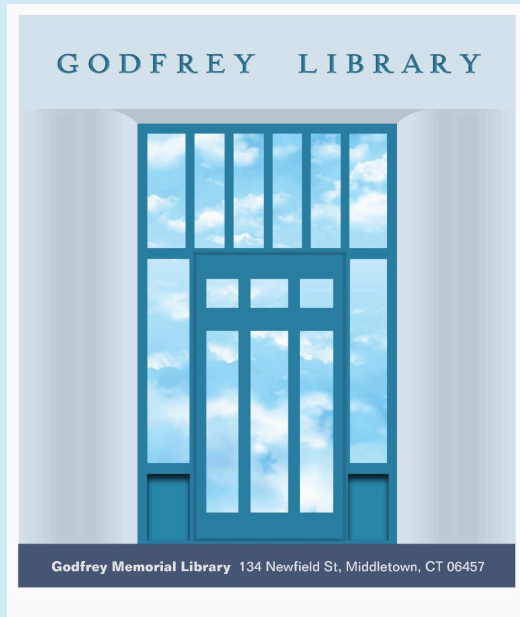


Godfrey Memorial Library

January 2026 | Number 6 Issue 5



This month's Genealogy Club presentation



Welcome new members!

Welcome to the following folks who have recently become members:

Mike Capelle (OH)
Brian Hallinan (CT)
Jennifer Kelland (GA)
Michael King (CT)
Jennifer Kliewer (CA)
Cathy Knuth (WI)
Rena Reynolds (CT)
Elizabeth Roberge (CT)
Jeffrey Sanders (NJ)
Thomas Schmelter (CT)
Cristie Sparks (AZ)
Frank Winiski (CT)

On Saturday, January 24, **John Grenham**, straight from Dublin, will tell us about using his website johngrenham.com for **Mapping Ireland's Records**

If you've never heard John or visited his website you're in for a treat.

John has extensive background in Irish genealogy, having worked for and with the *Irish Times* and the Dublin City Library among other prestigious organizations. With the help of his son Eoin he now runs his own website which acts as an excellent jumping off point for Irish genealogical

**Thanks for Your Support
-- as of January 1, 160**

Supporters Have Donated over \$58,000 to our Annual Appeal!

We generally run the Annual Appeal through the end of the month of January, as some folks routinely wait until January to make their donation. This breaks records for us, both in terms of total number of donors and total amount donated. We are grateful and humbled by the trust and support you place in us to serve the genealogical community.

Tolland County Cemeteries Added to the Laput Collection -- Cemetery Count Now Stands at 1066

The head count for the Laput Collection now stands at 1066 cemeteries (how many of you automatically blurted out "William the Conqueror Battle of Hastings"?). Michael Dima was able to photograph a total of eleven Tolland County cemeteries under the grant we procured from the Stacpoole Peck Foundation, nine of which have made their way onto the website and were listed in last month's newsletter. The other two are still having their data entered.

By the way, once the weather permits, we still have money left in the fund, so if you are interested in helping us with photographs in Tolland county, please contact us. (Ask for Michael - call 860-346-4375)

research. He also wrote THE book on Irish genealogy, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*. He has that lovely Irish lilt and a wonderfully wry sense of humor and I know you'll enjoy his presentation. We're thrilled that he'll be joining us.

Here is his description of his presentation:

The talk explores ways in which visualising the locations of households of particular surnames in Catholic records, valuations, census records and records of births, marriages and deaths can help with genealogy and local history, providing vivid examples of just how local some names are and how impossibly widespread others can be. All the records covered are free online and form part the basis of almost all nineteenth-century Irish research.

In addition, some of the focus will be on maps of the geographic areas used to collect the records.

The talk will give some of the technical background involved in creating the maps, but will mostly focus on their use and on how they shed light on Irish surnames and Irish families.

A 33% discount on a year's subscription to www.johngrenham.com will be available for three days after the talk.

The Zoom presentation will take place at **1:30 pm (EST), Jan 24.**

Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: GML@GenClub.com **Jan 2026**

Website Upgrade Progress

Currently we are working our way through the Laput Cemetery Collection, which, as you can see from the previous paragraph, currently runs to 1066 entries. Each of these cemeteries has to go through a many-step process to be transferred to the new site, with plenty of opportunities for human error, so we are proceeding like Aesop's tortoise - carefully and steadily. If we were AI whizzes perhaps we could enlist its help, but unfortunately we're are not, and I'm not sure we could really trust it at this point in its development anyway. I shudder at the thought of providing succinct instructions for the process. Anyway, we're more than halfway through. This is the last collection of this size that faces us. The upside is that we are getting our hands on every piece of data in our collection and finding a few inconsistencies in the process that we have the opportunity to fix.

Welcome to Abbey, Our New Scanning Volunteer

Just because we're spending a lot of time on the new website, doesn't mean we're not continuing to add new content to the current site. While our Wesleyan student Justin is now out in the Real World, we have had the good fortune of receiving some volunteer hours from Abbey Campbell, a Library School student at Southern Connecticut

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 Jan 2026](#).

Buy Now



Scots in Eastern New Jersey? in the 1680s?

Yes indeed. And there is a fascinating website describing this group of 562 settlers, put together by Derrick Johnstone as a result of his graduate level research and dissertation. Using Family Tree Maker as his base software he input data on a diverse group of emigrants to New Jersey in the years 1683-1685 and has set up a searchable database on his [website](#). The group consisted of free emigrants, indentured servants and prisoners. One subgroup was an offshoot of Scottish covenanters known as Sweet Singers. It's a fascinating website, even if you don't have any ancestors in the group. But who knows, maybe you do?

Latest Items Added to Our Collection

We've begun cataloging some books from the collection of

State University and also a full-time employee at Yale where she works in digitization, among other things.

So far she has digitized a list of names of men who were prisoners on the notorious Revolutionary War prison ship *The Jersey*, and a book from a set of Connecticut biographies that Al Fiacre mentioned in his presentation on Tried and True Print Resources for Early Connecticut Genealogy (Volume 3 of "Men of Mark in Connecticut".) Be on the lookout for that -- I plan to get it up on the website in the next few weeks.

Richard Quandt Bourn Jr., a genealogist from Old Saybrook who passed away recently. Godfrey member Roberta Dempster thought of us and directed the books our way. More will be coming. Any duplicates that were donated will be making their way onto our eBay store, so keep an eye out there for new material as well.

Godfrey Memorial Library, Middletown, CT
Items Added November/December 2023

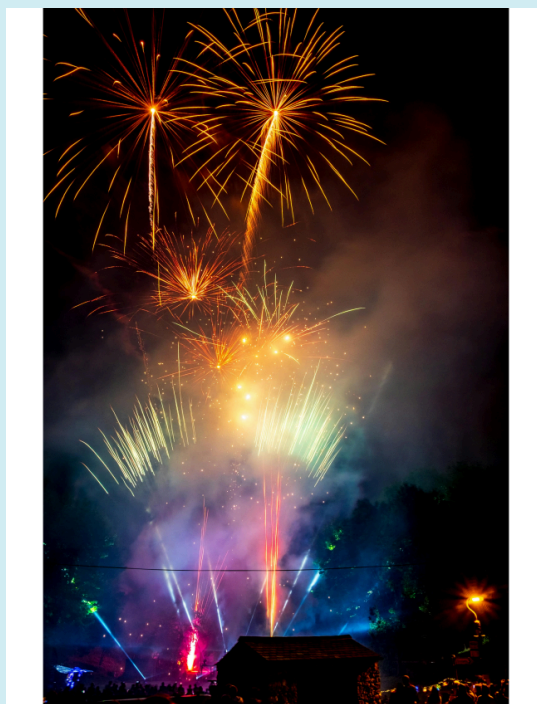
Call Number	Title	Author
SDS 2 O'BRIEN 2014 B041	O'Brien: A Genealogical Report for the Probate Estate of James O'Brien Heffernon, Thomas F.	
SDS 2 O'BRIEN 2014 B042	O'Brien: A Genealogical Report for the Probate Estate of James O'Brien Heffernon, Thomas F.	
SCOTLAND 900 MACKIE 0394	Scotland: An Account of Her Princes and Nobles, Her Heroes, Institutions and Achievements in Art and Literature from Earliest Times to the Death of Bruce	Mackie, R. L.
MASS 574.01 RL HOUT Robert	Huffnagle 1805: Five Hundred Narrative Descendants of the Founding Fathers on the Mayflower	Robert, Gary Boyd
NO 076.01 CHARLTON 1009	Historical, Pictorial and Biographical Record of Charlton County, Georgia, Probably Settled	
MO 525 McCREA 2020	Guide to Missouri Confederates 1861, 1862, 1865	McCrea, James E.
SDS 2 HOWLAND 1020	John Howland, Multifaceted Pilgrim	Howland, William
SDS 2 KACER 1064	Alger Family Lines	Alger, Charles R.
SDS 2 DRAKE 1033	Descendants of John Drake of Windsor, Connecticut	Cop, Frank R.

MyHeritage Adds 1.2 Billion More Records

We get regular notifications from MyHeritage about upgrades and changes, and the latest email tells us that they've added more data in December. This latest batch of records covers 27 updated and new collections including the [England and Wales Probate Index from 1858-1995](#) and the [1890 New York Police Census](#). Don't forget that your Godfrey membership includes free access to the MyHeritage Library Edition. If you haven't searched it for a while, it may be worth checking again.

Happy New Year!

Over a year ago we came across 3 boxes of handwritten sexton's records from Groton, CT. Dates range from the late 1800's to the 1940's and there are more than 2,200 records. "Let's digitize them" Someone said. So Elizabeth Snow has diligently been doing just that. Scanning, and then entering the data into spreadsheets. The thing is, they didn't turn out to be just burials in cemeteries in Groton. Nor even just New London County. Nor even just Connecticut! There are a few outliers from other places - folks from Groton who died elsewhere. It will be interesting to see how they intersect with the Laput data. Now once Someone (aka Carol) takes a break from transferring cemetery data and gets this data organized, we'll have some more death-related information on the site. Thanks to Elizabeth for getting the project going!



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