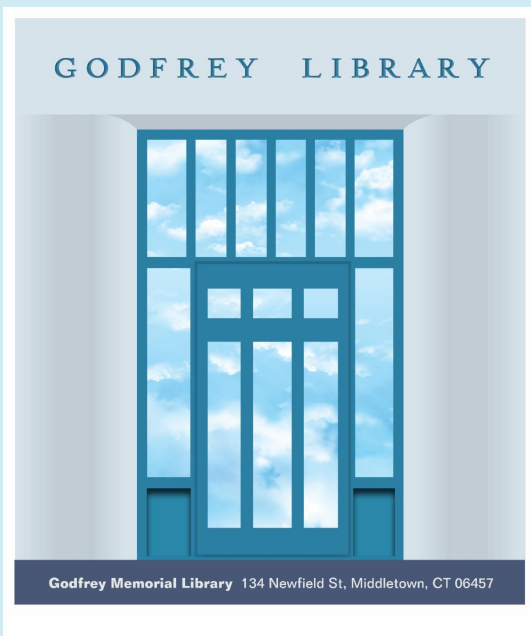


Godfrey Library news & updates

May 2025| Number 5 Issue 9



Website Progress

Never fear, we're still working on porting materials over to the new website. Carol, Michael, Suzanne and Christine are working like demons on bringing over the contents of the Godfrey Digital Collection, which consists of more than 2500 digitized books! We're starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and are now down to a few hundred family genealogies. (Better hundreds than thousands!) There are still many collections to be tackled after this, but the GDC, as we call it, is the monster of them all and we'll be glad to move on from it. If nothing else, we're looking forward to a change of pace.

Memorial Day Weekend Closing

We will be closed on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend (May 24th). As this is a fourth Saturday, the May Genealogy Club presentation will be on the 5th Saturday, the 31st.

Genealogy Club for May - a Week Later than Usual, May 31

Since May is a nice long month, we're able to squeak in another Genealogy Club, even with the 4th Saturday being a holiday weekend. You're in for a treat -- we'll be hosting **Thomas MacEntee** who will be talking about **How to Future-Proof Your Research**. We can't tell you how many times we hear folks worrying about what will become of their genealogical efforts. It seems the kids don't want our heavy old furniture, nor do they necessarily want to inherit all our hours and hours of painstaking family research. We can hope they'll change their minds, but what if they don't? You may well have seen or heard Thomas before, as he's very well-known in the genealogy world, one of his specialties being things technological. He has recently

Welcome New Members

Welcome to the following folks who are brand new members, or have re-joined us after a lapse in membership, in the last month.

Nancy Congdon (CT)
Jane English (CT)
Susan Fedoryshyn (NY)
Mark Johnson (CA)
Maurice King (CT)
Dianne Luman (CA)
Jim Lyke (CT)
Linda Nicosia (NY)
John Rilli (MA)
Daniel Rottino (CT)
Thomas Tynan (NY)
Jeffrey Williams (CT)
Mary Young (CT)

Digitization: Church Booklets and Sexton's Records

We recently received a half dozen late nineteenth- early twentieth-century church booklets, five from Connecticut and one from Maine, courtesy of Kate Ritter -- thank you Kate! They all contain lists of the church membership at the time of publication -- what a great way to confirm the residence of an ancestor at a particular time! Justin digitized them for us and you can find them in the church records section. He then went on to digitize one of the Pennsylvania Archives volumes that we don't yet have online (Militia Rolls 1783-1790). He should be able to finish it next week and we'll get it up on the site for you.

announced that he will no longer be doing webinars after December, so don't miss this chance to see him! Join us on **Saturday, May 31 at 1:30 pm Eastern time.**

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: **GML GenClub May 2025**

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 May 2025](#)**.

(These links should open a blank email in your browser addressed to zoomregistration@godfrey.org - if they don't, just use your email program and send an email to us at that address)

Buy Now



New Books

We have recently received some very nice donations. Beverly Harris gifted us several books about the Carpenter family and Anne Selene Bennett donated the 4-volume set of Douglas Richardson's Magna Carta ancestry set, all of which is much appreciated. A new purchase we've made is the first book in David Riker's multivolume set of *Persons in New Netherlands from 1613 to 1674*. According to NYG&B this is *the* resource for

Another on-going project is the Sexton's records for Groton, Connecticut. Elizabeth Snow is diligently scanning all the sheets of information, and then inputting the data into a spreadsheet. While most of the burials are in New London County, there are some outliers as well, we're not entirely sure why. It will be yet another source of death information.

An extra Presentation this Month with John Rilli

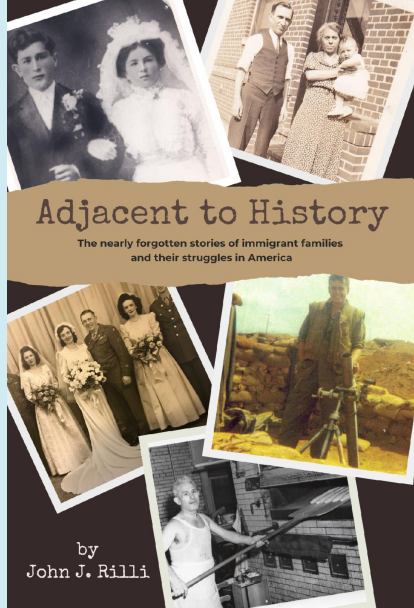
John will be sharing his experience researching his Middletown ancestors for his book *Adjacent to History*. Like many, John's family came to this town from Sicily in the early 1900s. The Godfrey will be co-sponsoring his presentation with the [Middlesex County Historical Society](#), where John conducted most of his Middletown research. You can join us via Zoom, by [signing up here](#). The talk will be this **Thursday, May 8 at 7:00pm** Eastern time. John's ancestors also came from Germany and Ireland and settled in New York City and Philadelphia as well, but he will be focusing on Middletown for the talk on Thursday. His book is carefully researched *and* it really brings the immigrant experience to life. We encourage you to join us. It promises to be an interesting talk.

this time and place. New Netherlands includes the Hudson River Valley as far as Albany, Manhattan and Staten Islands, Westchester Co., NY and Bergen County, NJ and the Delaware River Valley. These were basically areas that the Dutch West India Company saw as theirs to utilize for fur trading. (click on image below to see full book list)

New Materials Added to Godfrey Memorial Library, April 2025		
Call Number	Title	Author
929.2 CARPENT 1856	History of the Life and Times of John Carpenter, Town Clerk of London and Founder of the City of London School	Brewer, Thomas
929.2 CARPENT 1890	Genealogical History of the Redoubt Branch of the Carpenter Family in America. Brought down from their English Ancestor John Carpenter 1585 with Many Biographical Notes of Descendants and Allied Families	Carpenter, Aron Rudgen
929.2 MARSHALL 1912	Marshall Family Record with Husbands, Burials, Births, Weddings, Deaths, Funerals, Baptisms, Marriages, and Other Records of the City, Its Growth from Small Beginnings, the Customs of the Present with the Past, the Promise of the Future	Kingbury, Frank Burnside
BIOPUL 929.2 MARSHALL 1912	Family Record 1853-1987 (Husbands, Marriages, Births, Deaths, Burials, Funerals, Baptisms, Marriages, and Other Records of the City, Its Growth from Small Beginnings, the Customs of the Present with the Past, the Promise of the Future)	Chapman, W. A.
BIOPUL 929.2 SUTTON 1918	Ancestors of Frances Ann Sutton 1858-1985	Fierce, Albert E.
CONSTITUTIONAL BROADCASTING STANDARD	Standards of the City, Its Growth from Small Beginnings, the Customs of the Present with the Past, the Promise of the Future	Wells, George Curtis

Did You Know that Ancestry will Transcribe Handwritten Letters for You?

I read that this feature was being beta tested at Ancestry and decided to try it myself. I was quite impressed with how easy it was and how well it worked! I tested it out on a letter from my paternal grandfather to his fiancée, my future "Grandma Dot." I took a picture with my iPhone and uploaded it to my computer. I did have to save it as a jpg (iPhones use a different format so that pictures take up less space on the phone, so you have to make that adjustment). I went into Vaughn's Gallery and uploaded the picture of the letter from my computer where I had saved it. Once it was uploaded, to the lefthand side were buttons for enlarge and shrink, and beneath them the new "transcribe" button.



In less than a minute the letter was transcribed. Click on the image below to see the results. As I said, I was quite impressed -- only two minor errors.

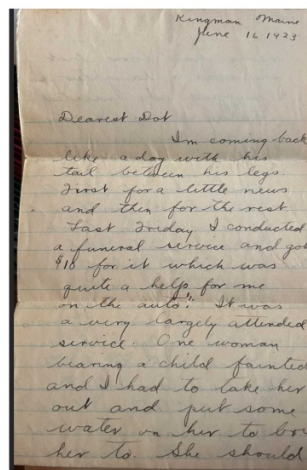


Image Transcript BETA

Kingman Maine
June 16 1923
Dearest Dot
I'm coming back
like a dog with his
tail between his legs.
First for a little news
and then for the rest.
Last Friday I conducted
a funeral service and got
\$10 for it which was
quite a help for me
on the auto. It was
a very largely attended
service. One woman
bearing a child fainted
and I had to take her
out and put some
water on her to bro
her To. She should

The only errors -- "painted" instead of "fainted" and I think the word "bring" was cut off in my picture, so it came up with "bro"

Looking Ahead: Connecticut Open House Day June 14th

Connecticut will be hosting its 21st Open House Day on Saturday, June 14th. We will be offering free admission for those who are not members [yet!], and will be giving tours and showing people how to get started on their family research. If you're local and not a member, or have friends who aren't members but might want to see what we're about, tell them to come see us! We will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Godfrey Memorial Library 134 Newfield St. Middletown, CT 06457



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