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Steven Kovach

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The Beginning of Middletown's Transition into a Factory Town: The Year 1900

"The city is in a much better condition than it was a year ago and all should rejoice. By united efforts of all citizens the city can enter upon a new century a year hence far in advance of its present prosperous condition."

Middletown in the year 1900 differed from what is seen today and what was seen in the year 1800. Originally, the city contained within its limits, Chatham, Middlefield, Cromwell, Portland, and a portion of Berlin.² By 1900, those four towns had separated from Middletown to form their own municipalities. Middletown in 1900 was, and today still is, forty-two square miles. 3 The year 1900 marks a milestone in Middletown's history as its 250th anniversary as a municipality. In 1800, Middletown was largely agricultural, but by the end of the century the city switched over to an industrial seaport. By the end of the 20th century, Middletown was yet again transformed, this time into a commercial economy centered around the restaurants on Main Street and the shopping centers on Washington St., South Main St., and past Main Street Extension. In a way, Middletown around 1900 was a combination of an agricultural, industrial and commercial town. The city was in its transition period at the end of the nineteenth century. With major development in 1900 all around the city of Middletown, change was on the horizon. Nineteen hundred was a pivotal year in Middletown's History when many changes occurred that produced a factory based economy and society that soon developed in the years to follow.

250th Anniversary

The planning and implementation of the events to celebrate the 250th Anniversary began fifteen months before the events took place on October 10th and 11th, in a two day extravaganza. 4 *The Middletown Tribune* wrote the events of the anniversary were first brought up by a group in town known as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and it is their work that gave birth to the celebration. 5 The Wadsworth chapter of DAR was founded in the early 1890's and one of their missions as a society was, and still is, to collect and diffuse knowledge so that people may perform their duties as American citizens, foster true patriotism and more. 6 The local chapter of the DAR followed their objectives and helped create the 250th Anniversary event.

The people of Middletown were proud of the city they lived in, its past, and the future they saw for it. Residents of the town went all out to decorate Middletown, something you would not see in the city today. Samuel Russell's house was decorated with the national colors and the seal of the state of Connecticut. Proad Street was lined with star and stripes, with many other residents on multiple streets displaying decoration and patriotism.

Local papers such as *The Middletown Tribune* and *The Penny Press* ran stories and articles on the two day events and addresses. Some articles such, as "1650 - Middletown Past and Present – 1900" from *The Middletown Tribune*, trace a brief history of Middletown. The events largely included a parade, bands, speeches, a dedication and fireworks, which were plentiful and lasted about one hour. The parade, about five miles long (more than five times the length of Main St. today), during the second day attracted the largest group of people Middletown had seen up to that point.9

There were two key aspects that showed the importance of the 250th

Anniversary. The first was a dedication placed on the memorial boulder that sits at Middletown's oldest burial ground, Riverside Cemetery. The dedication was to the thirteen Native Americans who granted the land to become Middletown and the first twenty-three English settlers who lived on the land. The people of Middletown in 1900 were thanking the people responsible for the town's development into what it became.

Another important piece of the events was the Anniversary Hymn, which is a song tracking the development of Middletown from its hard agricultural beginning, "Which the hardy pioneers... Harvested with blood and tears," to the year 1900, a "River town of spreading trees, Peaceful, after early strife, Prospered by the centuries." There is a clear vision from the people of this time that they truly cared about their city's roots and even more, how it was developed into the prosperous city in which they lived.

The 250th Anniversary was not just a celebration. It could be seen as a way to enhance the short term economy of the city. One reason is that the two-day celebration brought people from all over, who in turn would spend money at local shops giving a boost to sales. Also, businesses were heavily advertising deals in the papers. One company, F. B. Fountain, ran an ad promoting the sale of cameras that read, "A good thing for you is to buy your stock of photographic materials, plates, films, etc., for your snapshots of the 250th Anniversary celebration next week. If you do not own a Camera, now is the time to purchase, and get in line." The 250th Anniversary was not only used to remember the history of the city, but a way for businesses to gain profits. The 250th year of the existence of Middletown is a turning point, in that there were many new developments in the city, like a new water source.

Higby Mountain Reservoir

Just before the year 1900, Middletown created a new reservoir in order to deal with the increased demand for water within the city. It came just in time, because the turn of the century saw a water famine in many cities around the state of Connecticut. ¹³ One such town, South Norwalk, on January 8, 1900 reported to only have four weeks of water left of its total 500,000,000 capacity in Wilton Lake. ¹⁴ Mystic saw the same problem and the drought hit them hard. ¹⁵ Mystic's leaders were concerned that if they did not received any rain, the manufacturing businesses would be cut off from water; this would be a disaster for any local economy, one that could have been a possibility in Middletown. ¹⁶

Middletown did not suffer like other towns, even though the estimated water consumption per day was 1,250,000 gallons.¹⁷ In fact, in February of 1900 Mount Higby Reservoir, which is full at a depth of twenty-six feet four inches, overflowed by five inches.¹⁸ *The Middletown Tribune* on January 8, 1900 wrote, "Had it not been for this reservoir, we should have been drinking river water weeks ago." This was a correct prediction, because by November the drought was still plaguing Connecticut and the reservoir's water level dropped to seventeen feet. Surely Middletown would have been in a water crisis had it not been for the Mount Higby Reservoir. Middletown was growing in many ways via population and industry, mostly factories. The new reservoir insured a constant water supply that provided for the increased demand of water the city began to face in 1900 and the years that followed.

While the city's reservoir was filled and supplied the city with a constant flow of water, there was one issue, *Uroglena Volvox*. Residents who lived near and used the water from the reservoir complained of an odor emanating from it. ²⁰ A Wesleyan Professor, H. W. Conn examined the reservoir and determined the odor to be *Volvox*,

which is not harmful to humans.²¹ While residents were concerned, they did not need to worry for Professor Conn assured them *Volvox* is a type of green algae, which is simply a plant. Another concern for the city was the land and home of Thomas English, who resided near the reservoir. The city claimed, "The cultivation of the land was a detriment to the quality of the water," and so, condemnation proceedings began in late November, in order for the city to acquire the land.²² The city believed that the fertilizer used on his land would run off into reservoir, polluting the city's water. If the city did nothing about the pollution it would have had greater problems. The Higby Mountain Reservoir was not the only body of water in Middletown to experience problems, so were the rivers.

Middletown Rivers

In 1900, the three rivers in Middletown were known as the Little River, the West River, and Summer's Creek, but today they are the Mattabesset, Coginchaug, and Summer's Creek in that order.²³ Middletown has and likely will always experience flooding of the rivers that run around and through the city. The Connecticut River floods first, feeding the three offshoot rivers that flow through Middletown. Each year the flooding varies, but in 1900 the flood levels were typical, with the exception that there were two substantial floods that year instead of the usual one. The first came in mid February as a result of heavy rain making the river assume freshet proportions.²⁴ (Freshet meaning a flood or overflowing of a river caused by heavy rains or melted snow.)²⁵ In a matter of one day business downtown was interrupted and multiple streets became impassable. Water Street, being parallel with and so close to the river, was the first to flood. The freight yard and tracks were under enough water that trains were not able to deliver to the freight depot that sat at the end of Washington Street.²⁶ Older facilities were used instead, which were most likely inefficient and problematic to have

to move operations. Flooding created an issue for those working and living near the river, costing business lost profit and workers lost wages. Good news for business was the freshet soon went down and business returned to normal. This all reoccurred again in mid April, when the freight depot was forced to stop operation again.²⁷ The Portland Silk Company had to halt work on the addition to their plant, and the West River rose and surrounded the Arawana Mills.²⁸

One problem with the Mattabessett River is that sewage was being dumped into it from New Britain, and that sewage would have flowed into the Connecticut River.²⁹ This would not have affected most of the land of Middletown in a big way, except for the river would have smelled bad and the surrounding land around the river would have become polluted. Since the river only borders a small portion of Middletown, only a small portion of land would have become polluted by the New Britain Sewage.

There was however, something in the works in 1900 that would have greatly impacted the river and Middletown. In 1899 dredging took place to remove shoals in the river, and more money was asked, by the city, to be appropriated to do more dredging in 1902.30 Improving the river made ships' access to the city easy and efficient, and it allowed for larger ships to make their way to Middletown's port. Over the year 1900 about 1,400 vessels with a total of 700,000 tons of goods sailed up and down the river.31 This investment impacted Middletown and the surrounding areas' economy and assisted Middletown's continuation as a port, at least for the time being. With an increase since 1898, a total of 35,000 tons of extra goods were being shipped to and from Middletown. Jobs down at the docks most likely saw a boost, as well as jobs that used and manufactured goods being shipped, making for an overall better economy of

Middletown.³² In order to fill these jobs there needed to be an increase in population and Middletown at the time was certainly gaining more residents by the day.

Population

When looking at Middletown's census record for 1900, the town is divided into two categories. One is Middletown City, which represents the downtown area of Middletown. Then there is Middletown, which represents all of Middletown including Middletown City. One problem with the census is that most statistics of the town are based only on the Middletown City section, so they are not truly representative of the whole city. In 1900, Middletown had a total of 17,486 residents, 9,589 of whom lived in Middletown City.33 That was an increase of about fifteen percent, 2,281 people in Middletown and 576 people in Middletown City, from 1890. An article in *The Penny* Press reported the disappointment (most likely the cities) that the population of Middletown City was not expected to see major gains in growth. Some of the reasons for this were that access to jobs in the city from the town were made easier with more trolley lines and rent in the suburbs decreased.³⁴ Along with Middletown's increase in population came a steady increase in mercantile and industrial lines, which may have been helped by investment in dredging the Connecticut River and the construction of the new toll bridge.³⁵ Not only this, but the development of infrastructure such as roads and sewers, later discussed in the paper, were most likely essential in creating major gains in population back in 1900.

In 1800, Middletown had a population of 4,971 people, in 1890, 15,205 and in 1900, 17,486³⁶. It took ninety years to increase the population by 10,234 people, and then another 10 years to increase it by 2,281. Middletown was hitting a point in which population was increasing each year more and more. One interesting thing about

Middletown's population in 1900, is that in every statistical category, there were more females then males. The same was shown in the 1890 census and even the 1800 census.

At the turn of the century Middletown's birth to death ratio was in question. By the end of March 1900 there had only been thirty deaths town wide.³⁷ However, on June 2, an article in *The Penny Press* read, "High Death Rate." The number of deaths for the month of May was thirty-nine people, more than the number that had died in the first three months of the year.³⁸ It is possible there was a sickness going around town or just more deaths of natural causes. Either way it is astonishing, because it seems that deaths would be more frequent in the cold winter months when many people get sick. June had a low death rate, but for July, August, and September the death rate increased yet again, leaving worry that the amount of deaths would overcome the amount of births.³⁹ Luckily for Middletown, by the end of the year births had exceeded deaths, producing gains in population for the year. The number of births in Middletown for 1900 was approximately 280 people.⁴⁰ The deaths in town were 481; however, 166 of them were from the Asylum for the Insane, which is not a part of Middletown's population (Census records separate the residents of the Asylum for the Insane from Middletown), making the deaths in Middletown a total of 265.41 It may only have been a net gain of fifteen, but for a year where half of the months had higher than average death rates, it was unexpected. Also both the number of births and deaths for the year 1900 were down from a year before. In 1899 there were 396 births and 348 deaths, creating a net gain of forty-eight people.⁴² Seemingly, the population for Middletown in 1900 was not as strong as years past, however, that would have changed if the city saw growth in people immigrating to the town.

Immigration

Immigration is the reason so many municipalities across the nation were able to thrive and expand rapidly. Immigration is what this country was built on, and today immigration is still a relevant factor in its history. Middletown was no exception. By examining the census of 1890 and 1900, one can determine a rough number of immigrants who settled in Middletown during those ten years. In 1890, the numbers of foreign-born people in Middletown City was 2,022, and in 1900 there were 2,306.43 In ten years Middletown City's foreign population increased by 284 people. This, however, is a just rough estimate. It only accounts for those in Middletown City, not the outlying town limits, and it does not account for immigrants who moved in and out of the city during those ten years. This means the number of immigrants that moved into the city would have been higher. Mayor Burr, Middletown's mayor in 1900, in his annual report said, the city did not experience much immigration but he expected it to increase as the new century continued.44

During 1900, Middletown did see immigration into the city, though it was not an extraordinary amount. On February 17, 1900 forty to fifty women from Italy arrived in Union station where they were awaited by their husbands, family, or friends.⁴⁵ All of these women joined their husbands, family, or friends, whom already lived in Middletown. Many men would come to the country first to save up money to be able to bring the rest of their family over. Many of those men looked for employment at the Benvenue Granite quarry and their families intended to live in Maromas.⁴⁶ Maromas is a section of Middletown in the south eastern section of the city near where Middlesex Community College is today. If these immigrants stayed in Maromas for ten years, then the 1910 census would not record them in statistics because they did not live in Middletown City.

Italians were not the only immigrants to settle in Middletown during the year 1900. Many Polish and Russians were moving to Middletown, a big portion of who were Jews.⁴⁷ Many had originally settled in Portland across the river, however, Middletown's economy was growing and Jews among others took notice. By 1905, eighty Jewish families had established Middletown as their home and contributed to the development of the city.⁴⁸

Nineteen hundred was a year in which Republicans across the country were calling for immigration restriction. Their platform was, "In the further interest of American workmen we favor a more effective restriction of the immigration of cheap labor from foreign lands, the extension of opportunities of education for working children, the raising of the age limit for child labor, the protection of free labor against contract, convict labor, and an effective system of labor insurance."⁴⁹ This, of course, was not law in 1900, so it was not enforced until many years later, however, it would have been in the minds of people, including citizens who felt they were losing out to immigrants. This may have begun to change as it seemed that groups in Middletown wanted to educate immigrants and assimilate them into the American culture.

Education

During 1900, Italian residents were beginning discussion to create an educational organization to help and assist immigrant Italians. The organization would try to secure a school to use at night in which to instruct Italians who were already citizens, but who could not read or write the English language.⁵⁰ In an age when immigration into the United States was substantial, having such an organization would have been essential for assimilation. Teaching immigrants to read and write was important for their development but, also for the development of the country, in this

case the town of Middletown. One of the group's main reasons for doing this was also so that Italians would be able to vote.⁵¹ It is quite possibly the beginning steps of the rise of Italians in Middletown.

In 1900, Middletown had five different schools in the Middletown City School District. There was West Primary, South School, Johnson School, Central School, and the High School.⁵² The High School was the newest edition to the city's educational system, being built in 1896; it was the first school in Middletown exclusively devoted for High School students.⁵³ Education was something the town seemed to take seriously given the amount of effort put into generating the annual reports on education. In October of 1900, there were a total of 2,932 children between the ages of four and sixteen in the district, with 1,306 of them enrolled in the school system.⁵⁴ This difference was possibly the result of some kids working. Many of whom would in the years to come find jobs in factories. The average attendance rate for the year was 94.6 percent, which is a relatively high number indicating that students who were enrolled in school were expected to go, and they did.55 However, the number of the graduating class in 1901 was only forty-eight students.⁵⁶ Given the amount of children who were enrolled, the graduation rate seems low, however typical for the time, and indicates some student were not graduating from school, and some probably dropped out, and possibly went to work in factories. These were certainly not the kids who would eventually grow up and join city government.

Local 1900 Elections and Politics

Unlike the elections today which happen in November, in 1900 the citizens of Middletown elected their mayor, aldermen, councilmen, assessor, and collector in January. Today it seems strange, but it makes sense, a new year a new city

government/direction. Middletown's elections at the time were divided into two districts; the first voted at city hall and the second at Hose hall No.2.⁵⁷ Not only that but elections did not open at 6a.m. and close at 8p.m. like today. In 1900, the election began at 9a.m. and ended at 2p.m.⁵⁸ It is not mentioned in the local papers, but it seems as if this would have created problems for labors who worked all day and would not have made it to the polls.

In the election of 1898, Henry E. Weeks ran on the Republican ticket for the first time and beat his Democratic challenger, 854 votes to 641.59 Only one Democrat was elected that year, William B. Senglaub, and he won the office of the Collector, which was astonishing because the town seemingly voted only Republican. 60 The 1900 election, however, had different and unexpected results. Mayor Weeks ran for mayor again and his Democratic challenger was Fred P. Burr. In two years something happened to turn the political control of the city upside down. Fred P. Burr, the Democrat was elected mayor.⁶¹ In fact, in all the other offices except one council seat, Democrats were elected.⁶² Even more strange the next election in 1902 was a mix of Democrats and Republican officials. The mayor remained a Democrat, though not Burr, five of six Council positions went to the Republicans, each party won an Alderman seat, and the Democrats retained the Assessor and Collector's seat.⁶³ The question becomes, what happened in Middletown politics that can explain why the 1900 election was a complete turnaround? It is also important to know that in 1900 five new Democrats were elected to the council, they did not gain control over it. The Council was a body of sixteen members, and with the election there were a total of seven Democrats and nine Republicans.64

On the night of January 15, 1900, both parties were awaiting the results. The Republicans claimed, "The Republican ticket was elected though with the exception of the collector of taxes." The last part was true in that for all three elections William B. Senglaub, a Democrat, won the Collector's office. They lost all but one seat in what seems to be a mystery. One claim made by several articles is that large numbers of Republicans never made it to the polls. Many Republicans came from the second district, which was considered to be a Republican stronghold. One reason for the gains by Democrats is fewer Republicans voted, however, that cannot be the only reason. There are most certainly other reasons as to why, but it is not clear as to what. Highly unlikely, but there may have been an issue over the police department, that may have swayed the 1900 election, which happened in Middletown's 2011 election.

Police

According to the report from the Committee on Police, Middletown's Police for the year 1900 executed their job to the fullest, and in particular were able to maintain calm during the two day, 250th Anniversary celebration.⁷⁰ A new policy was being used at the turn of the century; police officers were expected to patrol the city every hour of the day, unlike in the past.⁷¹ The department was also able to remain under budget by \$110.18, which today is something not heard of too often.⁷² Over the year there was a total of 443 arrests made with the biggest offence, intoxication, with 253 cases.⁷³ Other crimes committed that people do not hear of too often were, incest, violation of bicycle laws, not sending a child to school, street walker, obtaining goods under false pretences and many more.⁷⁴

Any person put on trial and convicted in Middletown's Court in the year 1900 was sent to jail in Haddam, Connecticut. Over the course of one year, 148 people of

Middletown were released from jail, many of whom had served a thirty or sixty-day sentence. Of those, eleven of them were women. What's most astonishing is the number of repeat offenders there were. Out of 148 people, ninety of them had been to the jail before. That is about sixty percent, which is a considerable amount seeing as the punishment of jail is a way to deter criminals from going back. All in all, there did not seem to be much concern over the amount of those who committed crimes of which they were later sentenced. A developed city needs a highly organized and efficient police department, but no city is complete unless it has a fully operational fire department.

Fire

The Fire Department started the year off with a new headquarters on Main Street, which still functions today. The men who served in Middletown's Fire Department back in 1900 were all volunteer, half of whom had been in the service for more than twelve years. The shows a lot of work and dedication to protect the city for as long as they did. It was certainly a big help that most were well trained to extinguish fires and save lives. There were a few major fires in Middletown that year. On May 24, a midnight fire took place at the Foster Bros. Factory on Maple Street, completely destroying the building. This not only affected the owners but also the workers who no longer had a job. Early September saw another major fire. The Penny Press wrote, "It was one of the most destructive of years." A seven tenant house owned by the National Enameling & Stamping Company was burnt to the ground leaving three families homeless. At one point one mother believed her baby had perished in the fire, however, the baby was later found have survived. A few things made fighting the fire impossible for the volunteers. The building was far from the fire house and a breeze fanned the flames. The biggest trouble, however, was a draught in the city leaving

reservoir levels low, enough to supply water to the people, but not enough to waste pumping into the fire.⁸¹

In 1900, there were twenty-nine fire incidents in Middletown, seven of which were in April, and no fires took place between the months of July and September. ⁸² Also four out of the twenty-nine fires were on the property owned by L.O. & E.S. Davis, three of which were caused by the chimney. ⁸³ While Middletown had a few fire incidents that cause substantial damage, all in all, the amount of major destruction was limited. When businesses and factories know a city is keeping them safe, they are reassured that setting up business and investing in the city's development will not go to waste and that their interests will be protected.

Development

Middletown started off the year affected by changes made the previous year in 1899. Multiple manufacturing businesses expanded their operations including the L.D. Brown & Son Co., the Goodyear Rubber Co., the Arawana Mills, and Wilcox & Crittenden Co..⁸⁴ One of the largest industries in town, Russell Manufacturing Co., also constructed an addition to their plant along with tenant housing.⁸⁵ This provided more jobs for the residents as well as boosting the city's overall economy. Just a few years before the turn of the century, the first non railroad toll bridge was built connecting the city of Middletown and Portland. The new bridge, which cost two cents to walk across and seven cents for a horse and buggy, was a great improvement for the city by making an easier connection to towns on the other side of the river.⁸⁶ Before that only option was the ferry, which took considerable more time. The newly constructed bridge offered a faster mode of transportation over the river, which paved the way for business growth within the city. However, by 1900 the bridge had to be re-planked. This was

controversial, because the planks orientation was switched to lengthwise to help bicyclists, but would possibly have been dangerous to horses as they could slip.⁸⁷

Going into the year, the United States was in a commercial expansion, which the Republican Party believed they brought on via laws and protective tariffs. Domestic and foreign trades were on the increase in 1900 and Middletown, being a prominent port city, was feeling the surplus.⁸⁸

In Middletown development was going strong. One way to show this is by the improvements made by business, people, and the city government. Companies like Roger & Hubbard Co., I.E. Palmer, and the Portland silk company expanding their operations. ⁸⁹ I.E Palmer in particular tripled its production capacity, and in turn tripled the workers employed. ⁹⁰ Middletown saw the construction and expansion of twelve stores, all of which were near downtown Middletown. Construction in town did not stop at factories or stores, but continued into private houses. ⁹¹ Twenty-eight housing construction permits were submitted to the common council for approval and all were approved. ⁹² The city of course was doing its part and making sure that expansion within the city happened. One way was by creating new roads and laying new sewers so homes and factories to be constructed. New sewer pipe was installed in Bridge St., Miller St., Spring St., Clinton St., and Kings Ave, allowing for construction of newer more efficient buildings for people to live in. ⁹³ Middletown was growing, not from one source, but from the many that put time, money, energy and effort into its prosperity.

Conclusion

Dr. William B. Casey, who gave the opening address during the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of Middletown said, "The town considered so pleasant to look upon that has increased largely in population and wonderfully in attractiveness;

business interests have grown to many times their dimensions then; instead of railroad facilities in only one direction we have them now in five; and our educational... institutions and interests have expanded and improved to a remarkable extent."94

Almost perfectly, Dr. Casey was able to capture the essence of Middletown in the year 1900. It was a place where all of American society could be seen in one city. It was a transitional time that distinctly separated Middletown's agricultural and industrial past. The city had put in place development that assured continued growth for years to come after 1900, mostly to promote the expansion and creation of factories. Assisting the future growth into a factory town was the Higby Mountain Reservoir, the new toll bridge, the increased population, both foreign and domestic, the number of children available for work at a young age, the new fire department, the construction of infrastructure such as road and sewers, and mostly likely other reasons that are not discussed here. Middletown was originally an agricultural based economy and society, but by 1900 it was transitioning into a factory town where many skilled, semi-skilled, and unskilled workers were needed to fill the available jobs.

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² "1650 - Middletown Past and Present – 1900," *Middletown Tribune*, October 9, 1900, p. 1.

³ "Welcome to Middletown", http://www.cityofmiddletown.com/, April 29, 2012.

^{4 &}quot;Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary," Middletown Tribune, October 10, 1900, p. 1.

⁵ Ibid, p. 1, 3.

⁶ Wadsworth Chapter: Daughters of the American Revolution. Middletown, CT: J.S. Stewart, Printer and Bookbinder, 1897, p. 7.

⁷ "The Decorations," *Middletown Tribune*, October 12, 1900, p. 4.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ *1650-1900 Mattabeseck. Middletown. A Description of the Exercises Connected with the Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary*, The Tribune Company; The source is a newspaper article that is glued to the inside cover of the book which can be found at the Middlesex Historical Society.

¹⁰ Middlesex Historical Society, http://www.middlesexhistory.org/middletown/, April 29, 2012.

¹¹ "Anniversary Hymn," Penny Press, October 11, 1900, p. 3.

¹² "F. B. Fountain," *Penny Press*, Ad, October 11, 1900, p. 5.

^{13 &}quot;Plenty of Water," Middletown Tribune, January 8, 1900, p. 4.

¹⁴ "Principal Reservoir Gives Out," Middletown Tribune, January 8, 1900, p. 6.

¹⁵ "The Dry Season," Penny Press, September 11, 1900, p. 2.

¹⁶ Ibid.

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<sup>18</sup> "To Day's Rain," Penny Press, February 13, 1900, p. 2.
19 "Plenty of Water," Ibid.
<sup>20</sup> "Higby Mountain Water," Penny Press, November 19, 1900, p. 2.
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<sup>22</sup> "Condemnation Proceedings," Penny Press, November 26, 1900, p. 5.
<sup>23</sup> "Map of the City of Middletown. 1900," The Price and Lee Co.
<sup>24</sup> "Eight Feet Rise," Penny Press, February 14, 1900, p. 5.
<sup>25</sup> Oxford English Dictionary,
http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/74540?rskey=AW208g&result=2#eid3704613, April 29, 2012.
<sup>26</sup> "Business Interrupted," Penny Press, February 15, 1900, p. 5.
<sup>27</sup> "Freshet Rising Fast," Penny Press, April 20, 1900, p. 2; "Freshet in River," Penny Press, April 21, 1900,
<sup>28</sup> Freshet in River," Ibid.
<sup>29</sup> "Several Sewage Suits," Penny Press, April 20th, 1900, p. 7.
30 "River Improvement," Penny Press, November 1, 1900, p. 4; River Improvement," Middletown
Tribune, October 30, 1900, p. 4.
<sup>31</sup> "River Improvement," Middletown Tribune, Ibid.
33 1900 Census, "Minor Civil Divisions," Table 5; "Middletown's Population," Penny Press, October 12,
1900, p. 2.
34 "The City's Population," Penny Press, July 16, 1900, p. 2.
<sup>36</sup> 1800 Census, "Connecticut," p. 19; 1890 Census, "Minor Civil Divisions," Table 5; 1900 Census, Ibid.
<sup>37</sup> "Middletown's Death Rate," Penny Press, March 28, 1900, p. 2.
38 "High Death Rate," Penny Press, June 2, 1900, p. 2
39 "Low Death Rate in June," Penny Press, July 16, 1900, p.2; "High Death Rate for July," Ibid, August 3,
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