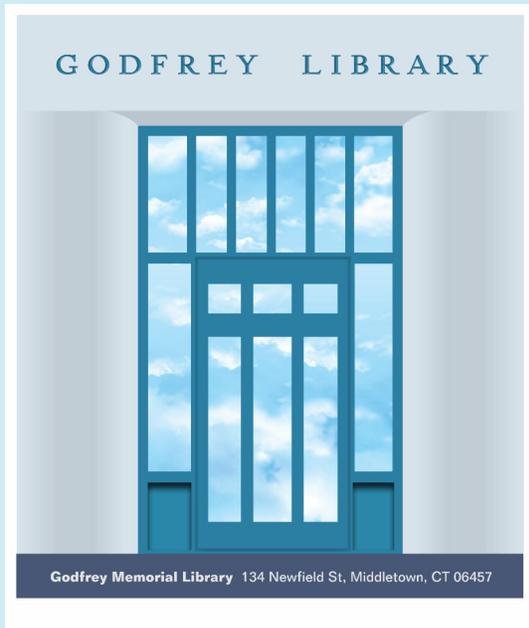


Godfrey news & updates

April 2021 | Issue 7



This month's Genealogy Club presentation: Understanding Evidence, Proving Your Point (Al Fiacre)

Godfrey Memorial Library Board Chair and Senior Researcher Al Fiacre will discuss what is involved in doing professional quality genealogical research, something we all can aspire to. Are your sources original, derivative or authored? How about the informant for that source—primary, secondary, or undetermined? Is your evidence direct, indirect or negative? Have you studiously ignored conflicting information, or found and resolved it? Why does any of this matter? Al will present a couple of case studies to help illustrate his points.

The Zoom presentation will take place at **11:30 am (EST)** on April 17th.

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub Apr 2021](mailto:GMLGenClubApr2021@gmail.com)

New Web Content: Middletown and Slavery

The next time you visit The Scholar on our website, check for the section entitled "People of Color." There you will find some background articles on the history of slavery in Middletown. Many people are surprised to learn that Middletown was a very active slave trading port. And while New England for the most part did not have large-scale farms or plantations, that doesn't mean captured Africans weren't purchased and enslaved here.

Once slavery was legally abolished in the early 19th century, Connecticut enslaved people could slowly work or buy their way to freedom. Because they had been considered "property," records of their release to freedom (manumission) were recorded in with

real estate deeds. We have culled the manumission records for Middletown and compiled them in a database, complete with images of the records (provided and approved by the City of Middletown and FamilySearch.org).

We also have manumission data from Virginia, as well as lists of "colored people" from Hartford city directories for the years 1848, the 1850s and the first half of the 1860s. These lists include names, addresses, and occupations of Blacks living in Hartford at the time.

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

Buy Now



Have you filled out your Survey on Expanded Hours?

We would like to increase the hours we are open to be of service to you, and we have a survey asking for your preferences. We would greatly appreciate it if you could take a couple of minutes to fill it out if you haven't already. We've emailed it to those of you within relatively easy driving distance, but anyone can fill it out.

If you can't find yours in your email, you can just click [here](#) to fill it out.

Thanks!

New Books in our Collection

[Click Here to See a List of Books Added to our Collection since February](#)

(note: the majority of these titles were donations from Mrs. Sharon Clark, for which we are most grateful!)

One Year and Counting!

We recently received our Catalog Newsletter email from the National Archives, always an interesting read. This issue brought to our attention the fact that the 1950 Census will be open to the public one short year from now! April of 2022 will mark 72 years since the 1950 Census was taken.

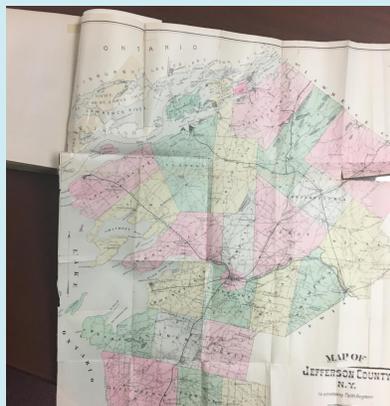
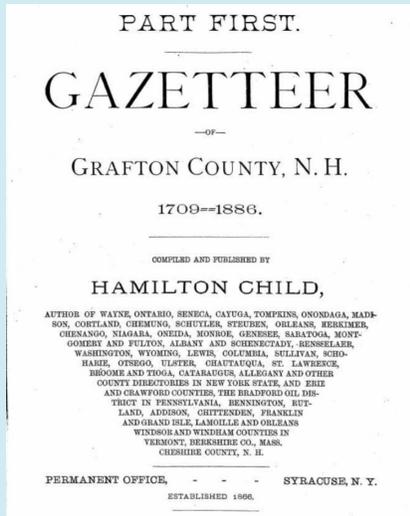
The article included this wonderful picture of an enumerator gathering information for the Farm Supplement - - let's hope there's no recent "fertilizer" on that field to mess up our city slicker's shoes!



Don't forget to visit the Bookstore

Visit our [Bookstore](#) as well! (In cases where Mrs. Clark donated copies of

Featured Resource Shelf



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City Directories / County Gazetteers

Do you love city directories as much as we do? Since we mentioned city directories for Hartford in the article above, let's talk a bit more about them. You generally find them for the second half of the 19th Century up through the mid-20th. Some were published annually, many biennially. I used to say if I were going to be stranded on a desert island with one reference book, I would take an almanac. But a city directory would be a close second. (No cell towers or satellites allowed).

One of the first things I loved about directories were the advertising pages. Fascinating to see what was in demand and in vogue at the time, and what kind of businesses and industries a city supported. Then there is the info about organizations, schools, street and block names, churches, etc. that give a city its flavor. And of course, the main feature, names and addresses of the inhabitants. Your ancestors may have moved a number of times between the decennial censuses, and the city directories are a huge help in filling in those years.

If your ancestors didn't live in the city, you may find county gazetteers for similar kinds of coverage, such as the Gazetteers published by Hamilton Child for some of the northern New England states. Many had those nifty maps attached to the end papers. They might also contain surprisingly detailed histories of the settlement and early families of each town in the county. In fact, when I was researching this, I discovered that some of my Lyme, NH ancestors lived for a time at the Shaker Village in Canterbury, a place I've visited many times without knowing I had personal history there!



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