

ITS TRIENNIAL TIME AGAIN!

Fall Triennial Weekend to Feature Cromwell, Wethersfield, Farmington, and Lecture on Interactions of Settler and Wangunk peoples

By Marge Piersen, Reg Bacon, Warren Savage

This fall's October 17-19 gathering will be our society's 10th in-person meeting. Each triennial weekend has had a unique emphasis with some familiar repetition. We encourage all members to consider coming to Middletown to reconnect with friends, make new ones, and learn about the area in which some of your ancestors lived. For those arriving Wednesday afternoon, there will be an informal kickoff dinner at 6 PM that evening.

Everyone interested in this area's history is welcome to attend, especially your family members, relatives, and friends. Do you know any prospective members who would enjoy coming? Please register early to assist us in our planning, although we can accommodate last-minute registrations. Note that to receive our group rate at the Residence Inn Hartford-Rocky Hill you must make your reservation by September 6, 2024.

Here is a summary of the activities planned.

Middletown Main Street

Following tradition, our first activity will be to visit Riverside Cemetery near Middletown's Main Street, where many of our ancestors were buried. Sadly, when the railroad came through next to the river, it displaced a number of these burials.

A visit to the Middlesex Historical Society will give us a special opportunity to peruse documents pertaining to many of Middletown's early settlers. First-time attendees can become acquainted with the Godfrey Memorial Library during a break before we convene the family cluster

gatherings. These gatherings will start at the library and continue over lunch at a Main Street restaurant of the group's choosing.

There will be plenty of time for us to become better acquainted as we share dinners together Wednesday through Saturday. We always look forward to dining at the Saybrook Fish House. This year's farewell dinner will be held Saturday evening at Casa Mia on the Green, an Italian restaurant in Rocky Hill.

Architectural Walking Tour of Early Cromwell

Learn about early Connecticut domestic architecture on this walking tour of the earliest settlement of Middletown's "Upper Houses," now the town of Cromwell, Conn. Although the earthenfast homes of the earliest 1650s settlers are long gone, a cluster of houses built between 1720 and 1800 --- and lived in by early Middletown families --- is concentrated within an easily walkable area near the Connecticut River. These houses exhibit not only the characteristics of colonial-era Connecticut architecture, but also the evidence of adaptation and survival through more than two centuries. Your guide is Reg Bacon, a museum/history professional, author, and presenter with specialties in early New England architecture and domestic life.

Cromwell Historical Society Museum

We will visit the historic Stevens-Frisbee house which serves also as the home of the Cromwell Historical Society and a museum of various artifacts from the

Cromwell area. Cromwell was originally part of Middletown with many First Settlers having land there. Before 1851 when Cromwell incorporated as its own town, it was also known as Middletown Upper Houses and as "The Northern Society."

Alternative: Cromwell Old Burying Grounds

For those less interested in the Cromwell Museum, attendees may tour this old cemetery with the remains of many First Settler descendants.

Keynote Presentation

"The Indigenous Wangunks and Middletown's 'First Settlers,'" presented by Timothy Ives, Ph.D. In the late 19th century, New England's local historians commonly erased indigenous peoples from the historical narrative. Fortunately for people of today interested in the early history of Middletown, there is historical archaeologist and ethnohistorian Timothy Ives, who has devoted more than two decades to the study and analysis of Wangunk and settler relations in the 17th and 18th centuries. Timothy 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).

Stanley-Whitman Historic House Tour in Farmington

Tour of a classic salt-box style home built in the 1720s. According to their website, "The Post Medieval-style house is a rare surviving example of early New England architecture, reminiscent of houses the early Colonists had known in England."

Wethersfield Visit

Wethersfield claims to have been the first European settlement in CT. It was founded as a town in 1634, whereas Windsor at that time was just a trader's outpost. We will visit the 17th-century Cove Warehouse, the center of the community's maritime trade which continued until 1830. We will also venture through the cemetery, again with a local mentor.

For registration and schedule, see pages 14-15.

Settlement Dates

1st European explorer in Hartford area	1633
Windsor (trading post)	1633
Wethersfield	1634
Hartford	1635
Springfield, MA	1636
Farmington	1640
Middletown	1650
Haddam	1668
Cromwell (becomes independent from Middletown)	1851

TRIENNIAL SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Wednesday, October 16: For Early Arrivals

- 3:00pm – 6:00 pm Greeting & Registration (hotel lobby)
Sign up for carpools & dinner reservations
- 6:30pm Gather in hotel lobby to car pool for dinner
- 7:00pm Kick-off Dinner

Thursday, October 17: Middletown, Cromwell

- 8:00am Sign up for carpools & dinner reservations
- 8:30am Carpool to Riverside Cemetery at one end of Main Street, Middletown
- 9:00am Riverside Cemetery
- 10:00am Middlesex County Historical Society – exhibit & research, 151 Main Street Middletown
Admission: Adults - \$5.00, Seniors - \$2.00
- 12:15pm - 1:30pm Lunch - with cousins and friends; Main Street has various restaurants within walking distance of MCHS
- 1:45pm Car pool leaves from front of Middlesex County Historical Society to Cromwell Landing Park, 78 River Rd, Cromwell, CT
- 2:00pm - 3:30pm Architectural Walking Tour of early Cromwell homes
- 3:30pm - 5:00pm Tour of Cromwell Museum at Stevens-Frisbie House, 395 Main St (Route 99), Cromwell, CT
Option: Old Burying Grounds (Corner of Ranney Road and Timber Hill Road, Cromwell, CT)
- 6:00pm - 9:30pm Dinner - Saybrook Fish House, 2165 Silas Deane Hwy Rocky Hill

Friday, October 18: Middletown

- 8:30am Gather in lobby to carpool to Godfrey Memorial Library, 1343 Newfield Street (Route 3), Middletown
- 9:00am SMFSD Business Meeting and research
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm Lunch on your own with cousins and friends
- 2:00pm - 3:30pm Lecture and Q&A with Timothy Ives, PhD; DeKoven House, 27 Washington St., Middletown
- 6:00pm - 9:00pm Dinner - To be determined

Saturday, October 19: Farmington and Wethersfield

- 8:30am Gather in lobby to carpool to Farmington
- 10:30am Stanley-Whitman House, 37 High St., Farmington
- 11:30 - 1:15pm Lunch and travel (30 minutes) to Wethersfield
- 1:30pm - 3:45pm Tour of Cove Warehouse (maritime history), 533 Main St, Wethersfield, CT
Tour of Wethersfield Ancient Burying Grounds
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm Farewell dinner. Casa Mia on the Green, 600 Cold Spring Road, Rocky Hill, CT



Founders Rock at Riverside Cemetery



Architectural Walking Tour



Cromwell Historical Society



Lecture at DeKoven House



Stanley-Whitman House



Cove Warehouse

SMFSD TRIENNIAL MEETING OCTOBER 17-19, 2024

JOIN US FOR THREE DAYS OF EVENTS AND RESEARCH

The 2024 meeting of the Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants presents an opportunity to gather with Middletown cousins, genealogists, and local history enthusiasts in our ancestral home town. Complete the registration form below, return it with your check, and then join us for a genealogically-rich program of research, stimulation, and fun. We have a full itinerary of events planned.

Please complete and mail this registration form with your check before September 13, 2024. You may print this page from the Middler PDF located in the Middler folder on Google Drive. A one-page registration form (PDF) will also be emailed to members.

HELP US WITH PLANNING PLEASE CHECK THE EVENTS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND

Wednesday, October 16

- Dinner
 Can drive carpool?

We need carpool drivers!

Some of our attendees may not be comfortable with driving and might benefit from a ride with other members. If you would be willing to drive, please indicate this on your registration form here. Thank you!

Thursday, October 17

Middletown

- Riverside Cemetery
 Middlesex Cty. Hist. Soc.
 Lunch

Cromwell

- Architectural Walking Tour
 Stevens-Frisbie House
 Old Burying Grounds
 Dinner (Saybrook Fish Hse.)
 Can drive carpool?

Friday, October 18

Middletown

- Godfrey Mtg/research
 Lunch
 Keynote Presentation
 Dinner (TBD)
 Can drive carpool?

Saturday, October 19

Farmington and Wethersfield

- Stanley-Whitman House
 Tour of Cove Warehouse
 Wethersfield Cemetery
 Dinner (Casa Mia)
 Can drive carpool

List Your First Settler(s) ancestors below:

LODGING INFORMATION

Residence Inn by Marriott Hartford Rocky Hill

680 Cromwell Avenue
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
Phone: (860) 257-7500

Make reservations by calling the above number and ask for our negotiated rate (Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants), or by clicking this [link](#). **LAST DAY TO BOOK AT THIS RATE: 9/6/2024**

Studio Suite \$169/per night, Wednesday - Saturday
1 bedroom Suite \$179/per night, Wednesday - Saturday

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zipcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Date Arriving: _____

Date departing: _____

Triennial Registration* # _____ @ \$50 = \$ _____

The SMFSD registration fee includes all of the events and tours described in this article, plus more, for only \$50 per attendee, an outstanding value.

* Registration does not include lodging or other meals, please make lodging reservations for your party using the information above.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make check payable to:

The Society of Middletown First Settlers Descendants

And mail this form (or facsimile) and check to:

Mike Campbell, SMFSD Treasurer
3570 Willow St., Bonita, CA 91902