Godfrey news & updates

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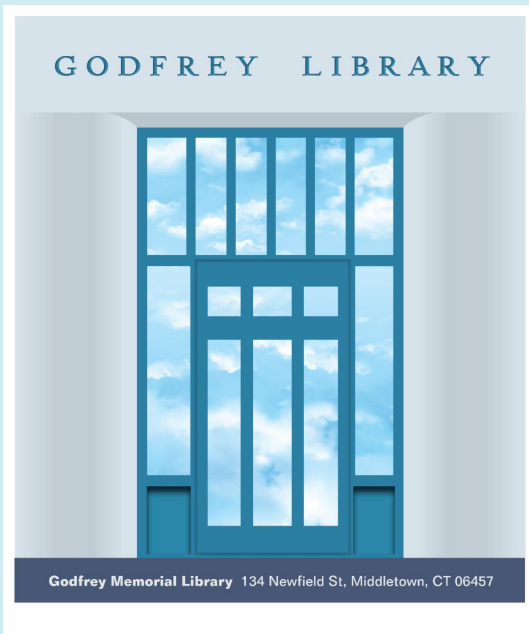
GODFREY LIBRARY

Godfrey Memorial Library 134 Newfield St, Middletown, CT 06457

This month's Genealogy Club: Annette Burke Lyttle presents "Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left"

On **Saturday, June 28**, **Annette Burke Lyttle** will talk with us about Quakers. Quakers were among the earliest settlers in North America and as they moved west, they were often the earliest settlers in newly-opened territory. Quakers were amazing record-keepers. Not only did they record births, marriages, and deaths, they also kept extensive records on those who came into their local meetings and those who left. Transgressions by members of the community were publicly discussed and recorded, and as they came to believe that slavery was evil their records on Quakers who kept slaves became extensive. Learn about the history of these pioneering Americans and how to find the rich records they left behind.

CTVISIT **OPEN HOUSE DAY** JUNE 14, 2025

JOIN US FOR
CT OPEN HOUSE DAY
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 14!

Head to CTvisit.com for details

Have Friends who've never been to the Godfrey? ... as part of Connecticut's statewide

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EST)** on June 28th.

Open House Day, the Godfrey will be open from 9:00am-3:00pm on Saturday, June 14. New members can join for $5 off the regular price, and we will get them started on their trees with free Family Group Sheets and Pedigree Charts.

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

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.

Theresa Anderson (CT)
Jeri Antozzi (FL)
Teresa Battuello (WA)
Donna Bellantone (CT)
Robert Carrara (CT)
Clive Connor (CT)
Lori Consoer (IL)
Raul de Brigard (CT)
Julie Dimmock (CT)
Julee Durkee (MI)
George Edson (NH)
Thomas Giddens (GA)
David Kohler (PA)
Francis Korn (CT)
Stacey Neufeld (ID)
Margery Piersen (IL)
Susan Rabe (IL)
Caleb Warner (CT)
Althea Wasow (CA)
Irene Watson (CT)
Kathleen Weissbrot (CT)
Elliot Wrann (CT)

New/Recataloged Items for May 2025

"New Items" list for May. **Click here to view the list..** or click on the image

Reclaim the Records Does it Again!

This time they've gotten New

NESRI, an Amazing Collection of Data on Enslavement

York State death records - here it is in their words:

"We just won the first-ever public release of the FULL New York State Death Index, from 1880 through the end of 2017. We won this data through a multi-year Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) suit filed against the largest government agency in the state, which eventually worked its way up the highest court in the state."

It will take some time for them to obtain the actual data, clean it up, and build a search interface, or as they put it, "as soon as they hand over the data to us, we're going to publish everything online, for free, in both searchable and downloadable formats, without any restrictions or usage contracts or paywalls, so that neither the state nor commercial entities can ever withhold it again. Because that's how we roll here. Public data belongs to — and will be returning to — the public!"

Looking for Volunteers

Now that Justin is gone, we could use a volunteer for 2-3 hours a week to do some **digitizing** for us, so that we can continue to add materials to the website on a regular basis.

Also, we could use **gardening** help -- just some basic weeding, raking and trimming of our flower beds.

Call us if interested
860-346-4375

If you're a data nerd like I am, you will enjoy the **Northeast Slavery Records Index** site. Perhaps "appreciate" might be a better word than "enjoy," as the data is concerned with an unfortunate and unhappy facet of American history. Centered at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, the collection includes data for ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NY, NJ and PA. It indexes information from the following sources: "US Census, slave trade transactions, cemetery records, birth certifications, manumissions, ship inventories, newspaper accounts, private narratives, legal documents and many other sources." There are a number of ways to search; you might want to start by looking at the Community-Locality reports.

Update on Chronicling America -- Library of Congress's Historic Newspaper Database

Just a heads-up that the Library of Congress has upgraded its search engine and interface for **Chronicling America**, and the official change over will take place this August 4th.

COLLECTION
Chronicling America
Historic American Newspapers

Registration Now Open for NERGC

You won't want to miss the NERGC Conference - you can **register now**. Dates of the conference are October 29-

November 1, 2025, and it will take place in Manchester, NH.

An Invitation from the 10 Million Names Project

"Special Invitation
On June 12 (@5pm), we will be hosting a free, live, virtual event: **10 Million Names: A Conversation about African American Family History and Healing**. Marc Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League will be in conversation with renowned genealogist Kenyatta Berry (of PBS' *Genealogy Roadshow*). Together, they will explore Mr. Morial's personal family history and the broader importance of legacy, memory, and truth-telling.

Mr. Morial's voice carries the weight of history and the power of a lived and relatable story. As the son of civic justice trailblazers, Marc Morial's experience reflects the spirit of 10 Million Names. Through this event, we will reinforce to attendees that their ancestors, their stories, and descendants matter."

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WARNING: Please DON'T click on "unsubscribe" -- it will remove you from _all_ our lists including important notifications.