, and comprehensive explanation is beyond the scope of this article. In short, the representatives seized the opportunity to acquire lands of the defaulted Phelps & Gorham Purchase. In 1788 Oliver Phelps and Nathaniel Gorham had purchased six million acres from Massachusetts(!?) and the original owners, the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. Upon defaulting on payments in 1791, Phelps and Gorham sold some land to Revolutionary War financier, U.S. senator, and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Robert Morris of Philadelphia. Soon after, discrepancies with land surveys came to light, and in 1793 Morris sold 3,350,000 acres to the Holland Land Co., retaining his "reserve" of 500,000 acres.

The Holland Land Co. aimed to turn over the land rapidly, but that goal was not realized. It became clear that proper surveys, roads, and canals were needed in order to entice new settlers. Another issue was securing clear title to all the land from the Six Nations. In late 1797 the company negotiated an agreement with Red Jacket, chief of the Seneca nation, that included a 200,000-acre reservation.

In 1802 a sales office was opened in Batavia, N.Y., in Genesee County.



Above is the Holland Land Co. land office in Batavia, N.Y., active from 1802 to 1846, when the company was dissolved. It is now home to the Holland Land Office Museum.

Apparently the timing was right, for the bustling activity in the ensuing years was the origin of the phrase, "doing a land-office business."

Joseph Ellicott (1760-1826), who led a team in surveying the vast purchase (1798-1800) and marking out townships and 320-acre and 120-acre tracts, was appointed the company's agent, and directed sales until 1821. Handbills, newspaper advertisements, and word-of-mouth attracted interest of potential land-owners, who for the most part had roots in New England. Over the years, tensions between landowners and the company were high, as contracts and credit terms were adjusted repeatedly, and promises of improved roads were not kept.

When the land office in Batavia was closed in 1846, none of the Dutch proprietors had ever set foot on their western New York investments.



Above is the Holland Land Company vault in Mayville, N.Y. The company required that all of its records be stored in a bank vault, or a vault of its own.

The Holland Land Company also purchased land in nine counties in northwestern Pennsylvania, which was also a landing place for those moving west from Connecticut.

The map on the facing page shows the early 19th-century routes from central Connecticut to western New York. Whatever the route, whether belongings were in a wagon or on the back of an ox, it was an arduous journey through wilderness and newly-cleared, stump-strewn farms – a story oft-recorded in family lore.

A look at surnames in the early 19th-century federal census records of western New York counties turns up many names that suggest Middletown roots: Bowe, Clark, Cotton, Gipson, Hall, Higby, Hubbard, Miller, Prior, Sage, Stanclift, Stocking, Ward, Wetmore, and Wilcox. More detailed tracking of surnames in the census may reveal more about this migration.

Published genealogies of selected Middletown families also tell the story of the move to western New York. Many of these families moved directly from Middletown, but it appears that just as many had previously moved to western Massachusetts, Vermont, or central New York before moving on to western New York or Pennsylvania.

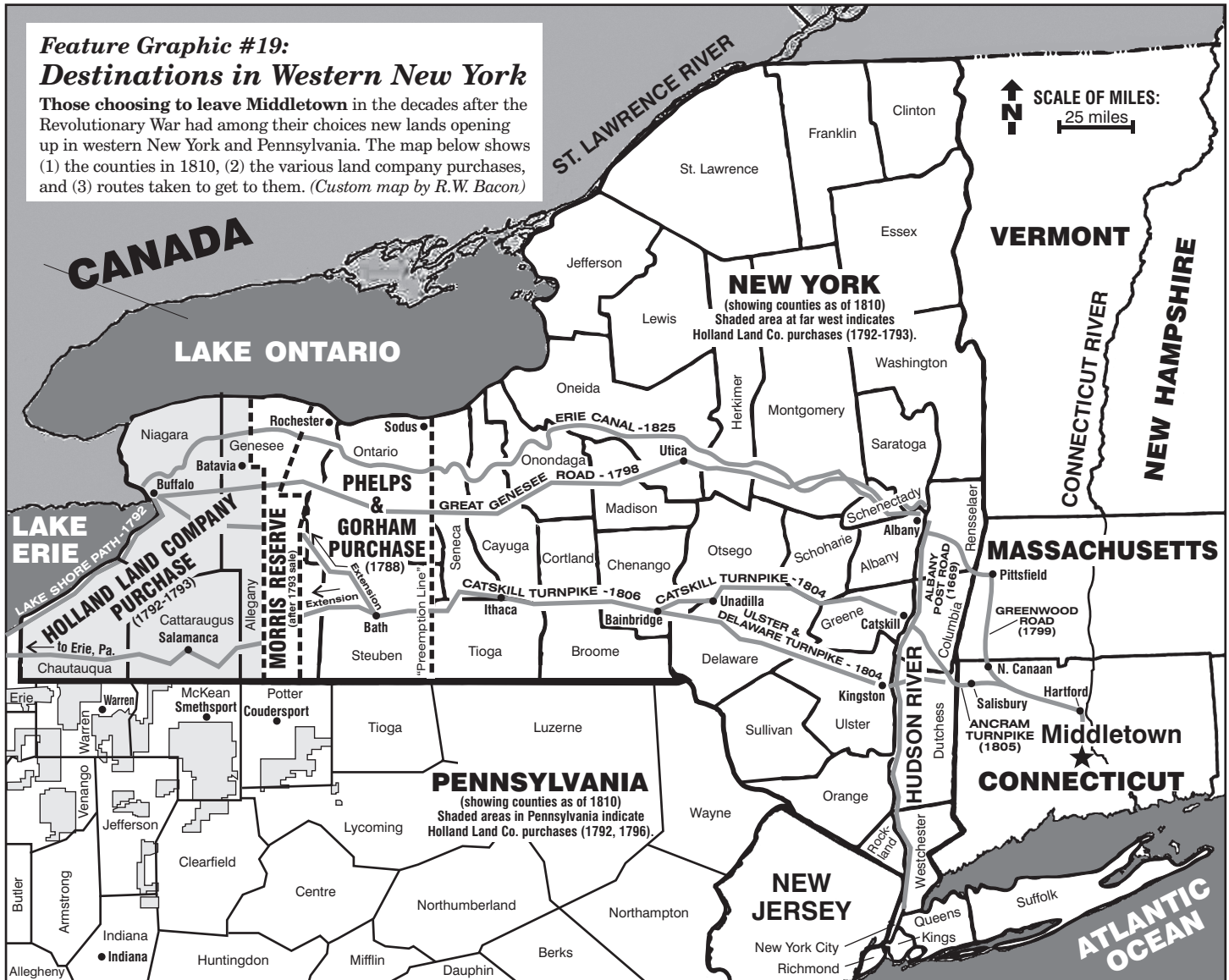
Highly recommended for western New York research is the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, which is reviewed on page 8. Neophytes and veteran researchers alike will find it to be a valuable reference when tracking ancestors in western New York. ■

Sources

- Turner, Orsamus. *History of the Pioneer Settlement of Phelps & Gorham's Purchase, and Morris' Reserve*. Rochester, N.Y.: William Alling, 1852.
- Mathews, Lois Kimball. *The Expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River 1620-1865*. Boston, Mass.: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1909.
- Brooks, Charles E. *Frontier Settlement and Market Revolution: The Holland Land Purchase*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1996.
- Silsby, Robert W. "The Holland Land Company in Western New York," *Adventures in Western New York History, Vol. VIII*. Buffalo, N.Y.: Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society, 1961.

Feature Graphic #19: Destinations in Western New York

Those choosing to leave Middletown in the decades after the Revolutionary War had among their choices new lands opening up in western New York and Pennsylvania. The map below shows (1) the counties in 1810, (2) the various land company purchases, and (3) routes taken to get them. (Custom map by R.W. Bacon)



New book on the Hubbard family is a narrative of 13 generations

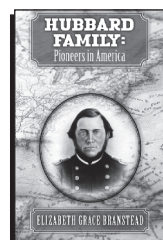
By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

A few weeks ago your editor was pleased to receive a review copy of *Hubbard Family: Pioneers in America*, by Elizabeth Grace Branstead. The author's excellent conception, organization, research, and writing came together to produce a book that will remain a treasure for the family for generations to come.

The author, a descendant of George Hubbard (1601-1684) and Elizabeth Watt (1618-1702) of Middletown, brought plenty of resources to the

project – first-class education (two master's degrees), broad career and business experience, four years of project-specific research, and a lifetime of soaking up family stories.

Hubbard Family tells the story of 13 generations of the author's family in



Hubbard Family: Pioneers in America, by Elizabeth Grace Branstead, is a well-produced 6"x9", 314-page paperback. The book is available for purchase online at www.amazon.com.

narrative form, interweaving the threads of history from the time before Middletown, to the present. This is no dry genealogical tome, as the family stories, letters, and photos add life to the details of the moves to western New York, to the Midwest, and finally to California in Gold Rush days.

The forward-moving narrative is a strength. Readers familiar with the subject will tolerate a few smooth elisions here-and-there when exact details are unknown. This tendency is counterbalanced by the forthright details about more recent generations.

Hubbard Family will always be a treasure to the author's family, but for those planning a similar project, the book can also serve as a fine model. ■

RECOMMENDED REFERENCE

If you research New York ancestors, you need the New York Family History Research Guide

By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

Upon arrival at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in Providence, R.I. this spring, there was so much chatter about the newly-published *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* that your editor had to have a look and see what all the fuss was about.

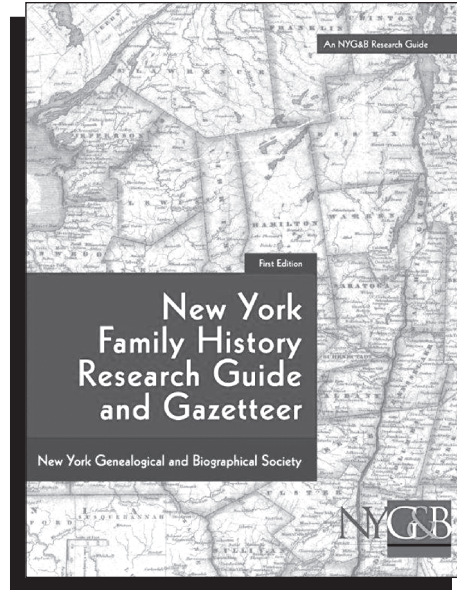
The verdict in brief: All the fuss about the book is justified. In fact, it is so remarkable that now your editor will add to the chatter.

The *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer* is a massive compendium, over three years in the making, of narrative summaries, research repositories, online sources, and bibliographies for every conceivable category of genealogical inquiry, and for every county, city, and town in the state.

Since publication, buzz generated by the book has come from leading genealogists, scholars, librarians, and archivists, including D. Joshua Taylor; Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Ann Thornton, Director of the New York Public Library; and David S. Ferriero, Archivist of the United States.

Part I includes 17 encyclopedic chapters on Colonial-era governmental records, vital records, census records, immigration & naturalization records, court records, probate records, land records, military records, cemetery records, business & organizational records, tax records, city directories, newspapers & periodicals, population records, and church records.

Part II bulges with information on all the counties, cities, towns, villages, hamlets, crossroads, and defunct places in the state, with maps, time-lines, and corresponding information on records locations, research repositories, libraries, archives, online sources, and old-school hard-copy books.

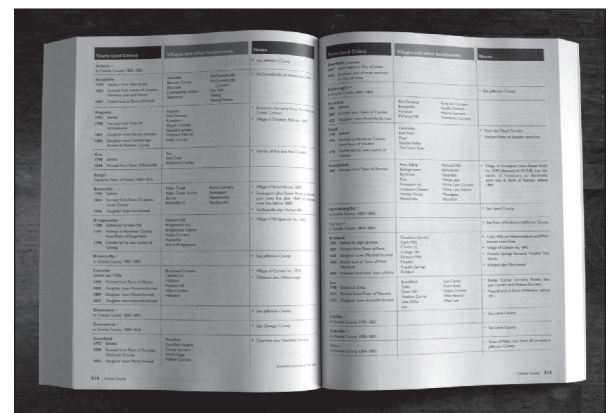


Should this book receive the recognition it deserves in the form of awards, the honors will be shared by hundreds: A veritable army labored to make this book a reality. The 11-member review committee included four former editors of the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*: Laura DeGrazia, CG, FGBS; Karen Mauer Jones, CG, FGBS; Henry B. Hoff, CG, FASG, FGBS, current editor of the *New England*

The New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer, a publication of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, rolled off the press in early 2015. The 840-pages, 8.5"x11" book is available directly from the publisher (NYG&B) at 36 West 44th St., Ste. 711, New York, NY 10036 (www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org). The cost is \$85 plus shipping. (NYG&B members pay \$65 plus shipping.)

Historic Genealogical Register; and Harry Macy Jr., FASG, FGBS, who served as consulting editor. In four full pages of credits, there were six managing editors, seven design and production staff, 16 contributing authors, 95 contributors and advisors, six research associates, and 35 research assistants. Compilation of information for the county guides called upon 171 public historians, genealogists, archivists, and research librarians from across the state. The total: 347 credited individuals.

Despite the dry title, the book is also very browseable. Even if you are not immersed in tracking down your Middletown-to-New York ancestors, you will find much that fascinates. If you *are* researching New York ancestors in any part of the state, this book is indispensable. ■



Above left is a typical county map in the *New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer*, in this case Oneida County, showing the cities and towns within it. Above right are pages that follow the map. The left column on each page lists the cities and towns, with a time-line of divisions and name-changes for each. The center column list villages within the towns, while the right column adds historical notes.

RECOMMENDED READING***New book by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, shares his methods as a master investigator***

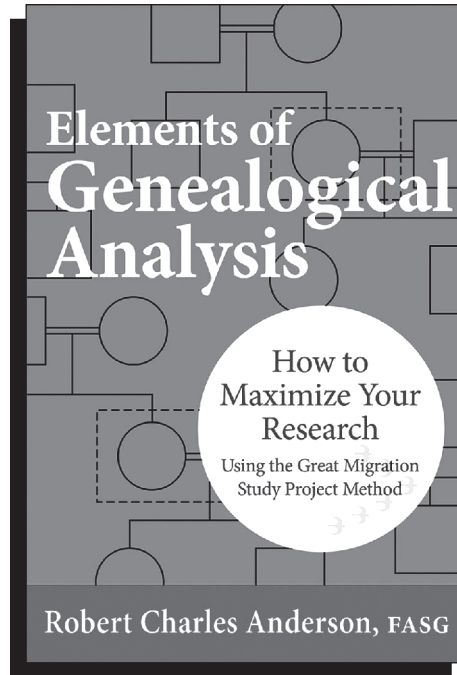
By R.W. Bacon
Editor, *The Middler*

The contemporary genealogist researching New England ancestors, unless they have been working under a rock – or buried under a pile of 19th-century doorstep-sized family histories – has almost certainly encountered the masterful work of Robert Charles Anderson, FASG. His ongoing Great Migration Study Project, which aims to profile every one of the 20,000-plus settlers arriving in New England 1620-1640, has thus far produced 10 massive volumes (up to 1635), a quarterly newsletter, and separate books on early settlers of the Plymouth Colony and arrivals on the Winthrop Fleet – a total of 9,915 pages of genealogical scholarship ... and still counting.

Middler readers who have consulted the SMFSD website may note similarities between the Great Migration Study profiles and the approach to profiling Middletown's early settlers, as Anderson's work was the model for that undertaking as well as the model for the subsequent compilation in book form. Your editor is only one of many researchers and compilers who have followed the exemplary lead of the Great Migration Study Project.

With the new book, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis*, Anderson now presents his methods of evidence analysis and genealogical problem-solving in a crystal-clear and digestible form for anyone working on their own family history.

The author states in the preface that he had this book in mind ever since he was beginning his research in the 1970s, when he noticed that most how-to books on genealogy concentrated on finding sources rather than methodology, analysis, or procedures. In 1982 he formulated



Elements of Genealogical Analysis by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, published in late 2014, is available directly from the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; 888-296-3447 (www.AmericanAncestors.org).

his two “Fundamental Rules of Genealogy”: (1) that all statements must be based on the exhaustive analysis of records (i.e. analyze the validity of evidence), and (2) that there must be an explicit reason to claim that any two records refer to the same person (i.e. have proof for each conclusion). The author’s Great Migration Study Project method – and the book derived from it – grew from these two fundamental rules.

The organization of the 168-page 6"x9" paperback is just as logical as Anderson’s methodology. After a brief preface and a slightly longer introductory overview, Part I of the book is devoted to analysis and the use of analytic tools. The author differentiates between “sources” and “records,” discusses the rigorous evaluation of each, and explains how proper

“linkage” of evidence leads to reliable genealogical conclusions.

Part II of the book is devoted to genealogical problem-solving, and the author’s five-step sequence used in the Great Migration Study: (1) the identification of the problem to solve, (2) the determination of the data needed to solve it, (3) the collection of accurate data, (4) the analysis and linkage of the data, and (5) the resolution of the particular problem and the testing of the conclusion.

Throughout the book are case studies that clarify the application of Anderson’s method, and diagrams that clarify the relationship of the steps in analysis and problem-solving.

Appendices include a glossary of terms; a comparison of the legal, scientific, and historico-literary models of evaluating evidence; the GENTECH genealogical data model; and forged or fabricated records.

Robert Charles Anderson came to genealogy in the 1970s from a diverse background. With a graduate degree in molecular biology, his first career was as a biochemist. That was followed by a specialization in electronics intelligence for the U.S. Army. In his preface, he writes: “These two pursuits, seemingly quite distant from genealogy, provided both the basis for my genealogical skills and the impetus for the writing of a book on methodology.” In 1983 he earned a master’s degree in colonial American history from the University of Massachusetts – several years *after* election as a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. His research and writing has flowed steadily for over 40 years.

The author states at the outset that his research approach is not the only system, and it is neither new nor magical. But anyone serious about genealogy will appreciate his clear presentation of comprehensive and proven methodology. ■



SMFSD Membership Information

If you descend from a pre-1700 settler, we welcome you to join us

The following are individuals (and presumably spouses & families) said to have settled in Middletown, Conn. before 1700. The list is from *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, Beers Co., 1884), derived in part from the *List of Householders & Proprietors*, Middletown, March 22, 1670. **Names in boldface** are the original 1650-54 settlers. **N.B.!** *This list is known to be incomplete!* If you descend from a pre-1700 settler *not* on this list, including a Native American or African-American ancestor, please contact our Registrar about submitting lineage and references. **Not a descendant? Join us in the Friends category!**

Josiah Adkins 1673	Samuel Cotton 1697	Edward Higby 1667	Daniel Pryor 1696	Samuel Stow 1651
Obadiah Allyn 1670	Samuel Doolittle . . . 1693	Thomas Hill 1678	Thomas Ranney . . . 1660	Thomas Stow 1669
Thomas Allen 1650	George Durant 1663	Thomas Hopewell . . 1662	William Roberts . . . 1680	William Sumner . . . 1687
Nathaniel Bacon . 1650	Samuel Eggleston . . 1663	George Hubbard . 1650	Joseph Rockwell . . 1693	James Tappin 1662
William Briggs 1677	John Elton 1677	John Hulbert 1669	Alexander Rollo . . . 1697	Matthias Treat . . . 1659
John Blake 1677	Thomas Ferman . . . 1679	Isaac Johnson 1670	Noadiah Russell . . . 1696	Edward Turner . . . 1665
William Blumfield 1650	Edward Foster 1670	Francis Jones 1672	David Sage 1662	John Ward 1664
John Boarn 1677	Jonathan Gilbert . . 1672	John Jordan 1678	John Savage 1650	William Ward 1659
Alexander Bow 1660	John Gill 1676	John Kirby 1653	Arthur Scovill 1671	Andrew Warner . . . 1667
Nathaniel Brown . . . 1655	Richard Goodale . . . 1671	Isaac Lane 1664	Edward Shepard . . . 1687	Robert Warner 1655
Thomas Burk 1670	George Graves 1650?	Thomas Lewis 1687	Joseph Smith 1675	Robert Webster . . 1650
William Cheney 1655	John Hall 1650	William Lucas 1667	William Smith . . . 1650	Benjamin West 1698
Samuel Clark 1676	Richard Hall 1650	Daniel Markham . . . 1677	William Southmayd. 1674	Thomas Wetmore 1650
Jasper Clements . . . 1670	Samuel Hall 1650	Anthony Martin . . . 1661	Comfort Starr 1673	Nathaniel White . 1650
Henry Cole 1650?	Giles Hamlin 1650	John Martin 1650	James Stancliff . . . 1686	Francis Whitmore . . 1674
Nathaniel Collins . . 1664	Benjamin Hands . . . 1678	Thomas Miller . . . 1650	Samuel Stocking. 1650	John Wilcox 1654
Samuel Collins 1665	Daniel Harris 1653	John Payne 1676	John Stow 1667	James Wright 1690
William Cornwell 1650	William Harris . . . 1650	George Phillips . . . 1680	Nathaniel Stow . . . 1676	

Membership benefits . . .

When you join the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants, you will receive:

- Two issues per year of *The Middler*, the SMFSD newsletter full of information useful for research about Middletown's first settler families and local history.
- Access to the SMFSD web site which includes first settler profiles, genealogy resources, local history articles, a custom-prepared annotated bibliography for Middletown research, and an archive of past *Middler* issues.
- The annual membership roster enabling you to network with Middletown "cousins" and researchers across the country.
- The opportunity to attend SMFSD meetings (every three years) in Middletown that include genealogy research, cemetery tours, library/museum visits, networking, and social events.
- The opportunity to participate in the organization, suggest/plan meeting activities, and vote on SMFSD business.

Membership is a simple 1-2-3 procedure . . .

If you are a descendant of *any* pre-1700 Middletown settler, and would like to join SMFSD, here is the easy procedure:

- (1) Send an outline/worksheet of your lineage to the Registrar. The applicant shall do their own genealogical research, and the resulting lineage should be accompanied by copies of reference material by generation. The Registrar seeks to verify submitted information, but does not research family lines.
- (2) Send a check payable to the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants (1650-1700) for the non-refundable \$10.00 application handling fee.
- (3) The Registrar will review the application for approval. Documentation is required only through the line of descent from the 1650-1700 settler. If needed, guidelines will be sent that help document descent by generation. (The Society will return an application if more documentation is needed. It is the applicant's responsibility to complete any gaps in the records.) When approved, the new member can choose to pay annual or lifetime dues:
 - (A) Annual dues (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31) are \$20.00 (in addition to the initial \$10.00 handling fee).
 - (B) A new member may elect to pay lifetime dues (instead of annual dues) based on age: Age 0-50, \$300; Age 51-70, \$200; Age 70+, \$100. Life Members receive a certificate suitable for framing.

Friends of SMFSD. Are you a history enthusiast? Would you like to receive *The Middler*? Join us at \$20 per year!

Please send membership inquiries & lineage information to: Hal Whitmore, Registrar, Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants, 1301 N. Harrison St., Apt. 201, Wilmington, DE 19806; or via e-mail to: hbwhitmore@yahoo.com.

Charles Collard Adams ... *continued from page 5*

ronmental, tree-planting, and town beautification issues.

Charles Collard Adams and his wife, Elizabeth, had four children: (1) Elizabeth (Adams) Kincaid (1861-1952), a school teacher and later a local historian; (2) James Adams (1863-1939), a newspaper compositor; (3) C. S. Gridley Adams (1867-1958), a magazine journalist who gained notoriety as a promoter of the

American flag; and (4) Arthur Adams (1870-1893).

The author of *Middletown Upper Houses* is buried in Cromwell's Old Center Cemetery. ■

Sources

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- The Journal of the Proceedings of the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western Michigan*. Hasting, Mich.: Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, 1884.
- Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the Year 1860*. New York, N.Y.: Carlton & Porter, 1860.
- www.AmericanConverts.org. (Database of converts and conversions in American history by Lincoln Mullen of Brandeis U. and Erin Bartram of the U. of Connecticut.)
- www.TownGreens.com. (history and background of Cromwell's town green and Patriots Corner.)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR & REGISTER NOW!

Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants Triennial Meeting – October 8-10, 2015

Meeting Headquarters:

Marriott Residence Inn, Rocky Hill, Connecticut



Join us for three days of events & research

The 2015 meeting of the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants presents an opportunity to gather with Middletown cousins, genealogists, and local history enthusiasts in our ancestral hometown. Complete the registration form below, return it with your check, and then join us for a genealogy-rich program of research, stimulation, and fun. (*Want to learn more about SMFSD and past Triennial Meetings? Google-search "Middletown First Settlers" and visit our information-packed web site.*)

SMFSD Triennial Meeting Schedule *(subject to change):*

Wednesday, October 7: *For Early Arrivals*

3 p.m.-5 p.m. **Registration** for early arrivals (at hotel)
7 p.m. **SMFSD Board Meeting**

Thursday, October 8: *Middletown Research Day*

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. **Registration** at hotel
8:30 a.m. **Orientation** to research destinations
Afternoon **Lunch** (on our own)
9 a.m.-12 noon **Research in Middletown** (*your choice!*)
1 p.m. **Lecture Presentation by Mel Smith**

of the Connecticut State Library History & Genealogy Unit (topic TBD) (Russell Library, 123 Broad Street, Middletown, Conn.)
3 p.m. **SMFSD Business Meeting** (at Russell Library)
5 p.m. **Wine & Cheese Social** at the hotel hosted by Don & Lyn Brock
Evening **A free evening** and/or dinner on our own with friends and cousins old & new.

Friday, October 9: *Hartford Research Day*

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Research in Hartford** [Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Historical Society Library, Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library (Glastonbury)]
6 p.m. **Banquet at Dakota Steak House**, 1489 Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill, Conn.
Guest speaker: Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research & Collections at the Institute of American Indian Studies in Washington, Conn. An archaeologist, researcher, educator, and award-winning author, Ms. Lavin will speak on Native Americans in Connecticut both before and after the arrival of English settlers.

Saturday, October 10: *Free Choice Day*

8 a.m.-4 p.m. **Self-Directed Research & Exploration.** Libraries, museums, cemeteries, ancestral landscapes, and a walking tour of historic Middletown await you!
Evening **Informal Dinner** – A farewell evening on our own with friends old & new.

For more information contact Mike Campbell at mlc226m@yahoo.com

Accommodations ...

Make your hotel reservations independently by contacting our meeting headquarters, the Marriott Residence Inn, 680 Cromwell Ave. (Rte. 3, off Rte. I-91), Rocky Hill, CT 06067, at 860-257-7500. Mention the SMFSD meeting for our group rate.

More destinations of genealogical interest

In addition to scheduled activities, here are destinations of genealogical & historical interest you may want to add to your Triennial Meeting checklist*:

- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Middlesex County Historical Society
- City Clerk's Office, Middletown
- Middletown Heritage Trail (self-guided 20-station walking tour)
- Exploration of ancestral properties

In the Hartford area . . .

- Connecticut State Library
- Connecticut Historical Society
- Connecticut Society of Genealogists
- Ancient Burying Ground, Hartford
- Wadsworth Atheneum (Wallace Nutting Collection of Early American Furniture)
- Wethersfield, Conn. (mid-18th-century architecture)

*Admission charges may apply.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Date arriving: ____ Date departing: ____ Do you need transportation to & from our events? Y N

Please check events you will attend (for planning purposes):

Thursday Middletown Research Day Friday Hartford Research Day
 Thursday Lecture at Russell Library Friday Dinner at Dakota Steak House
 Thursday Wine & Cheese Social Saturday Free Choice Day

Event Registration# ____ @ \$35.....= ____

Fri. Lunch (TBD?)# ____ @ \$?? (TBD) ...= ____

Fri. Banquet at Dakota SH.# ____ @ \$40.....= ____

(Cost includes tax and gratuity; excludes beverages)

Banquet at Dakota Steak House in ?????? includes choices from their special menu of appetizers, entrées, and desserts.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED.....\$ _____

*Please make check payable to
The Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants.*

**Please note that the registration fee
DOES NOT include
other restaurant meals or lodging.**

*Please make hotel reservations
by calling our meeting headquarters hotel,
the Marriott Residence Inn, Rocky Hill, Conn.,
at 860-257-7500, and mentioning
the SMFSD meeting to get our group rate.*

Send this form with check to: Mike Campbell, SMFSD Treasurer, 3570 Willow St., Bonita, CA 91902



Triennial Meeting ...

continued from page 1

This year's schedule allows for more free choice in research destinations and self-directed explorations, though attendees reconvene as a group for meetings, speakers, and the Friday banquet.

For early arrivals, registration is open from 3-5 p.m. at the hotel on Wednesday, October 7. The SMFSD board meeting is at 7 p.m.

Thursday, October 8 is Middletown Research Day, which begins with an orientation to the various nearby research destinations. From 9 a.m. to 12 noon, attendees can visit the library of their choice. After lunch, at 1 p.m. is a lecture at Middletown's Russell Library by Mel Smith of the Connecticut State Library's Genealogy Unit. (The topic is not yet determined). The lecture is

followed at 3 p.m. by the SMFSD business meeting. At 5 p.m. back at the hotel is the Wine & Cheese Social hosted by Don & Lyn Brock. Dinner on Thursday evening is a chance to explore restaurants on our own.

Friday, October 9 is Hartford Research Day, with 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. devoted to visiting the libraries, cemeteries, and historic sites of one's choice. The Connecticut State Library and the Connecticut Historical Society Library are sure to be popular destinations. At 6 p.m. is the Triennial Meeting Banquet at Dakota Steak House in Rocky Hill, Conn., followed by guest speaker Dr. Lucianne Lavin, Director of Research and Collections at the Institute of American Indian Studies in Washington, Conn. Ms. Lavin, an archaeologist, researcher, educator, and award-winning author, will speak on Native Americans in

Connecticut both before and after the arrival of English settlers.

Saturday, October 10 is Free Choice Day, devoted to self-directed research and exploration. This is a good day to explore cemeteries, ancestral homes and landscapes, or go back once more to your favorite library. The self-guided walking tour of downtown Middletown, with informative interpretive panels at the various stops, is a fine introduction to Middletown's history. Dinner on Saturday is on our own, but it will be a fine time to gather, compare notes on any new research findings, and raise a toast to all the ancestors that, for all their triumphs, tribulations, faults, or follies, persevered with enough life-force to beget the next generation – leading ultimately to *us*.

I hope to meet you in October in Middletown. See you there! ■

