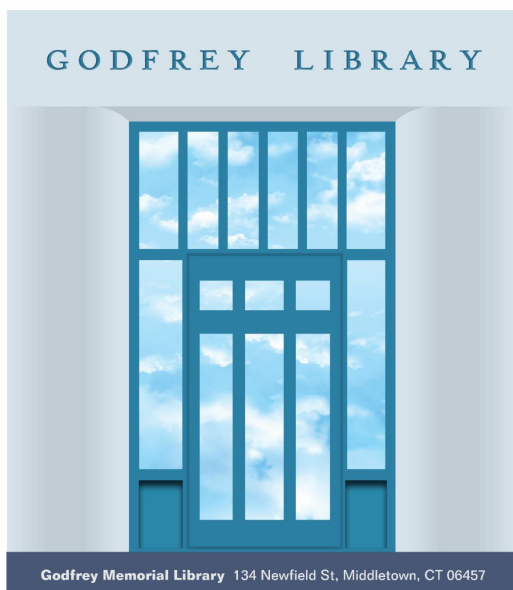




October 2024 | Number 5 Issue 2



Genealogy Club this month

Saturday October 26
1:30 pm - Pam Vestal

October 26 -- **Deciphering Difficult Handwriting, Part II** -- We've received rave reviews on Pam Vestal's Part I of Deciphering Difficult Handwriting; now join us for Part II.

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EDT)** on October 26th.

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: **GML GenClub Oct 2024**

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 Oct 2024**.

Annual Appeal 2024 is Underway

Most likely you have received our Annual Appeal request in the mail. (If we only have your email you will receive your request by email soon, rather than via snail mail.) As a non-profit 501(c)(3), member-supported organization, we are really dependent upon your donations as a substantial part of our annual operating funds. Many folks are initially surprised to learn

that we do not receive any municipal, state or federal funds.

Buy Now



Donate!

CSG's Family History Day

We exhibited at the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' Family History Day last weekend. The theme was the Future of Genealogy, with a look at AI applications. Kate Fiducia from the University of Connecticut gave an information-packed talk about GIS systems (advanced mapping) and how they can help in family history research. Melanie McComb from NEHGS demonstrated how she has used ChatGPT and similar programs to help in her research, and D. Joshua Taylor gave a fascinating and energizing talk on where genealogy is headed and how to engage the current younger generations.

Randy Seaver Blog Post About Using AI to Analyse a Historical Photo

I've got to admit, I still tend to be a sceptic when it comes to using AI. However, I'm trying to keep an open mind about it (especially after CSG's recent

October is Family History Month! Share a tantalizing tidbit with a younger relative

So often we hear from visitors and members that the younger generations just don't seem to be interested in family history the way we are! We tend to want to tell them every last detail, and the eyes glaze over so quickly! So try selecting one intriguing tidbit or short story to grab their interest. In my family I have the story of the first husband of Mahala Stevenson, my 3x great grandmother - related by marriage only, no bloodline! His story, in brief? Was a counterfeiter, later sent to jail for life for killing his elderly father by striking him on the head with a chair. Escaped from state prisoner with three other men, was recaptured. Pardoned by the Governor of New Hampshire a few years later, moved to Maine, and started a new family.

Special Lecture Invite - The Wangunks and 'First Settlers' of Middletown

The Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants is having their triennial meeting this month, and are sponsoring a lecture by **Timothy Ives, Ph.D.** The presentation will be at **2:00**

Family History Day on the Future of Genealogy -- see above). Randy Seaver, a genealogist from the San Diego area publishes a blog called Genea-Musings. This past summer he had a [fascinating post](#) about using the ChatBot Claude3-5 to see what it could tell him about an old family photo taken just after the 1905 San Francisco earthquake.



Welcome New Members

Nancy Alvers (FL)
Gay Auerbach (CA)
Rebecca Barker (OH)
Mike Capelle (OH)
Robert Christy (CO)
Jeffrey Conklin (MI)
Kim Cotton (CA)
Diane Delbridge (OK)
Betsy Elwell (PA)
Luanne Frey (WI)
Bayanne Hauhart (VA)
Lizbeth Holt (CT)
Leslie Jones (CA)
Thomas Kemp (CT)
Alison Kolb (IL)
Kit Lee (FL)
Michele Mann (FL)
Jules D. Roberts (TX)
Phillip Sturke (VA)
Marylouise White (MA)

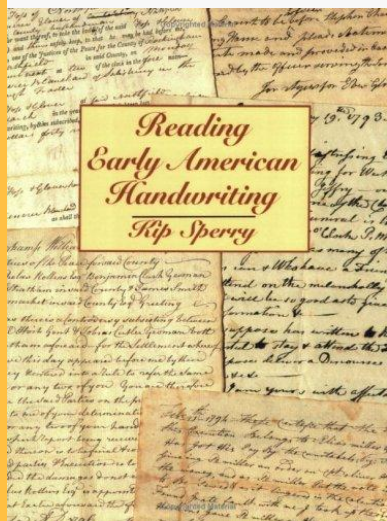
pm on **Friday, October 18th** at the **DeKoven House** on **27 Washington Street** in Middletown. Dr. Ives Ives is currently the senior archaeologist with a private research firm, after a long tenure as Principal Archaeologist for the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. Among his articles and publications through the years is one of particular interest to Middletown descendants, his master's thesis entitled *Wangunk Ethnohistory: A Case Study of a Connecticut River Indian Community* (College of William and Mary, 2001). At this presentation you'll learn what you never knew about indigenous and colonist relations in Middletown. You'll learn that despite the pronouncements of 19th century historians, the indigenous Wangunk people did not simply vaporize into the mist. If you are interested in attending, just send an email to laura.hobbs@middletown1650.org

New Items Added to Our Collection

([This month's list](#) is rather brief, between Carol being away and getting our Annual Appeal mailing

Godfrey Memorial Library New and Recatalogued Materials September 2024		
Call Number	Title	Author
923.2 GODOFRE 1631	Island Oostpoker Wood Bibliography	Boothell, Arthur E.
BIOPFL 923.2 GODOALE 2006	Obituary Notice of John F. Goodale of 433 North 20th Street from the Pictorial Gazette, Old Saybrook	
BIOPFL 923.2 GOSMARD	Portrait of Thomas M. Gosard	
BIOPFL 923.2 GREEN 1712	Descendants of Robert Green and Alice Families in the State of Virginia	COHEN, HARRAGE Otto
BIOPFL 923.2 GREEN 1626	82th Anniversary of the Lee-Vilgiers Green	
BIOPFL 923.2 GRIFFIT 1749	Griffith Families of Eastern Pennsylvania Including Name Index	
BIOPFL 923.2 GRISWOL 1480	Griffith History and Genealogical Sketch of the First Three Generations of Springfield Vermont	
BIOPFL 923.2 GRUNGER	Federal Service of Mattias Leffert Grunger	
BIOPFL 923.2 HARMS 2024	Harms Ancestry	Fuchs, Albert E., Jr.
N YORK 923.3 WELCOX 2024	New York State Archives Guide for Family Historians, Biographers and Historical Researchers	Wolow, Jane E.

Featured Resource Shelf



Reading Early American Handwriting by Kip Sperry. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1998.

This is one of the useful resources recommended by Pam Vestal. It includes a number of helpful lists such as the following: common spelling variants in old documents, abbreviations, contractions, common abbreviations for first names, legal and other terms found in early American documents, Roman numerals. These are followed by a number of sample alphabets. Appendix B ("The Internet and Compact Discs") is mostly good for a historical laugh, although a few of the listed sites are still extant. The bulk of the book (pp. 101-289) consists of sample documents and transcriptions. This makes the book something you might want to own and keep by your bedside or in your bathroom, so you can continually practice reading the old hands. As Pam will surely tell you, only with practice does the old handwriting start to lose it's intimidating look.

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973
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