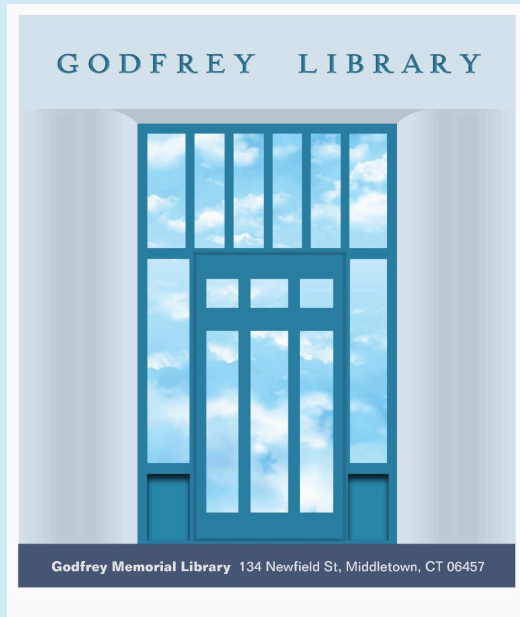


February 2026| Number 6 Issue 6



February is Black History Month - in Honor of Our Country's 250th, the SAR Has Put Together This Website

You may have already watched Ken Burns's series on the American Revolution which talks about the contributions and involvement of Blacks in the American Revolution. The Sons of the American Revolution have information at this [site](#) that you might find of interest.

Search MyHeritage for Immigrants Leaving England 1890-1960

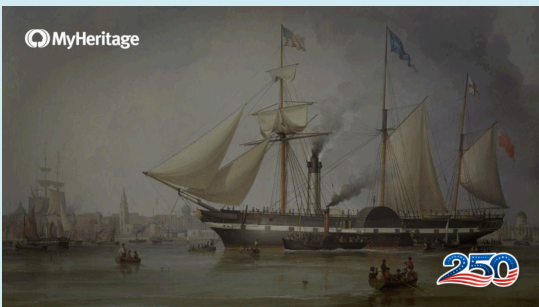
This month's Genealogy Club presentation:

On **Saturday, February 28**, we will welcome **Laura Hobbs**, to share her **case study** with us about her ancestor **Patrick Derby, Jr.** born in the late 18th century in Middletown, CT.

Laura's day job is that of hospital pharmacist, but she has been an avid genealogist for many years. She is currently the President of the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants and Secretary of the Board of Godfrey Memorial Library, and has been with both groups for many years. She will walk us through how she used the resources of the Godfrey as well as other sources to piece together Patrick's story.

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

MyHeritage has in interesting blog post about using one of their collections to search for information about ancestors who were emigrating to America -- and not necessarily just those from England and Ireland. Many Scandinavians and Eastern Europeans first came to England and then headed across the Atlantic to American ports. Here's a [link](#) to the post, which is written by Yan Sandler. You may find slightly different information here from what you find on the arriving end at Ellis Island.



Premium Godfrey Scholar members can register for free at the following email: [GML GenClub Feb 2026](#)

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 Feb 2026](#)

Buy Now



New & Recataloged Books

Check out this month's list of new and recataloged books. Includes gifts from Irma Carper Miller, Dana Hewson and the library of Richard Quandt Bourn Jr.

Call Number	Title	Author
929.2 BARNWEL 1969	Story of an American Family [Barnwell]	Barnwell, Stephen B.
929.2 BASSETT 1830	Bassett-Preston Ancestors, A history of the Ancestors in America of Marion Bassett Lutwiler, Howard Murray Bassett, Preston Rogers Bassett, Isabel Bassett Watson, and Helen Bassett Hauser, Children of Edward M. and Anne Preston Bassett	Preston, Mary Isabella
929.2 BEAN 1984	Bean Family of Maryland	Langley, Margaret Bean
929.2 BECKWIT 1899	Harvin Beckwith and his Wife Abigail Clark -- their Colonial Ancestors and their Descendants	Beckwith, Albert C.
929.2 BOGUE 1944	Bogue Genealogy: Descendants of John Bogue of East Haddam, Conn. and Wife Rebecca Walkley, also the North Carolina Bogenes and Miscellaneous Bogue Records, Ancestors of James Hubbard Bogue and Wife Polly Adelaide Phillips, their Royal Lines	Deming, Flora Lucinda Bogue
929.2 BOURNE 2018	History of Richard Bourne and Some of his Descendants	Dykes, Hannah Smith Bourne
929.2 BROWN 1951	John Brown, Gentleman of Warranissett	Brown, Benjamin William

Good Progress on Moving the Laput Cemetery Collection to the New Site

Carol and Michael continue to work on moving the Connecticut section of the Laput Collection over to the new website. Out of the 1066 cemeteries, at this writing we have 122 left to go. Definite progress! Some cemeteries have less than a dozen burials. On the other hand, I did one the other day with 8,000 burials (!). They all have to go through the same procedure. However, highlighting and dragging 8,000 Excel cells takes a little more time than doing the same to thirty cells.

An Interesting (and Non-Threatening) Use of AI

Need a Refresher on Chronicling America? Library of Congress Had Free Webinar on February 10th & It's Been Recorded

One of the best historical newspaper collections out there is held by the Library of Congress and they offered a free training webinar on the 10th of this month. If you haven't used it for a while, they've redesigned the search interface, so it might be worth having a look. Here's a link to where the recording will be [posted](#). (Give it a couple of days and try again if it's not there when you first check.)

Why Didn't We Think of This?

This makes so much sense, when you stop to think of it... in a post on his blog "Anglo-Celtic Connections," John Reid compared the number of hits he got doing the same Full Text searches at home and at an affiliate FamilySearch library (such as the Godfrey and many public libraries), and lo and behold, the number was always substantially higher at the affiliate library. All this means is that the Full Text searches are sensitive to the limits on access that apply to any FamilySearch search. So while you may be getting hundreds or even thousands of hits at home, you also may be missing some really good stuff --

I did try to use AI recently to do a mundane task for me. It was the turn of the year and time for me to make up a new batch of employee time sheets, which requires putting in all the dates for the whole year. Seemed like the perfect kind of task to delegate to a computer. Easier said than done. An hour (and many unsuccessful attempts) later, I gave up and did it the old fashioned way, putting in each date myself.

At the other end of the spectrum, there's no way I would ever entrust any kind of "thinking" task to AI. (This is what I personally would classify as a "threatening" use of AI.) Word association and probability may *look* like thinking, but they're not. But somewhere in the middle, folks are finding sensible uses. Here's a [link](#) to an article by Barbara Starmans where she writes about using AI to help her find some background sources for a creative nonfiction piece she's writing about her ancestors. I found it quite interesting.

We YOU Did It! Annual Appeal Over \$64,000!!!

We ended up collecting over \$64,000 in the 2025 Annual Appeal. We are so grateful to all who donated!! We had a record number of donors this year with 168 folks participating. With this help we'll be able to continue to provide resources and assistance to those who want to find out

just keep that in mind. Here's a link to the [full post](#).

more about their ancestors and learn about their past.

QUICK! Free Newspaper Access at FindMyPast for One Week!

Thanks to Gail Dever for pointing this out. FindMyPast is offering free access to their newspaper database to celebrate the upload of their 100-millionth page! Access is free until **February 16th**. Explore the offer at www.findmypast.com.

Thanks for giving so generously to our 2025 Annual Appeal!

The Godfrey Library is a non-profit 501(c)(3) library. We greatly appreciate donations from the public.

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