



The Middler

NEWSLETTER of the SOCIETY of MIDDLETOWN FIRST SETTLERS DESCENDANTS
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Spring 2016

STUDENT RESEARCH AT WESLEYAN

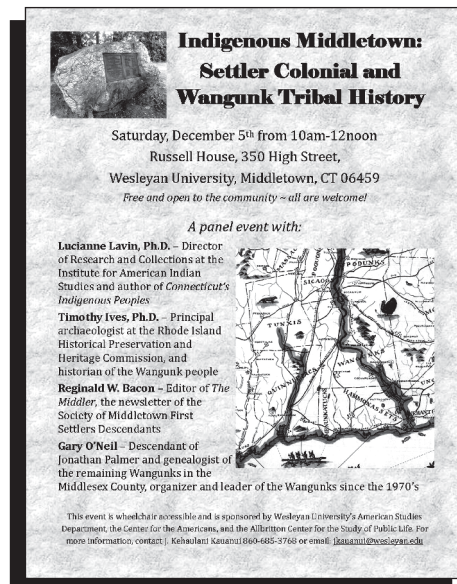
Mattabesett Wangunk tribe is finally in the spotlight, ... which also shines on Middletown's 'first exploiters'

Course on colonialism and indigenous peoples motivates research and prompts public programs

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

As so many SMFSD members have discovered in their research, the ancestral home of Middletown, Conn. has an undeniably rich history. That history is so rich – maritime trade, Civil War contributions, development of industry, waves of immigration, 20th-century labor strife, urban renewal, and more – that some SMFSD members at our Triennial Meetings have observed that the earliest history of Middletown appears to be of little interest or relevance to current inhabitants.

Well, your editor can confirm that in the last several months, the early settlers of Middletown are front-center in the spotlight – but not for any prideful reasons. In short, the



Above is the promotional poster for “Indigenous Middletown: Settler Colonial & Wangunk Tribal History” held on December 5, 2015 at Wesleyan University.

spotlight shines on the so-called “first settlers” for engaging in what appears to be a purposeful and systematic effort to drive out the indigenous Wangunk people from their reserva-

tion lands in 18th century Middletown. The machinations of this effort are described later in this article.

New course encourages student research. In fall 2015, Wesleyan University offered an undergraduate course entitled “Decolonizing Indigenous Middletown: Native Histories of the Wangunk Indian People.” The course was taught by Kehaulani Kawanui, Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology. Her multiple areas of scholarship include colonial and indigenous studies. Among many other projects she is the author of *Hawaiian Blood: Colonialism and the Politics of Sovereignty and Indigeneity* (2008). The course introduced students to the new field of settler colonial studies and the rapidly transforming field of critical indigenous studies. The course used the indigenous Wangunk Indian Tribe – with its sparsely-documented history – as its study subject.

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Finding early Middletown family surnames in Connecticut Revolutionary War records

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

At this writing it is Monday, April 18, 2016, which is Patriot’s Day, a holiday in Massachusetts, and also Boston Marathon day. Without the marathon on the agenda this year, it is the perfect day to take on another

Patriot’s Day challenge, though lightweight in comparison: Making sense of the sources for Revolutionary War records in Connecticut.

Because many genealogy enthusiasts do enjoy cataloging the military service of their ancestors, this combing

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SMFSD NEWS

After the intensity of last year's Triennial Meeting activity, members turn back to work on quietly percolating projects

• **Members persevere on privately percolating projects.** Every SMFSD Triennial Meeting involves more than a year of long-distance planning. When your editor looked back at the email records, the tally for planning the October 2015 meeting topped 400 before the counting stopped. Now it appears that members are in a period of quietude, with a few working on projects that may one day appear in the pages of *The Middler*. In this very issue, for instance, is a profile of Samuel Collins (1636-1695/6) prepared by **Jim Collins** (AM-355). Another profile quietly in the works is a collaboration by **Jack L. White** (LM-292) and **Kem Marcum** (AM-356) on a profile

of early Middletown settler Daniel Markham (1641-1712). Also responding to the editor's welcome of article ideas was **Mark Phelps** (AM-283), with a proposal for an article on Amos Wetmore (1740-1808), an associate and son-in-law of Hugh White (1733-1812), who led many Middletown families to remove to Whitestown, N.Y. in the late 18th century.

• **Welcome new members.** SMFSD welcomes two new members since the last issue of *The Middler*: **Darla Treat Courtney**, AM-361, Charles Town, W. Va. (1st settlers David Sage, John Kirby, & Comfort Starr); and **Rebecca Irene Spaulding**, AM 362, Auburn, Kansas (1st settler John Savage).

• **NERGC 2017.** Although a year away, it is not too early to mark your calendar for the next New England Regional Genealogy Conference, scheduled for April 26-29, 2017 in Springfield, Mass. The theme of the conference: "Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past." The conference is held every other year. SMFSD has exhibited since 2007.

• **SMFSD Facebook page.** Don't forget that you can keep up with SMFSD on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SocietyofMiddletownFirstSettlersDescendants>. SMFSD's Facebook presence was the initiative of Cindy Nicewarner, who continues to maintain the page as well as serving as the SMFSD registrar. ■



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Article on early homes of Middletown elicits responses from near and far

The fall 2015 issue of *The Middler* included a feature, with photos, about some of the earliest examples of domestic architecture remaining in Middletown. While in many cases your editor never knows the reach or impact of a given article, in this one the photos of the 21 homes selected from Middletown Preservation Trust records provoked numerous responses.

Several responses called attention to a structure that was not included, the oldest in Middletown: The 1675 stone "watch house" built during King Philip's War that is now incorporated into a home on Maple Shade Road.

In fact, that very home was near the top of my list on the day that I was scurrying around taking photos. But as far as I could tell, without tramping across private property and risking an encounter with a frisky Doberman, that particular house is not visible enough from the street to get a decent photo.

The watch house on Maple Shade Road was one of three stone structures

built on the outskirts of Middletown as fortified safe houses in case of Indian attacks during King Philip's War. The watch house on Maple Shade Road was re-purposed as a schoolhouse in 1676. After an 1885 addition, the East Long Hill School was in use until 1919, when it became a private home. (The watch house on Randolph Road included in the *Middler* article was converted into a house in 1719.)

In my travels I have been fortunate to encounter history professionals who have visited the house, and they have offered to arrange a tour or a viewing in the future. The hope is to document the house with a photo in a future *Middler* issue. – **R.W. Bacon** ■

Check it out, history fans: The 'Middletown 366' blog

The Middletown history enthusiast is urged to gorge on the savory morsels contributed by our favorite history supporters at the "Middletown 366" blog!: <https://mchs366.wordpress.com/> ■

Middletown's 'first settlers' are in the spotlight for once, but according to new research, for all the wrong reasons

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Among the readings for the class was the two-part series published in *The Middler* in 2010, "Native Americans in Middletown: Who called it 'home' before our 'first settlers'?" (Apparently this two-part series is on the academic radar thanks to its inclusion as a source in the Yale University Indian Papers Project.)

Because the course was also focused on historiography and the craft of research, students researched primary sources at the Middlesex County Historical Society. In addition to students exploring individual research topics, a group goal was the creation of a dedicated Wikipedia page on the Wangunk tribe.

The December public program. In the midst of the fall semester student research, Professor Kawanui convened a panel discussion for both students and the public at Wesleyan entitled "Indigenous Middletown: Settler Colonial and Wangunk Tribal History." The well-publicized standing-room-only program, on Sat., Dec. 5 at Wesleyan's Samuel Wadsworth Russell House, featured individual 15-minute presentations by Dr. Lucianne Lavin, author of *Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples*; Dr. Timothy Ives, archaeologist at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission who has done extensive research on the Wangunks; Reginald W. Bacon, editor of *The Middler*; and Gary O'Neil, a descendant of the Wangunks and their unofficial organizer and historian. The individual presentations, which proceeded from the general to the specifics of the topic, were followed by a panel discussion with questions from the audience.

Dr. Lavin, who was also the featured speaker at SMFSD's 2015 Triennial Meeting, gave a cogent overview of the indigenous peoples of central Connecticut and the archaeological evidence of the Wangunk society and culture in pre-Colonial times.

The property-based, commodified culture of the newly-arrived white settlers at first fostered settler and native coexistence, but then expedited native departure.

Dr. Ives summarized his insights on how the property-based, commodified culture of the newly-arrived white settlers at first fostered settler and native coexistence, but then expedited native departure.

The differing views of land use and ownership that eventually depopulated the Wangunk reservation lands are best explained in a 2011 article by Dr. Ives in the journal *Ethnohistory* entitled "Reconstructing the Wangunk Reservation Land System: A Case Study of Native and Colonial Likeness in Central Connecticut."

At its essence is the different meaning of land "ownership" to the English settlers and the indigenous peoples. The English settlers surveyed land, divided land for individual ownership, and designated some land

for common use. In contrast, the indigenous peoples regarded the land and its resources as belonging to everyone. They often moved seasonally in the practice of hunting, fishing, or agriculture. Despite the agreement with Wangunk chief Sowheag that in 1650 brought new settlers to what is now Middletown on the west side of the Connecticut River, there was bound to be some land use conflict. But the population was small, and the area so vast, that a peaceful coexistence was possible. While the Wangunks lived on both sides of the river, the east side, now Portland, Conn., was preferred, as it was not yet settled by the intruders.

By 1670, however, the growth of the Middletown settlement prompted its leaders to negotiate a land exchange with the Wangunks. The settlers were coveting the riverbank lands on the east side of the river for expansion, and wanted to finally get a written agreement on paper. In 1672 the signatures of 13 Wangunk proprietors, and Samuel Willys, John Talcott, James Richards, and John Allyn, formalized a verbal agreement of years before, and further granted the tribe with 330 acres on the east side of the river (two parcels), and 30 acres

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Above are the panel participants at the "Indigenous Middletown" event at Wesleyan University on December 5, 2015 (l. to r.): Gary O'Neil, R.W. Bacon, Timothy Ives, and Lucianne Lavin. (Photo by Kehaulani Kawanui)

Middletown's 'first settlers' in the spotlight ...

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on the west side "to remain to the heirs ... forever." A year later, more signatures from both parties of interest were added. In this period most of the reservation land was owned communally, although some individual Wangunks owned measured plots of up to nine acres.

About 1700 "English" settlement on the east side of the river increased, and some Wangunks elected to sell one-acre plots to the new settlers at market rate. Within a few decades, the growing settlement convinced the town that it needed its own meeting house on the east side of the river. In 1732 the Wangunk were induced sell a 40-acre upland tract within the 300-acre reservation to the minister, Amos Bartlett. In 1756 a new meeting house was constructed within reservation lands, closer to Bartlett's property. It is clear that the Indian "reservation" land deal was fine ... until the

Wangunk presence became an inconvenient impediment to growth.

The 1740s saw an increase in Wangunk departure from their lands for a variety of reasons. Life in the confines of a reservation was too geographically constricted for the Wangunk to prosper, and records show that land parcels were sold back to selectmen to pay debts to the town.

When the Wangunk Sachem Cuschoy, still living with his extended family in the middle of the depopulated reservation, became infirm in the 1750s, the town, in a gesture of compassion, funded his care and supported the family for an extended period. Then the town submitted the septuagenarian with its bill. Cuschoy had no recourse – he sold his land to the five Middletown selectmen to settle the debt they had orchestrated. By 1765, 30 descendants of the then-deceased Cuschoy hailing from across Connecticut signed off on the sale of remaining reservation lands, both to settle debts and to finance their new lives away from the ancestral home.

The research of Dr. Ives reveals that despite the obvious culture clash, both the settlers and the Wangunks had a

firm grasp of each other's land systems. But it appears that those understandings of the respective theories of land-holding did not extend beyond the negotiations into the actual conduct of daily life.

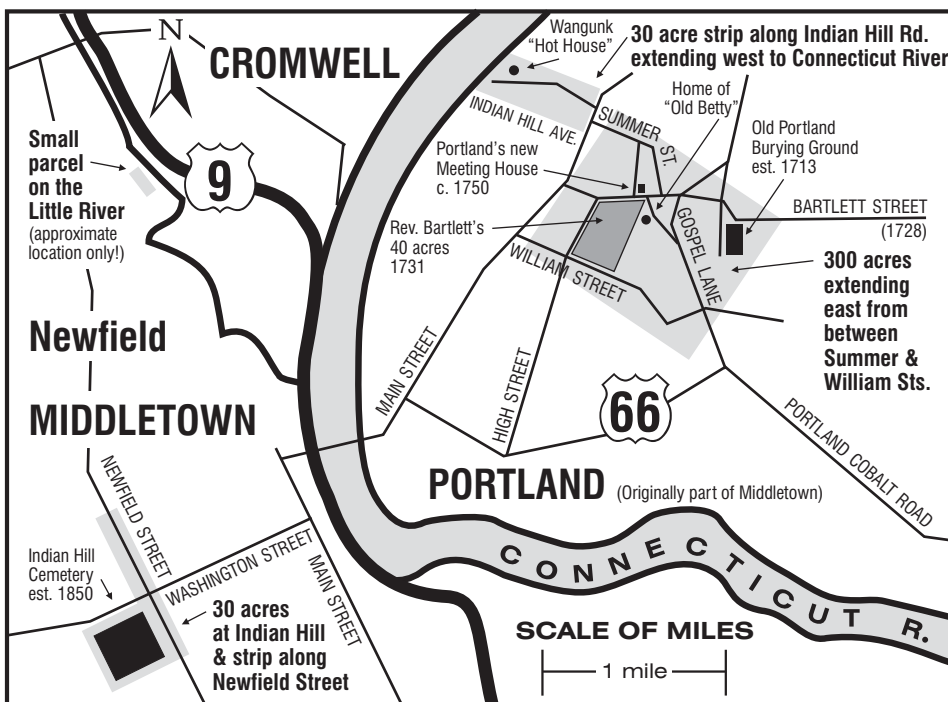
Cross-referencing this period in the 1881 *History of Middlesex County*, the liquidation of the reservation lands was a piece of the puzzle needed to form the separate town of Chatham, now Portland. The 10-year campaign to be a separate town achieved its goal in 1767. At the first Chatham town meeting on Dec. 7, 1767, David Sage was moderator, Jonathan Penfield was clerk, and chosen for selectmen were Jeremiah Goodrich, Benjamin Harris, Silas Dunham, Ebenezer White, and Abiel Cheney.

R.W. Bacon, your editor, provided a profile of SMFSD; discussed the range of interest and awareness among genealogy hobbyists, from dabbler to dreamer to scholar and everything in between; and related his own observations about his research on the Wangunks – that it appears that lazy 19th-century historians found it easier to write them out of history rather than make an effort to find those still living in the community.

With full awareness that early Middletown inhabitants were "the bad guys" in the 18th-century land-taking, your editor made a proactive effort to discourage an all-out attack on SMFSD with (1) an up-front acknowledgment of our "first exploiters," (2) a critical assessment of overtly hagiographic descendant organizations, and (3) an honest appraisal of the Colonial Revival era malarkey, glorification, and ancestor worship that filled the pages of late 19th-century local histories and genealogies.

Wangunk descendant Gary O'Neil delivered the final presentation before the panel discussion. He first described how he became interested in his deep Wangunk background as a young man helping his great-grandmother sort family photos. His talk was not without emotion – generations of it – as he

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Above is a map of Wangunk lands in Middletown after the Indian Deed of 1672. The map is a smaller reference version of that which appeared with Part I of "Native Americans in Middletown" in the fall 2010 issue of *The Middler* (Map by R.W. Bacon, 2010)

Colonialism and indigeniety studies prompt research ...

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expressed the sadness of a people marginalized by the dominant culture. He told stories of his grandmother and great-grandmother, and their “strategies” for survival as second-class citizens that were handed down through the generations.

He reported that he has tracked about 400 living Wangunks, many in Connecticut, but he is the only one in the former “East Middletown,” residing in East Hampton, Conn., on the east side of the Connecticut River. Several times a year the remaining Wangunks hold “gatherings,” as his family has done for generations.

A public school art teacher for 38 years, Gary O’Neil is also an accomplished potter and ceramics artist. Despite making his own mark on the 21st century, there was no concealing an understandable bitterness on behalf of his ancestors: He is a descendant of Jonathan Palmer (1756-1819), a Wangunk who suffered a bizarre indignity in life and death at the hands of an unscrupulous physician, John Richmond (1767-1821). (The grim details are included in Part II of the series on the Wangunks in the fall 2010 *Middler*.) Gary O’Neil also remembered his grandmother bristling with anger at the phrase “first settlers.” She used a different phrase: “first robbers.”

The follow-up panel discussion. At the panel Q&A discussion moderated by Professor Kawanui, there were many questions, mostly directed to Gary O’Neil, who objectively was the most interesting of the panelists to the packed crowd, about half of which was made up of Wesleyan students studying the Wangunks.

The two issues that audience members directed to your editor concerned semantics.

In the presentation I mentioned the 2009 SMFSD bylaw change that



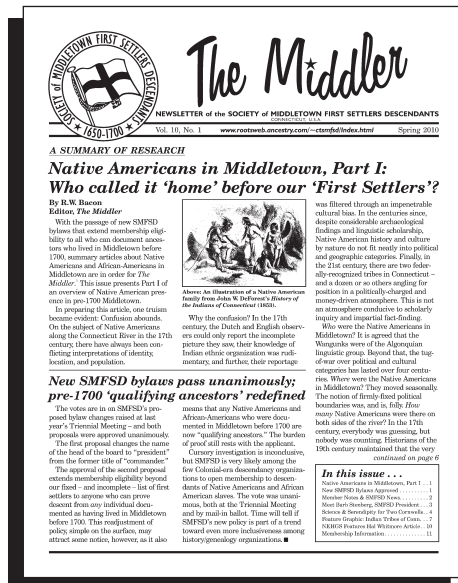
Above is Gary O’Neil, descendant and genealogist/historian of the Wangunks. At left in the photo is a framed montage of family photos he brought to the event.

redefined our “qualifying ancestors” to include any African-American or Native American that could be proven to live in Middletown before 1700. Well, in the Q&A session, I was taken to task for use of the word “inclusive” in this context. How could I, carrying the baggage of my bad-guy ancestors, dare use such a word? Oops. I told the group that with the new policy, there was no illusion that a flood of new members would result, but that at

least recognizing and including all pre-1700 inhabitants was the right thing to do on paper at least, and in fact I had proposed the bylaw change. To a persnickety old-school editor, a policy that “includes” all in a category can be properly described as “inclusive.” But apparently my usage of “inclusive” was inconsistent with the definition in the current lexicon of political correctness.

A few minutes later, a student in the back row asked if SMFSD ever considered changing the name of the organization, and that “first settlers” just seemed so wrong, inaccurate, and demeaning to the indigenous peoples. I told her that, no, I did not believe the subject of a name change ever came up. I did note that museums and history organizations are getting away from using the word “society” in their names, as the word does emit the odor of exclusivity. I also noted that in my 2012 book, I deliberately skirted the “first settler” issue with the title *Early Families of Middletown*. I also defended and justified the name of the organization by explaining that it referred to the first settlers of the colonial civil entity of Middletown, not the first settlers on the particular

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Above is the first page of the spring 2010 *Middler* series on the Wangunks – the series now included as a reference source in the Yale University Indian Papers project. Above right is *Middler* editor R.W. Bacon speaking about his research – and about SMFSD – at Wesleyan University on December 5, 2015.



In-Depth First Settler Profile: Samuel Collins (1665) / Mary (Marvin) Collins

Editor's note: In 2006-7, while in the process of building the SMFSD website, your editor began a project to prepare profiles of Middletown's pre-1700 heads-of-household and their families. The model was Robert Charles Anderson's *Great Migration Project*. The goal of the SMFSD project was to gather, in a standard format, what was known about a particular individual from the most reliable, commonly accessible, and mostly public domain sources. The aim was not to break new ground with blockbuster discoveries, but simply to provide beginning researchers with a foundation upon which to build and make new discoveries on their own. The project was well-received and has since sparked similar compilation efforts. Subsequently SMFSD member Paula Higgins compiled 37 additional profiles for the SMFSD website – a monumentally laborious accomplishment not only in number, but in thoroughness. The 2012 book, *Early Families of Middletown, Conn., Vol. I -1650-1654* by R.W. Bacon included the author's profiles of the first 23 families in Middletown in addition to all the context chapters, and progress crawls along on Vol. II. In the meantime, several intrepid SMFSD genealogists have offered to compile profiles on selected individuals on the 1654-1700 list yet to be documented with one. This issue brings readers a profile of Samuel Collins (1636-1695/6), older brother of Rev. Nathaniel Collins (1642-1684), prepared by SMFSD member Jim Collins of Wenham, Mass. Despite your editor's merciless slashing to ensure fidelity to the format, the willingness of fellow travelers in Middletown genealogy to undertake these profile projects is deeply appreciated. **Thank you, Jim!**

Compilation by Jim Collins, SMFSD AM-355

Name: Samuel Collins

Birth: Baptized August 2, 1636, in Framlingham, Suffolk, England. (NEHGSR)(W&W)

Emigration: From England with parents and siblings to Cambridge, Mass., 1639 (GMD). To Middletown, Conn., 1665. (MVR) Freeman, Conn., May 9, 1667. (Conn. Public Records)

Death: January 10, 1695/6, Middletown. (MLR)

Occupation & Public Service: Merchant. (W&W)
Served in the Connecticut General Assembly in 1672.

Marriage: m. Mary Marvin, c. 1663, probably in Saybrook, Conn., (bap. October 23, 1636, St. Mary's Church, Great Bentley Parish, County Essex, England; d. March 5, 1713/4, Middletown). She was the daughter of Reinold Marvin and Marie/Mary (unknown surname) of Hartford and Saybrook, Conn. (NEHGSR)

Parents: Edward Collins, bap. March 25, 1603, Bramford, Suffolk, England; d. April 9, 1689, Charlestown, Mass.; and Martha (Baylie) Collins, bap. February 20, 1609/10, Framlingham, Suffolk, England; d. March 22, 1699/00, Charlestown), m. November 20, 1628, in Framlingham. (NEHGSR)(W&W)

Children: (MVR, MLR, BCVR, TAG); Records of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, Middletown, Connecticut, 1668-1870)

(1) Edward Collins, b. 18 June 1664 (MVR, BCVR); bap. June 1664 (Cambridge, Mass. VR); d. after 1 Feb. 1695/6, Middletown, Conn. [**Compiler's note:** Edward was born and baptized in Cambridge, although the birth was also recorded in Middletown.]

(2) Martha Collins, b. March 3, 1666/7, Middletown, Conn.; d. August 14, 1759, Middletown, Conn.; m. William Harris (1665-1751/2), January 8, 1689/90, Middletown, Conn. (4 children). (NEHGSR)

(3) Samuel Collins, b. October 21, 1668 Middletown, Conn.; bap. December 15, 1668; d. c. 1700, Middletown, Conn.; m. Susannah Henchman (1667-1747/8), 1693, Boston, Mass. (1 child).

(4) Sibyl Collins, b. February 24 1669/70, Middletown, Conn.; bap. February 27, 1669/70; d. after May 24, 1721, Middletown, Conn.; m. (1) Isaac Rice, (1668-1717/8), September 22, 1690, Concord, Mass., (5 children); m. (2) Deacon George Reed, (1660-1756), May 24, 1721, Sudbury, Mass. (no issue) (Sudbury, Mass. VR).

(5) Mary Collins, b. June 16, 1672, Middletown, Conn.; d. July 12, 1761, Oxford, Mass.; m. Richard Moore (1670-1767), by 1694, Sudbury, Mass., (9 children).

(6) Abigail Collins, b. June 2, 1673, Middletown, Conn.; bap. June 28, 1674; d. November 5, 1741, Middletown, Conn.; m. William Ward (1665-1745), July 9, 1702, Middletown, Conn. (6 children).

(7) Daniel Collins, b. October 5, 1675, Middletown, Conn.; bap. October 20, 1675; d. Middletown, Conn., June 6, 1689.

Residence/Property: Samuel first acquired land in Middletown on February 14, 1664/5. (MLR) [**Compiler's note:** Throughout his life in Middletown, he had many land transactions, reflecting his occupation as a merchant.]

Will: (MAN, vol. 1, pg. 429-430). Estate evaluation, February 1, 1696/96: 216-10-06, i.e. 217 pounds.

Burial Location: Riverside Cemetery, Middletown, Conn. (Hale Collection)

Notes:

(JC): Samuel was an older brother of Rev. Nathaniel Collins, who settled in Middletown a year before him.

(JC): The male line of descent of Samuel Sr., became extinct when Samuel, Jr., died about 1700. At that time he had only one child, a daughter. No marital records have been found for his brother Edward. All his other siblings were sisters. Thus the only surviving male line of descent from Samuel's father, Edward Collins, is via Samuel's brother Nathaniel.

(JC): Both Samuel Collins and his brother Nathaniel had daughters named Abigail, Mary, Martha, and Sybil. They were all born, baptized, and most were married in

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Middletown over approximately the same time period. Some accounts attribute a given husband to a daughter of the wrong parents.

(SAV): “COLLINS, SAMUEL, Middletown, br. of Rev. Nathaniel, b. in Eng. aft. com. with his f. to Cambridge, there m. bef. 1664, and had Edward, b. 8 Jan. 1664, went to Scotland, perhaps a. 1658 or 9, came back soon, and was, perhaps, casually at Cambridge 1675, and Charlestown 1678, but sat down at M. there was rep. 1672, and d. 1696, leav. Edward ; Martha, b. 3 Mar. 1666 ; Samuel, 21 Oct. 1668 ; Sibyl, 25 Feb. 1671 ; Mary, 16 June 1672; Abigail, 2 June 1673; and Daniel, 5 Oct. 1675. His w. d. 5 Mar. 1714.”

(Marvin Descendants): “He came with his father to Cambridge, Mass., and must have resided there after his m., for the rec. of the First Cong’l Church, Middletown, show that Mary was transferred from the Cambridge church “2d, 4th mo., 1672” (2 June). There is some reason for believing he lived for a time in Saybrook, Conn. ... He had land granted him in Middletown, 14 Feb., 1665, and represented that town in 1672. ... He was a plaintiff, 2 Sept., 1669, against Ens. William Waller, executor to Mr. Reinold Marvin, deceased, “for an account of moueables, goods and cattell of the sd Reinold, which by will belongs to the sayd Collins, his wife, with damage to the value of one Hundred and fifty pounds, the Deft, appeared, not being called, etc.”

VERIFY - VERIFY - VERIFY

Sources to be consulted & abbreviation codes for preparation of SMFSD in-depth profiles:

(MVR) Middletown Vital Records (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(BCVR) *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records* (original index at Connecticut State Library, Hartford, Conn.; printed index available from Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.; digitized index available on CD-Rom as part of *The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Md.)

(MLR) *Middletown Land Records* (originals at Middletown City Hall, Middletown, Conn.; also available on microfilm at Russell Library, Middletown, Conn.)

(MAN) *Digest of Connecticut Probate Records*, Hartford District (Manwaring, Charles William. *A Digest of the Early Connecticut Probate Records*. Originally published 1904-1906; reprinted 1995. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1995.)

(CBRMC) *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.

(MUH) *Middletown Upper Houses* (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.)

(FFS) Frank Farnsworth Starr (“The Settlers of Mattabesec 1650-1660,” *Middletown Penny Press*, Oct. 11, 1900; also published in the *Middletown Tribune* 250th Anniversary supplement.)

For further reading:

Bacon, Reginald W. “In-Depth First Settler Profile: Giles Hamlin (1650) / Hester/Esther (Crow) Hamlin,” SMFSD, 2007.

Bacon, Reginald W. “In-Depth First Settler Profile: Daniel Harris (1653) / Mary (Weld) Harris,” SMFSD, 2007.

Brainerd, Dwight and Donald Lines Jacobus. *Ancestry of Thomas Chalmers Brainerd*. (Montreal: Donald Lines Jacobus, 1948), Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, Mass.

Harris, Gale Ion. “The Brothers William and Daniel Harris of Middletown, Connecticut,” *NEHGS Register* 165 (2011).

Higgins, Paula. “In-Depth First Settler Profile: Nathaniel Collins (1664) / Mary (Whiting) Collins,” SMFSD, 2009.

Marvin, George Franklin and William T.R. Marvin. *Descendants of Reinold and Matthew Marvin* (Boston: T.R. Marvin & Son, 1904).

Starr, Frank Farnsworth. *Various Ancestral Lines of James Goodwin and Lucy (Morgan) Goodwin of Hartford, Connecticut, 2 vols.* (Hartford: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1915).

Torrey, Clarence Almon. *New England Marriages Prior to 1700, 3 vols.* (Boston: NEHGS, 2011).

White, Jack L. & D. Jolene White. *The Bramford-Earls Colne Connection*. (Baltimore: Otter Bay Books, 2012).

[Compiler’s note: This comprehensive and well-researched work provides extensive documentation of the Collins line in England. Abbreviated in the profile as “W&W”]

(CAF) *Centennial Address of Rev. David Field*. (Field, David D. *Centennial Address: With Historical Sketches of Cromwell, Portland, Chatham, Middle Haddam, Middletown, and its Parishes*. Middletown, Conn.: W.B. Casey, 1853.)

(GMB) *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620-1633* (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.) ... and **(GMD)** *The Great Migration Directory*, R.C. Anderson, NEHGS, 2015.

(SAV) *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* (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.)

(GFHC) *Genealogical & Family History of the State of Connecticut* (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.)

(HMC) *The History of Middlesex County* (Henry Whittemore, ed. *The History of Middlesex County 1635-1885*. New York, N.Y.: J.H. Beers & Co., 1884)

(RPCC) *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut, 1639-1663* (Adams, Arthur W., ed. *Records of the Particular Court of Connecticut 1639-1663*. Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1928.)

(HCCM) *Hartford County Court Minutes, 1663-1687* (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.)

(NEHGSR) *NEHGS Register (New England Historical and Genealogical Register)*. Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1847-2007. (Online database available at NewEnglandAncestors.org)

(TAG) *The American Genealogist* (articles by Donald Lines Jacobus, ed., 1922-1971) (*The American Genealogist*. New Haven, Conn.: D.L. Jacobus, 1922-1971)

Early Middletown surnames in the Revolutionary War ...

continued from page 1

through the sources seeks to make the hunt for Middletown ancestors in the Revolutionary War a tiny bit easier.

In the fall 2008 *Middler*, your editor explored the social and economic impact of the Revolutionary War on Middletown, and the conditions that motivated many families to seek opportunity elsewhere. That article provided an overview of Middletown's contribution of manpower. In 1776 there were 588 Middletown men on the militia rolls and 202 men in the Continental Army – 790 out of the 947 men in town between the ages of 20 and 70.

When searching for records of individual service in the Revolutionary War in Connecticut, the researcher

encounters the usual confusion of missing, scattered, ambiguous, or inconsistent records. Henry Whittemore, in the *History of Middlesex County, Conn. 1635-1885*, wrote: "Many of the records of what was done by the people of Middletown during the Revolutionary War are lost – others are scattered and cannot now be collected, and the participants in that war, as well as their immediate descendants, have passed away. The names of only a few of them remain" Despite his words, there is hope.

For records of Revolutionary War service in Connecticut, and by extension, for Middletown, there are two compilations in book form to check first: (1) *Lists and Returns of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, 1775-1783*, published by the Connecticut Historical Society in 1909; and (2) *Record of Service of*

Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783, compiled and published by the Connecticut Adjutants-General in 1889. *Lists and Returns ...* is 489 pages, with a 119-page 2-column index of names. *Record of Service ... (Part I)* is 779 pages, and has a 108-page 3-column name index.

A researcher first encountering these volumes will realize that it is helpful to get an understanding of how both the Continental Army and the Connecticut Militia units were organized. The brain spins at the vision of the 2nd company, the 4th troop, so-and-so's detachment, the 28th regiment, the troops-of-horse, and the light dragoons.

Avoid some confusion by noting that in the Continental Army in 1775, a concentration of men from Middlesex County were in General Joseph

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A selection of illustrative excerpts and representative samples from *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783*

The Middletown entry for the Lexington Alarm List names only the top officers. To identify others, one must dig deeper.

LEXINGTON ALARM LIST.

From the Town of Middletown.¹

Names and Quality.	No. of Days in Service.	Names and Quality.	No. of Days in Service.	Names and Quality.	No. of Days in Service.
Return Jon ^s . Meigs,....Captain,	8	Amos Hosford,.....Lieut.,	7	Benjamin Boardman, Chaplain,	5
Samuel B. Webb,Lieut.,	8	2 Serjeants,.....7 days each is	14	Charles Bulkley,.....Lieut.,	5
Jabez Hamlin, Jun ^r ,....Ensign,	8	2 Corporals,.....7 days each,	14	Benjamin Berdsey,.....Cornel,	5
4 Serjeants,.....8 days each is	32	12 Privates,.....7 days each,	84	Eli Butler,.....Qr. Master,	5
4 Corporals, 1 Drummer, and 1				Edward Ells,.....Corporal,	5
Fifer 8 days each,.....	48			2 Trumpeters,.....5 days each,	10
43 Privates,.....8 days each,	344			43 Privates,.....5 days each,	215
		TROOP OF HORSE FROM MIDDLETOWN.			
		Comfort Sage,.....Captain,	5		

Below, this page that details the service of the First Troop of Col. Sheldon's Light Dragoons illustrates the differences to be found in recording and displaying Connecticut Revolutionary War records. In some cases the records consist of no more than a list of names. In other cases, like this one, the occupation, and even eye and hair color are noted.

SOLDIERS' NAMES.	Rank.	Time of Enlistment.	Promoted.	Term of Service.	TOWNS.	Trade or Occupation.	Stature.	Complexion.	Eyes.	Hair.	Casualties.
Nathan Smith,.....	Sergt.,.....	Dec. 27, '76		War.	Norwich,.....	Carpenter,.....	5 10	light,	blue,	light.	Disch'd Sept. 30, '80.
Butler Gilbert,.....		" " "			Middletown,.....	Farmer,.....	5 8	dark,	"	brown.	" " "
Elijah Plummer,.....	Corp'l,.....	" 22, " "			Norwich,.....	" " " "	5 8	"	dark,	dark.	Deserted.
Jo ^s Cone,.....		Jan. 31, '77			Middletown,.....	Shoemaker,.....	5 8	"	"	dark.	Deserted Apr. 4, '78.
Jn ^s Roberts,.....	Trump ^r ,.....	" 13, " "			" " " "	Farmer,.....	5 5	"	"	brown.	Disch'd in '78.
Judah Gridley,.....	Far ^r ,.....	May 1, " "			Farmington,.....	Blacksmith,.....	5 7	"	"	"	"
James Johnson,.....	Private,.....	Feb. 3, " "	Corpl. Jan. 1, '78,		Middletown,.....	Joiner,.....	5 9	fair,	grey,	light.	"
" " " " " "	Sergt.,.....	June 19, '78			" " " "	" " " "	" " "	" " "	" " "	" " "	"
James Francis,.....	Private,.....	Jan. 15, '77	Corpl. May 21, '78,		Wethersfield,.....	Joiner,.....	5 9	light,	black,	brown.	Disch'd Nov 8, '80
Elisha Brewster,.....	" " " "	Dec. 27, '76	" Jan. 8, " "		Preston,.....	Shoemaker,.....	5 10	"	light,	light.	Serjt.
Dan ^s Robinson,.....	" " " "	" " " "	Trump ^r May 1, " "		Middletown,.....	Blacksmith,.....	5 6	"	"	brown.	"
Josiah Merriman,.....	" " " "	" 28, " "	Corp'l July 10, " "		Wallingford,.....	Cooper,.....	5 7	"	"	"	"
Rich ^d Doude,.....	" " " "	Apr. 1, '78	Farr ^r June 1, " "		Middletown,.....	Blacksmith,.....	5 9	"	dark,	light.	"
Elisha Andrus,.....	" " " "	Dec. 28, '76			Norwich,.....	Carpenter,.....	5 10	dark,	"	black.	"
Josiah Andrus,.....	" " " "	Jan. 13, '77			Farmington,.....	Joiner,.....	5 5	"	light,	"	"
David Atkins,.....	" " " "	May 1, '78			Middletown,.....	Farmer,.....	5 9	light,	grey,	sandy.	"

SECOND REGIMENT—GEN. SPENCER'S—1775.

[Regiment raised on the first call for troops by the Legislature April-May, 1775. Recruited mainly in present Middlesex Co., and eastern part of the Colony. Marching by companies to the camps around Boston, it took post at Roxbury and served during the siege until expiration of term of service Dec., 1775. Detachments of officers and men engaged at the battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, and in Arnold's Quebec Expedition, Sept.-Dec., 1775. Adopted as Continental in July. The regiment was re-organized for service in 1776, under Col. Wyllys.]

FIELD AND STAFF.

Colonel:.....Joseph Spencer,.....East Haddam,....Com. May 1, '75; as Brig.-Gen., see Gen. Staff for '75; also Captain of 1st Co.; disc. Dec. 10, '75; cont. in service.
 ".....Samuel Wyllys,.....Hartford,.....Com. Lieut.-Col. May 1, '75; also Capt. of 1st Co.; prom. Colonel July 1, '75; disc. Dec. 10, '75; re-ent. service in '76.
 Lieut.-Colonel:.....Roger Enos,.....Windsor,.....Com. First Major, May 1, '75; also Capt. of 2^d Co.; prom. Lieut.-Col. July 1; disc. Dec. 10, '75; see Quebec Expedition.
 Major:.....Return Jonathan Meigs,.....Middletown,....Com. Second Major, May 1, '75; also Capt. 3^d Co.; see Quebec Expedition.
 Adjutant:.....John Trumbull,.....Lebanon,.....Com. May 28, '75; disc. July 28, '75; as A. D. C., see Gen. Staff for '75.
 ".....Charles Whiting,.....Middletown,....Appt. Sec'y to Gen. Spencer May 15; Com. Adj. July 28; disc. Dec. 10, '75; re-ent. service in '76.
 Secretary:.....Warren Huntley,.....Colchester,....Appt. July 29; Com. Ensign in Capt. Wyllys' Co., Sept. 26, '75.
 Quarter Master:.....Warren Huntley,.....".....Com. May 18; appt. Sec. as above.
 Chaplain:.....Rev. Benjamin Boardman,.....Middle Haddam, in service in '76.
 Surgeon:.....William Jepson,.....Hartford,.....
 Surgeon's Mate:.....Daniel Southmayd,.....Middletown,....
 ".....John Richards Watrous,.....Colchester,....Re-ent. service in '76.
 Qr. Mr. Sergeant:.....Abner Curtis,.....".....Appt. May 13; disc. Dec. 10, '75.
 Sergeant Major:.....Bezaleel Ackley,.....East Haddam,....Appt. May 13; disc. Dec. 10, '75.
 Drum Major:.....William Cox,.....".....Appt. May 9; disc. Sept. 10, '75.

To read a narrative of the exploits of Return Jonathan Meigs (1740-1823) and other Middletown men in the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Bunker Hill, the attack on Quebec, Canada, the assault on Sag Harbor, Long Island, and the contributions of Middletown's privateers, consult *Middletown and the American Revolution* by Albert E. Van Dusen.

At right is the Continental Army record of organization and leadership for Gen. Joseph Spencer's 2nd Regiment in 1775.

The 2nd Regiment was made up of 10 companies. Below is the record of the 4th Company, led by Maj. Return Jonathan Meigs of Middletown, and comprised mostly of Middletown men.

4th COMPANY.

Captain:.. Return Jon^s Meigs,.... Middletown,.... Also Major. See above.
 Captain:.. Ebenezer Sumner,.... Middletown,.... Com. Lieut. May 1; prom. Capt. July 1; disc. Dec. 18.
 Lieutenant:.. Bijah Savage,.... Middletown,.... Com. May 1; disc. Sept. 1, '75; re-ent. service in '76.
 Ensign:..... Robert Warner,.... Middletown,.... Com. May 1; disc. Dec. 10; re-ent. service in '76.
 Qr. Master:.. Charles Knowles,.... "..... Com. May 9; disc. Dec. 10, '75.

MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.	Time Enlisted.	When Discharged, &c.	MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.	Time Enlisted.	When Discharged, &c.	MEN'S NAMES AND RANK.	Time Enlisted.	When Discharged, &c.	
<i>Serjeants.</i>			<i>Fifers.</i>			William Cone,..... May 5 Dec. 10			
Hezekiah Hubbard,...	May 5	Dec. 10	Daniel Starr,.....	May 9	Dec. 18	George Cotton,.....	" 5	" 18	
John Gaylord,.....	" 5	" 18	Aaron Bull,.....	" 11	Sept. 1	George Carey,.....	" 6	Oct. 30	
Samuel Tuelle, (?),...	" 5	" 18	<i>Privates.</i>			Ezekiel Cone,.....	" 8	Nov. 18	
Nathaniel Miller,....	" 5	" 18	Daniel Atkins,.....	" 29	Dec. 10	Elisha Cotton,.....	" 5	Dec. 19	
<i>Corporals.</i>			Nathaniel Bosworth, " 5 " 18				Joseph Cone,.....	" 5	" 19
John Cole,.....	" 9	" 18	Ebenezer Blake,....	" 6	" 18	Dan'l Hurlburt Cone, " 10 " 19			
Timothy Starr,.....	" 5	" 10	William Butler,....	" 9	" 18	Ashbel Cornwell,....	" 8	" 19	
<i>Clerks.</i>			John Peter Balson, ..	" 10	" 18	Daniel Churchill,....	" 10	" 19	
Butler Gilbert,.....	" 5	" 10	Davis Butler,.....	" 5	" 18	John Crosbey,.....	" 9	" 18	
Timothy Powers,....	" 9	" 18	Nebemiah Barnes, ..	" 8	" 18	Samuel Cook,.....	" 6	" 10	
<i>Drummers.</i>			Benjamin Babbet, ..	" 5	" 19	Othniel Clark,.....	" 5	" 18	
Samuel Johnson,....	" 13	" 18	David Butler,.....	" 10	" 10	Daniel Cornwall,....	" 8	" 10	
John Chipman,.....	" 5	" 18	Paul Bunn,.....	" 6	" 19	John Clark,.....	" 13	" 18	
John Davis,.....	May 5	Dec. 18	Wickham Brooks,....	" 8	Oct. 22	John Dodd,.....	" 9	" 18	
John Fosdick,.....	" 9	" 18	Benajah Bowers, ..	" 11	Dec. 18	Israel Driggs,.....	" 5	" 18	
Hezekiah Fairbanks, " 9 " 18				James Knapp,.....	May 8	Dec. 18	Cornwell Dondee, ..	" 8	" 19
Rawsel Goodrich, ..	" 10	" 18	Author Keefe,.....	" 6	Dec. 18	Ichabod Swaddle, ...	May 10	Sept. 1	
Hezekiah Goff,.....	" 5	Nov. 6	William Lucas,.....	" 5	Oct. 31	William Ston, (?),...	" 9	{ Died Oct. 2	
Jonathan Goff,.....	" 8	Dec. 19	Lemuel Lee,.....	" 5	Dec. 19	William Sumner,....	" 5	Dec. 18	
Moses Griswold,....	" 9	" 19	Samuel Markum,....	" 5	Oct. 24	Jonathan Taylor,....	" 6	Sept. 1	
Jesse Gilbert,.....	" 9	" 19	Confort Markes,....	" 10	Nov. 19	Ichabod Tryon,....	" 6	{ Died July 18	
Daniel Hurlburt,....	" 6	" 18	William Mitchell, ..	" 13	Sept. 1	George Taylor,.....	" 9	Dec. 18	
Greaves Hosmer,....	" 6	Oct. 22	Jesse Prior,.....	" 8	Dec. 18	Elnathan Thatcher, ..	" 9	" 18	
David Hull,.....	" 6	Dec. 19	Benjamin Pearce,....	" 7	" 19	William Talbur,....	" 5	" 7	
Tenes Hubbard,....	" 9	Oct. 22	Edward Powers,....	" 8	" 18	Joseph Wyllys,.....	" 6	" 18	
John Higbee,.....	" 9	{ Died Aug. 17	Josiah Roberts,....	" 6	" 18	Moses White,.....	" 9	Sept. 1	
James Henry,.....	" 10	Sept. 9	Amos Roberts,....	" 5	" 19	William Ward,.....	" 6	Dec. 19	
John Hubbard,....	" 5	Dec. 19	Aaron Roberts,....	" 10	" 19	Frederick Winthrop, " 8 " 19			
James Johnson,....	" 11	" 18	Stephen Sage,.....	" 9	" 18	Cristo'pr Whitebread, " 8 " 19			
Seth Johnson,.....	" 6	" 8	Simeon Savage,....	" 10	Nov. 18	Caleb Watson,.....	" 8	" 19	
William Johnson, ..	" 13	" 19	Selah Savage,.....	" 10	Dec. 9	Simon Wells,.....	" 12	" 19	
Caleb Johnson,....	" 5	" 19	Daniel Sizer,.....	" 10	" 19	Gershom Willcox, ..	" 10	Sept. 1	
			William Starr,.....	" 5	" 18				
			George Sexton,.....	" 9	{ Died Nov. 23				



Colonialism ... indigeniety studies ... the Wangunks ... and the 'first settlers'

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landscape since the beginning of time. Understanding that semantic technicality, of course, does not mean that 400 living Wangunks will no longer be annoyed by the “first settler” phrase. I admitted that a name change is worth discussion, but opined that the wheels of any change are likely to turn very slowly.

The panel discussion went overtime, and of course we all would have stayed to address every last question. But Professor Kawanui had made reservations for us a restaurant in downtown Middletown, so after the applause from an appreciative and enlightened audience, we hustled off.

Post-event conversations.

Conversation among the panelists continued at the restaurant, where a half-dozen invited Wesleyan faculty and independent scholars joined us. It was at the restaurant where I learned more about the scope of Professor Kawanui’s course. She explained that one major component was research into primary sources at the Middlesex County Historical Society. Students aimed to gather data on Wangunk land transactions to better understand the systematic way that the “reservation” lands were wheedled away from the Wangunk people in the 1700s. Another component was compiling for the first time a dedicated Wikipedia page on the Wangunk.

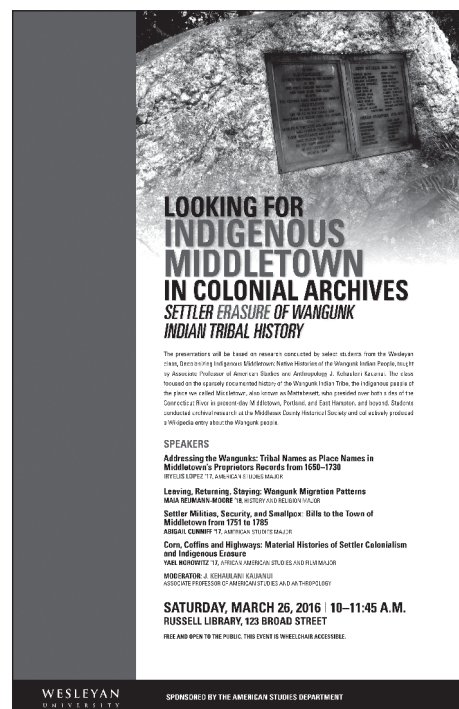
Our group lingered at the restaurant until late afternoon, when your editor hit the road for home. In the days following, the emails flew back-and-forth, and thoughts percolated on the progress of the Wesleyan students, and the prospect of giving voice to 21st-century Wangunk descendants.

The Wikipedia page. On Dec. 17, 2015, two weeks after the Wesleyan panel event, notice arrived that the Wangunk Wikipedia page was live.

The course-culminating project is well-executed, informative compilation that not only filled a void, but is a

useful starting point for researchers from all points of interest. The page includes sections on geography, historical figures, landmarks, language, religion, and contemporary Wangunks. The bibliography and references section is outstanding, citing a fine selection of authoritative sources. Visit the Wikipedia page at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wangunk>.

The March program: “Settler Erasure of Wangunk Indian Tribal History.” In early March 2016 your editor received notice of another public program in Middletown, this one entitled “Looking for Indigenous Middletown in Colonial Archives: Settler Erasure of Wangunk Indian Tribal History.” The program, scheduled for Saturday morning, March 26, 2016 at the Hubbard Room of Middletown’s Russell Library, featured four Wesleyan students presenting their research papers.



Above is the promotional poster for the March 26, 2016 event at Middletown’s Russell Library entitled “Looking for Indigenous Middletown in Colonial Archives: Settler Erasure of Wangunk Indian Tribal History.”

It was clear that during the winter Professor Kawanui’s students worked hard to interpret their findings and prepare their public presentations. Unfortunately neither your editor nor other SMFSD members were able to attend. The four papers presented were (1) “Addressing the Wangunks: Tribal Names as Place Names in Middletown’s Proprietors Records 1650-1730,” by Iryelis Lopez; (2) Leaving, Returning, Staying: Wangunk Migration Patterns,” by Maia Reumann-Moore; (3) Settler Militias, Security, and Smallpox: Bills to the Town of Middletown 1751-1785,” by Abigail Cuniff; and (4) Corn, Coffins, and Highways: Material Histories of Settler Colonialism and Indigenous Erasure,” by Yael Horowitz. Even without attending the presentations, it appears that the student findings add to the earlier evidence compiled and evaluated so thoroughly by Dr. Timothy Ives.

Conclusions ... and beginnings.

The mining of primary sources provided the students with essential experience in rigorous historical research. The student findings called attention to the rich holdings of the Middlesex County Historical Society. The Wikipedia page that students developed on the Wangunks is a well-executed compilation. The student research brought Middletown’s early history into the spotlight. In so doing, 18th-century settlers in “East Middletown” are identified as “the bad guys,” and from our oh-so-enlightened 21st-century moral high ground, that conclusion is not unreasonable. Your editor does not have all the answers, but instead has one question: Has the pendulum swung so far in the evolving discipline of colonial and indigenous studies that its newest interpreters sink into historical “presentism” of old (i.e. evaluating the distant past *only* through the values, beliefs, and advances of the present, without factoring in the context of the historical period)? To be sure, historians of every period face that temptation, and succumb in varying degrees. But to

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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 (Nov. 1 to Oct. 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 Middletown history enthusiast, but not a descendant of the early families? Would you still like to receive *The Middler*? That's easy! Join us at \$20 per year!

Please send membership inquiries & lineage information to: Cindy Nicewarner, Registrar, Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants, 6006 River Birch Court, Hanover, MD 21076; or via e-mail to: cnicewarner@verizon.net.

Settlers and Wangunks ...

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acknowledge context is not to be an apologist for wrongdoing. For example, might a broad analysis of how the town dealt with *all* indigent citizens in the same period have been revealing, even if just for context? Your editor is moved to paraphrase an observation by the late violinist Isaac Stern, expressing tolerance of his virtuoso students and their superheated interpretations: "Without the excesses in your formative stages, you have nothing to chisel

away and discard as you sculpt the masterpiece of your maturity."

The new studies of indigenous Middletown also offer an opportunity to hear the voices of the Wangunk of today, from a tribe whose voices were so seldom documented in the past. In this issue of *The Middler* your editor hoped to include an interview with Wangunk descendant Gary O'Neil, but that is now deferred. In *The Middler*, the voices of the Wangunk are welcome as we continue to seek understanding of the past, present, and future. ■

Recommended reading

- Bacon, R.W. (2010). "Native Americans in Middletown: Who called it 'home' before our 'First Settlers'?" *The Middler*, spring & fall 2010 (SMFSD).
- Grant-Costa, Paul (Executive Editor/Director). *Yale Indian Papers Project* (2008-2015). <http://yipp.yale.edu/>.
- Ives, Timothy (2011). "Reconstructing the Wangunk Reservation Land System: A Case Study of Native and Colonial Likeness in Central Connecticut." *Ethnohistory*.
- Ives, Timothy (2004). "Expressions of Community: Reconstructing Native Identity in 17th-Century Central Connecticut Through Land Deed Analysis." (Algonquian Peoples Conference, Albany, N.Y.)
- Lavin, Lucianne (2013). *Connecticut's Indigenous Peoples*. New Haven: Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History.
- O'Brien, Jean M. (2010). *Firsting And Lasting: Writing Indians Out Of Existence In New England*. Minneapolis, Minn.: University of Minnesota Press.
- Smith, Linda Tuhiwai (2012). *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research And Indigenous Peoples* (2nd Ed.). London, England & New York, N.Y.: Zed Books, Ltd.



Early Middletown surnames in the Revolutionary War ...

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Spencer's 2nd Regiment, made up of 10 "companies," with Major Return Jonathan Meigs of Middletown leading the 4th Company. The 2nd Company of this regiment was made up of many men from Chatham (now Portland), on the east side of the Connecticut River.

Avoid even more confusion by noting that the Connecticut Militia unit from Middletown and Chatham was known as the 23rd Regiment. This unit served with the 2nd, 7th, 10th, and 28th regiments to form what was known as the 2nd Brigade of the Connecticut Militia, under Brigadier Generals James Wadsworth and Andrew Ward.

Note well that these units of the Continental Army as well as units in the Connecticut Militia would be

reconstituted several times between 1775 and 1783.

Beyond the two central volumes mentioned are individual town histories compiled in the 19th century that often include frothy details of Revolutionary War service ... or folklore ... not recorded anywhere else.

The selection of sources includes links to freely downloadable PDF files of the two essential books of Revolutionary War records, which are in the public domain. On these pages are images of the kind of documentation to be found in the books. Be aware that both documentation and display are inconsistent. Most interesting is the table that records the individual's town, occupation, height, eye color, and hair color, in addition to rank and service dates. Perhaps *you* will be lucky, and find all *your* ancestors so well documented. Happy hunting. ■

A selection of sources:

- *Lists and Returns of Connecticut Men in the Revolution, 1775-1783*. (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1909). *Lists and Returns ...* is downloadable in PDF format from Google Books: https://books.google.com/books/about/Lists_and_Returns_of_Connecticut_Men_in.html?id=tqxPAQAIAAJ.
- *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the War of the Revolution, 1775-1783*. (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Adjutants-General, 1889). *Record of Service ...* is downloadable in PDF format from the Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/waroftherevolution00recoich>.
- *Connecticut Town Meeting Records During the American Revolution (Vol. I)*, compiled by Jolene Roberts Mullen (Westminster, Md.: Heritage Press, 2011).
- *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776*. Accessible via the University of Connecticut Library website: <http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/>.
- *History of Middlesex County, Conn., 1635-1885*, by Henry Whittemore et al. (New York, N.Y.: J.B. Beers & Co. 1884). Essential on the topic is "Middletown in the Revolution," pg. 78-82, accessible and downloadable via Google Books at: https://books.google.com/books?id=IyBEAQAAIAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gb_atb#v=onepage&q&f=false.
- *Connecticut Black Soldiers 1775-1783*, by David O. White (Chester, Conn.: Pequot Press, 1973). This book documents 290 African-American Revolutionary War soldiers from Connecticut, 10 from Middletown.

