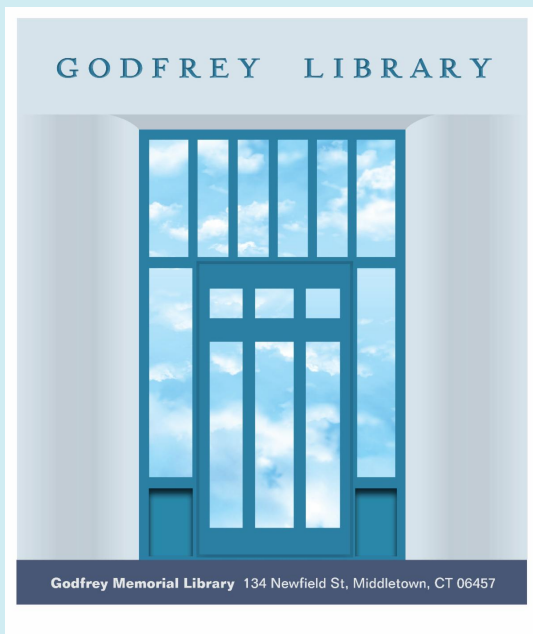


July 2023| Number 3 Issue 11



More Thoughts on Artificial Intelligence

There was a very thought-provoking piece on artificial intelligence in *The Nation* by Maria Bustillos which I highly recommend. ("[Just Because ChatBots Can't Think Doesn't Mean They Can't Lie](#)") It really deals with two related issues -- the increasing use of chatbots, and the court case against the Internet Archive (which they lost in March but will appeal -- but that's a discussion for another day). In the article, Bustillos engages a chatbot in a discussion about a false assertion that another chatbot made, attributing fabricated opinions and quotations to Francis Bacon (the

This month's Genealogy Club presentation: Navigating the Records From the War of 1812 with Brian Rhinehart



On **Saturday, July 15**, Brian Rhinehart will give a presentation on the records associated with the War of 1812. From bounty land to pensions, there are no shortage of genealogical records for soldiers from The War of 1812. Brian will tell us why these records were created, how to make sense of them, and what these records can contain for your ancestors.

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EST)** on July 15th.

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub July 2023](#)

If you are not a GML Premium member and

original assertions were published as a blog post by an economics professor at George Mason University as his own supposedly accurate work!). The chatbot proceeded to half apologize, half make excuses until eventually admitting the error when pressed enough times. When Bustillos googled the topic, she was dismayed to see the George Mason professor's article appear in the results list. She laments the fact that using Google as a de facto fact checker is no longer an option, as its results will now be "polluted" by AI-generated results. Genealogist Lisa Louise Cook had a similar experience when testing out a chatbot. When she doubted the results of a genealogical query she made, she outright accused the chatbot of making up the answer, and it "confessed" right away that indeed it had! Constant Contact has an AI feature to help write posts for mailings like this one -- if ever I decide to try it, I will *definitely* let you know!!

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 July 2023](#).

Buy Now

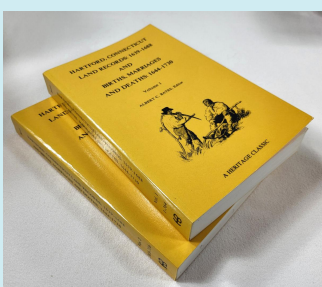


Materials Added or Recataloged June 2023

[Click here](#) to see a copy of a list of our latest additions to the collection.

You'll notice that we've finally gotten some more of our donated research materials that we mentioned last month cataloged, organized, arranged, and on the shelves.

Featured Resource Shelf



Hartford, Connecticut Land Records, 1639-1688 and Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1644-1730 edited by Albert C. Bates

When working on a case recently which involved some of the early settlers of Hartford, I kept wondering where the very *earliest* records were,

because I wasn't finding them among the digitized records on *FamilySearch* where I expected to see them. It turns out they do exist, but not as a "standard" town clerk's vital record book, or even a town clerk's land record book, as is sometimes the case.

When I use *FamilySearch* at home I usually click on the "online" button under "Availability" -- that way I only get things I can use right away at home. I got 10 hits under Vital Records for Hartford, none early enough. So I tried "any" for "Availability" and got an 11th resource: "Hartford, Connecticut, Land Records, 1639-1688 and Births Marriages and Deaths, 1644-1730." Bingo! But not digitized - rats!

Okay, I took the long way around the mulberry bush to figure this out, so I'll make a long story short and just tell you **this secret** -- the resource "[Original Distributions of the Lands in Hartford Among the Settlers, 1639](#)," which *is* digitized, is the *same thing* as "Hartford, Connecticut, Land Records, 1639-1688 and Births Marriages and Deaths, 1644-1730," which is *not* digitized, and they both *include those early vital records!!* (Start on page 575 of the book, 591 of the FamilySearch page viewer.) But there's no way to know that unless someone like me tells you. And, another place to find them is on the Internet Archive, as [volume XIV of the Collections of the Conn. Historical Soc.](#) It's also been reprinted in 1989 by Heritage Books as a 2-volume set.

So the next time you're looking for really early Hartford, CT vital records, you'll know where to go -- and you won't even have to leave home to have access to them!

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*

Godfrey Memorial Library | 134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457

[Unsubscribe carol.ansel@godfrey.org](mailto:carol.ansel@godfrey.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by carol.ansel@godfrey.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!