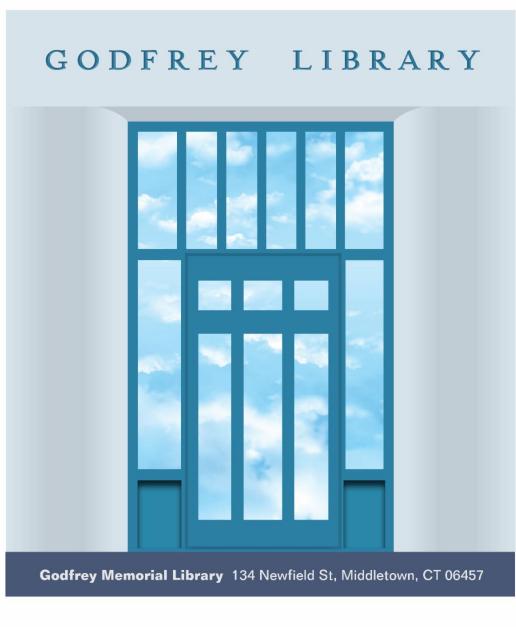


Godfrey news & updates

January 2021 | Issue 3



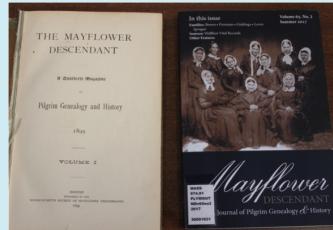
Godfrey Memorial Library 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT 06457

Coming soon to the Scholar: A Database of Manumissions

Manumission refers to the act of freeing an enslaved person. Sometimes those of us with New England root might think, "my ancestors couldn't have enslaved anyone, they were from Connecticut." In fact, as Armani White notes in his informative [introductory article on slavery in Middletown](#), "by 1770 there were documented slave traders on Main Street."

Because the enslaved Africans were considered to be property, these manumission records are found in the books of early real estate records for Middletown.

This month's Genealogy Club presentation

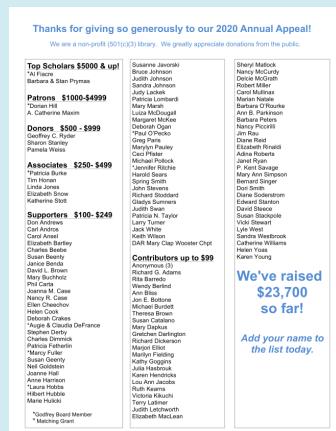


On Saturday, January 16, our own Al Fiacre (Board Chair and Senior Researcher) will share his presentation about the use and value of periodicals in genealogical research. Topics he will cover include:

- The Big 3 genealogy journals you should know
- Regional publications
- Are these journals indexed? If so, where?
- Do I really need journals? Aren't they a thing of the past?

The Zoom presentation will take place at **11:30 am (EST)**. We've moved the time in hopes to make it more convenient for our West Coast members to join us. Is 8:30 too early for

Godfrey staff is in the process of locating, scanning and transcribing these records. The transcriptions, along with images of the actual documents, will soon be added to the Scholar. We also hope to post some of the research findings of long-time Godfrey volunteer Diane Reed, who has been researching this topic for many years.



(Click on the image to see a full-size list)

Annual Appeal was a great success--thanks to all who were able to donate this year!

Not only did we meet our fundraising goal this year, we actually surpassed it, thanks to generous donations from you, our members and supporters. This is especially impressive during these strained economic times. We are extremely grateful for your support.

you, California?

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub Jan 2021](#)

If you are not a GML Premium member and want to view the presentation, you can pay \$10 via PayPal (click below), then return to this email and register at [GML GenClub Jan 2021](#).

[Buy Now](#)



Featured Resource Shelf

Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War edited by Eric G. Grundset. DAR, 2008

While this book is no longer in print, it can be downloaded for free as a pdf from the [Daughters of the American](#)



AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND
AMERICAN INDIAN PATRIOTS
IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



AFR-AM
352
GRUNDSE
2008

Revolution website, along with its supplement. Just be careful if you decide to print it, as it runs over 800 pages! The Godfrey does have a copy in the stacks, for those of you who prefer a printed and bound copy.

In recent years the DAR has decided to make a concerted effort to diversify their membership, and the hope is that this publication will help women of color find their patriot ancestors. It was originally published in 2001, a cumulation of and expansion upon information previously printed in booklets on a state-by-state basis. The original publication was roughly 200 pages long, and by 2008 it was up to 874 pages, thanks to continuing research efforts.

As we know, it is an unfortunate fact that vital records for Native and African Americans can be few and far between. Those that do exist are often "hidden in the cracks," as we see with the Middletown manumissions mentioned in the article above. While the information about any one individual is usually only a line or so, the book is replete with bibliographies, with the specific source(s) for each individual in the list keyed to a separate source list.

Each chapter starts with general background as to the state, its Native and African American populations, and its role in the Revolution. It is also copiously illustrated with scans of documents and transcriptions and/or extractions of the text. Even if you are not researching a specific person, it is an engrossing read about populations long and unjustly ignored and forgotten.

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