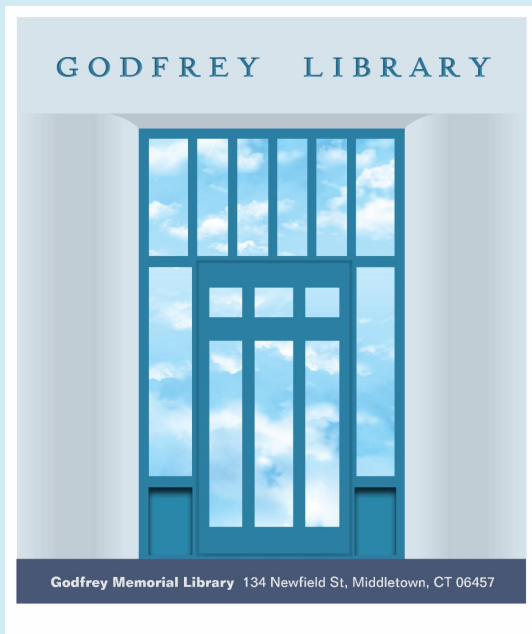


# Godfrey news & updates

---

June 2021 | Issue 9



## This month's Genealogy Club presentation



On **Saturday, June 19**,  
Mark D'Ambrosi will  
present "**Researching  
Your Italian Roots**"

---

## New Scholar Content: Highlights

**Manumission** refers to the act of granting an enslaved person their freedom. It was a legal procedure and in the case of Middletown, manumission transactions were recorded in the property/real estate records. As such, they can be tedious and difficult to find. But for Godfrey Scholar members, no more! Our volunteers have culled these records and assembled them into a database, found on the Scholar under "People of Color."

**New Church Records - South United Methodist Church of Middletown.** In 1970, this church

Mark will provide information about what civil records are available online, how to locate them, and what the researcher can garner from them. Italian civil records are primary source documents that provide more than just statistical information. They also offer facts about family members, occupations, and traditions related to births, marriages, and deaths.

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EDT)**. We've moved the time in hopes to make it more convenient for our West Coast members to join us.

Premium Godfrey

merged with the Higganum Methodist Church. We are now the stewards of these records, brought to us by Diane Franklin, and we have digitized lists of pastors, members, baptisms, marriages and deaths. (See "Church Records → Indexes → Connecticut")

**Middletown Sexton's Records -** We are just beginning to bring this unique and useful collection to our site. (Under "Cemeteries → Cemetery Records → Connecticut"). So far we have the records for 1853-1869 and 1869-1875. The sexton was responsible for keeping records of who was buried in which cemetery, and when. Many thanks to Board member Augie DeFrance who spent tireless hours scanning these records.

Want access to these records, but not a member yet? [Click here to join](#) us as a Premium Member.



**You asked and we responded -- now you can stay until 4:00 on 1st & 3rd Saturdays!**

Starting this month, we will stay **open** on the first and third Saturdays **until 4:00pm**. We hope this will accommodate those of you who work during the week and can't come do your research then. You can do your

Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub Jun 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 Jun 2021](#).

**Buy Now**



## In the News: Food For Thought

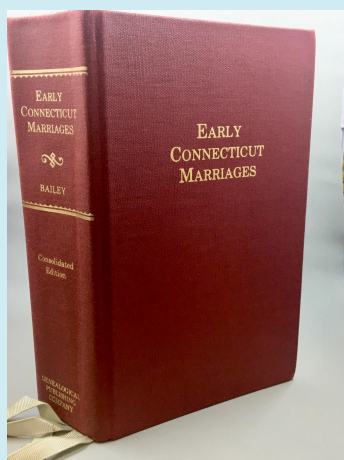
The *New York Times* ran an article in its Science section on May 31st noting that Maryland and Montana recently passed regulations limiting law enforcement's use of forensic genealogy (using a combination of DNA analysis and traditional family tree building in an attempt to track down alleged criminals). This method was most famously used to identify and arrest the "Golden State Killer" in California in 2018.

Various DNA testing sites have different ways of treating their customers' DNA data. Do you know which permissions you have given for law enforcement access to your data?

No easy answers are offered, as society tries to balance individual privacy rights against the benefits to society as a whole when a violent criminal is apprehended. A thought-provoking read.

yard work and gardening in the cooler morning hours, then come research with us in air conditioned comfort! For those of you who live far afield, we will be onsite and available for phone calls during these new hours.

## Featured Resource Shelf



CONN  
929.3  
BAILEY  
189\_

### Early Connecticut Marriages as Found on Ancient Church Records prior to 1800, edited by the Rev. Frederic W. Bailey

This 7-volume set (also available as a 1-volume "consolidated edition," and on *Ancestry.com*) was published at the turn of the 19th-20th century and contains transcriptions of early [i.e., Congregational] church records up to 1800. Volume 7 contains some Episcopal church records as well. The 1-volume version reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Co. in 1968 contains an introduction by Donald Lines Jacobus (Connecticut's own "Father of Modern Genealogy") as well as his corrections.

While church marriage records can be found in other places as well, and Bailey's collection is not completely exhaustive, it is certainly worth knowing about and checking, especially for those troublesome earlier records. Entries consist of the names of bride and groom, and the date of the marriage, and are arranged by town, then church. In his introduction to the consolidated volume, Jacobus made note that Bailey did not physically collect and copy the records himself, and indeed, Jacobus had it on good authority that "one of the church registers was copied for Mr. Bailey by a child!" Oh my!

Of course it *is* always a good idea to cross-check your sources. To check on Bailey's information, you can go to *FamilySearch* under Connecticut, then Church Records--Indexes and check out the CT State Library's [card file index](#) on church vital records, which will give you the details needed to find the *original* church records. (Note: you will have to be at a [Family Search affiliate library](#) to

access this index--just another reason to come see us! or visit your most easily accessible affiliate.)

Godfrey Memorial Library 134 Newfield St. Middletown, CT 06457



If you don't wish to continue receiving this newsletter, click below on "update profile" and uncheck "newsletter." Please be sure that "Email List" and/or "Connecticut Contacts" are checked to continue receiving our regular important notifications.

**WARNING:** Please DON'T click on "[unsubscribe](#)" -- it will remove you from all our lists including important notifications.