The Lower "Washington Street Community:

An Unfinished Portrait

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Social History of Middletown
Mr. Peter Hall
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The data which comprises social history is at times like the pieces of a poorly-constructed jigsaw puzzle; no matter how the materials are arranged, the final picture just doesn't fit together. Specifically, my own puzzle in social history was divided into two parts:

1. Select a particular block of houses from the 1825 Barnum map of Middletown, Connecticut, and determine who lived in those houses at the time the map was composed.

2. Draw some conclusions about the character of that neighborhood, based on the information I could pull about its members.

For my study, I chose the small block of buildings on lower Washington Street (between Main Street and the River) and the buildings on Lumber and Water Streets adjacent to this block.

The following pages will not provide a conclusive description of that neighborhood. If anything, they will paint an unfinished portrait, chock-full of missing pieces and overlapping parts. My intention is to discuss not only my discoveries, but their gaps and limits as well, in the hope that a future social historian will pick up the pieces, continue the research, and produce a more comprehensive portrait of the Middletown Community.

Part I. Matching houses to owners: a glance at my method

Early in my research, I discovered that the unfinished nature of this community portrait seemed inherent in the task itself. Equipped with only limited resources to piece the map together, my results can only be, at best, approximations. Initially, there were two resources
at hand: the 1825 Barnum map and the Middletown Land Records, as well as two significant leads: the Henry de Koven and Hope Phillips Warner houses.

These two structures were a bridge between 1825 and 1980 Middletown; the de Koven house, built in the 1790's, is still standing today (across from the Trailways bus station) and the Warner house, built in 1781, was demolished only a few years ago. Both houses are included in a file of the Preservation Trust of Middletown in which the ownership of still-standing (or recently-standing) Colonial and Federalist period structures is traced all the way back to the builder. This tracing is called a title search.

By referring to the title searches of the two houses, I could merely look-up the owners of these two structures in 1825: Henry de Koven bought his house from its builder, Benjamin Williams, in 1818; David Allen bought the Warner house from a relative of Hope's in 1822. According to the title searches, ownership did not change until after 1825.

With these fruitful leads, I turned to the same documents used by the writers of these title searches: the Middletown Land Records. These records are indexed in a Grantor/Grantee General Index. Each particular land deed contains vital information: the grantor of the property, the grantee, the date of the transaction, the price paid for the property, and--particularly important--a description of the boundaries of the property. The sale of the Warner house to David Allen is recorded in the Fifty-first Volume of the Middletown Land Records on page 209. The date of sale was December 22nd, the price paid was $1700. The deed also states that the boundaries of the property are as follows: East and South by the Street, North by the heirs of Elisha Cotton, and West by the heirs of Asher Miller.

This western boundary serves as my next lead. The Grantor/Grantee General Index will refer me to the particular MLR (Middletown Land Record)
deeds in which Asher Miller bought or sold land on Washington Street.

The deed, located in Volume 45, page 19, tells me Miller sold his property to Isaac Bronson on September 14, 1813. This property is bounded westerly by the heirs of John Williams, my next lead. This process continues down the block.

However, the properties west of the Bronson residence provide examples of the complications inherent in this seemingly simple process.

Joseph Alsop seems to be the owner of the one-acre plot west of the Bronson house, which he received from John Williams son, Benjamin, in 1820 (MLR vol. 50, p. 104). According to the deed, the property also includes a barn.

Look-up the owners of these two structures in 1825: Henry de Koven bought the map corresponds to the description; west of the Bronson residence is a small structure situated away from the road.

The deed also states that the property west of this acre is also owned by Alsop. Here's where the complications begin. Referring back to the Land Records, I see that Richard Burnham sold Alsop one-quarter share of a piece of land on Washington Street, with buildings, in 1816.

(MLR 44/342) The location of this property seems to correspond to the Bronson lead; the Burnham deed states that the property borders on the east by Alsop's land.

Yet, how am I to find the owner(s) of the other three-quarters of this plot of land? I hoped that if Mr. Burnham were to sell one-quarter of his property to one person, he would eventually sell the other fraction to someone else. MLP deed 48/18 indicates that in 1817, Burnham sold another portion of this property to John Hinsdale. This "one-third of house and home lot lately owned by Ashbel and Hannah Burnham" passed through two additional owners, John Southmayd in 1817 (MLR 48/91) and Emily Soldin in 1819 (MLR 48/50) before falling into the hands of Mr. Alsop in late 1819 (MLR 47/415).
These tedious investigations now account for just over half of the total property; one-quarter was sold directly to Alsop by Burnham in 1816, another one-third sifted through several owners until Alsop's 1819 purchase. What of the other five-twelfths? Could Alsop and Burnham have shared ownership of this large building and surrounding property? Perhaps. But, for the time being, I awarded the whole plot to Alsop, hoping that someone would eventually re-work the material for a more convincing answer.

These somewhat sophomoric and arbitrary decisions seemed necessary if research was to continue. For, as soon as a grantor begins to divide up his property, finding all the grantees can become next to impossible. Certainly, the task is too time-consuming with such carefully budgeted time. Regardless of this budget, the complications cannot be avoided.

Just as the division of one piece of property into smaller parts compounds the social historian's work, the division of boundary lines into smaller parts adds to his confusion. Some deeds provide simple north south, east, and west boundaries. Just as often, though, a boundary is broken into pieces. For example, in 1817 the boundaries of the Middletown Woolen Factory are as follows (MLR 44/457):

North: partly by Washington Street, partly by land of Mrs. Gill, and partly by land of Mr. Jepson.

East: Partly by land of Mrs. Gill, partly by Stephen Crittenton

South: partly by Stephen Rainey, part by Samuel Cooper

West: Stephen Hosmer

In 1828, the same land is bounded as follows:

North: Washington Street, Samuel Southmayd, Stephen Shaddick

East: Samuel Southmayd, Stephen Shaddick, John and Daniel Hinsdale, Mary Denney

South: Mary Denney, Stephen Rainey, Margaret Bowers

West: Stephen Hosmer
These two deeds are a watershed of information. The tracing forward of Mrs. Gill's and Mr. Jepson's real estate on the north should, by 1828, fall into the hands of Samuel Southmayd and Stephen Shaddock. Indeed, Samuel Gill sells his Washington Street home and land to Sally Southmayd (Samuel's mother) in 1819 (MLR 47/299); Sarah Jepson sells her real estate to Stephen Shaddock also in 1819 (MLR 47/346). Accordingly, Stephen Crittendon on the eastern border sells his property to John and Daniel Hinsdale in 1824 (MLR 53/376).

The headache is created in the translation of these written boundaries on to the map itself. Clearly, the land is not divided into neatly squared-off sections. The map shows my rendition of the land division, as I could visualize it. Ultimately, I could not work the deeds and the map into complete agreement; while the northern and eastern boundaries seem adequate, the southern boundary remains unresolved. I never traced the Samuel Cooper deed of 1817 forward—another somewhat arbitrary, if not expedient; decision.

Part II: The personalities of lower Washington Street.

New spheres of historical research present the social historian with unforeseeable problems. For example, with no secondary resources to refer to, I could only learn this map-work skill by doing. And the more I did, the more I learned that I had not afforded myself adequate time to comprehensively complete this second part of the project; the investigation of the people owning the buildings in this community. Only by doing the map-work would I begin to understand the complications that slowed my work down. So, the following pages are only a broad overview of the people, based solely on information culled from land deeds and inventories of estates located in the Probate records. In some
cases, I can provide more information on the house than on the person who owned it in 1825.

§1: David Allen residence.

David Allen was a prosperous Middletown merchant, I believe of dry goods and lumber. He purchased this house from Joseph Varner, a relative of Hope's, in 1822 for $1700 and sold it twelve years later to John Russell. Allen probably re-purchased the house from Mr. Russell as the Washington Street residence appears in an 1869 inventory of Mr. Allen's estate. In 1869, Mr. Allen owned a considerable amount of real estate: the Clark house, two houses east of the Cooper shop, a house on the corner of South and Union Streets (see Appendix for complete inventory). Because he is listed as a taxpayer of the Sixth district in 1820, I surmise that he lived in one of these other residences during our period.

All the residences on the north side of Washington Street, the side on which his Washington Street home is located, are listed as taxpayers of the Middle School.

Mr. Allen died a wealthy man, with an estate of $25,754.19. Along with his houses and property, he owned a horse and wagon, numerous mortgage notes amounting to over $4,000, and $884.84 in cash. He willed one-third of his estate to his wife, Abby, and the remaining two-thirds to his five children. Sarah Southmayd, one of the children, lived in the house directly across the street.

§2: Isaac Bronson residence

Isaac Bronson was a resident of Greenfield Hill in Fairfield County. (MLR 60/223). He is not listed in the 1820 tax list and his will does not appear in the Probate records. He bought the house and the one-half acre of land surrounding it from Asher Miller in 1813 for $1,762 (MLR 45/19) and sold it to J.S. Johnston in 1831 (MLR 60/223) for $1300. I could not determine whether he himself resided in this home in 1825.
This acre of land, with barn, was purchased from Benjamin Williams, the heir of John Williams, in 1820 for $700. I presume that this property was annexed to the land and building immediately to the west bought by Alsop several years earlier.

As you may recall from my discussion beginning at the bottom of page three, the title search of this house proved to be a monumental task. As Alsop seems to have owned most of the house and surrounding lands by 1820, I presume that by 1825 he may have owned the whole thing. Alsop may have sold all the property in 1846 to Hannah Whittlesey (MLR 74/434) but, again, I cannot be sure. Although Alsop did sell Mrs. Whittlesey a plot of land and buildings on Washington Street in 1846, it is difficult to determine whether the property was situated here or further west on Washington Street.

Joseph Alsop, like his neighbor Mr. Allen, died a wealthy man. An inventory of his estate made in 1899 (Probate 44/590) came to $26,880. Close to $8,000 was invested in stocks of different kinds. Other assets were too complicated for me to figure out.(!)

Susannah Hall purchased this large lot of land from the Lawyer S.W. Dana in 1818 (MLR 48/343). Dana had purchased this plot only four years earlier from Asahel Johnson (MLR 45/335). Oddly, Dana paid $2,000 for the plot in 1814 and sold it to Susannah Hall for only $750 in 1818. Could his sale have excluded buildings? Now, then, does one account for the fact that Ms. Hall sold "a piece of land on the east side of Main Street with buildings" to Jonathan Barnes in 1819? Another rhetorical question.

I assumed that Ms. Hall did own the house on plot five. Her estate,
listed in 1826 (Probate 13/477, I think!), is valued at $7,718.85. Another set of inventories is cited in 1810. On May 25, 1810, Ms. Hall's assets came to $1047.87 and included $212 in cash and ten acres of land at $528.75 located on the road to Durham. On October 29, 1810, another inventory lists the items of her house, which include, among other items (see appendix for complete list) three feather beds, seventeen towels (1), eight chairs, two spinning wheels, one armchair, and two tables. She also lists numerous kitchen utensils. It seems as though Ms. Hall supported herself on the property she purchased, sold, and leased.

§6: Jonathan Barnes residence

Mr. Barnes purchased this house and property from Ms. Hall in 1819 for $1,000 (MLR 47/395). As of 1855 (through Land Record General Index §8), Mr. Barnes had not sold this Main Street property.

Mr. Barnes, a lawyer, left to his wife Ada a modest personal estate. An inventory of January 21, 1845 (Probate 17/91) totals $372.16: $97.16 in moveables and a $275 note from Daniel C. Taylor. This figure, however, does not include the real estate that he owned.

§7: Residence of Enoch Huntington

The small building at the corner of Washington and Main Streets, owned by the minister of the First Congregational Church, Mr. Enoch Huntington, was a store operated by Mr. Benjamin Williams. According to an agreement made between Huntington and Williams in 1826 (mr. 49/70):

"the said Williams may occupy the land on the East side of Main Street now covered by his store so long as rent is to be paid by said Williams for said land that shall be $50 per year." Included in the agreement is an additional $150 to be paid to Huntington the first month. Benjamin Williams, heir of the large estate of John Williams, sold a considerable amount of property on Washington Street to Joseph Alsop and to Elizabeth
Wetmore (MLR 50/235) on the western side of Main Street in 1820. According to an 1831 deed (MLR 60/232), *He/She* sold the "house and other buildings" plus the one acre plot of land to a Mr. D.A. Ward for $3,500. With this wording in mind, Huntington's plot may have included both the corner store and the house directly to the north of it which I had assigned to Mr. Barnes. Or, the 1825 map may have excluded the "other buildings" referred to in the deed. In either case, Barnes lived in either the house I assigned to him or the house directly north of it.

An inventory taken in 1826 (Probate 13/391) values Mr. Huntington's personal estate at $76.86. In addition to the bookcase, desks, drawers; bed, and curtains is an interesting array of books, mostly law related. (Further...
After selling his Washington/Main Street property, I have no idea where Mr. Huntington re-located.

# # Jacob Sebor residence

Jacob Sebor, another successful Middletown merchant, purchased this one and one-half acre corner plot of land from the Christ Church in 1825 (MLR 54/39) for $1,500. In 1826, he sold the same property to Henry de Koven for $3,000 (MLR 53/479). Perhaps he built the large house on that property during that year. de Koven sold the property back to Sebor in 1838 for $4,726 (MLR: 65/462). (Further...

But this is only half the story. de Koven purchased his home at the other end of the block (residence 112) from Benjamin Williams in 1818, but sold the house one year later to Jacob Sebor for $4,000 (MLR 48/506). In 1823, Sebor sold the house back to de Koven at the same price (MLR 51/273). During this time, Sebor purchased the lot at the corner of Main and Washington. Then, in 1838, the two seemed to have pulled the switch again: Sebor sold this Washington and Main property to de Koven; de Koven re-sold his house back to Sebor.

Both de Koven and Sebor's wife Elizabeth were the executors of
Sebor's will (Probate 17/410). The inventory of his estate, dated 1848 (Probate 17/482), is confusing. A March 20th inventory totaling $1,287.88 includes $700 in furniture, $50 in weaving apparel, specific debts due from Victori Birdsey and T.T. Davis. Tacked on to the sum is his "estate valued at $226." Then, a March 22nd entry totals this $226 with $13,063.73 cited as a Commissioner's Report, amounting to a final sum of $13,289.73. What of the $1,287.88 cited two days earlier? Whatever the exact figure, the merchant Sebor, like some of his neighbors, died wealthy.

9 Stephen Titus Hosmer residence

Stephen Titus Hosmer, another Middletown merchant, was perhaps the oldest resident of this small community on Washington Street. He bought the acre of land and large building in 1808 and lived there until his death in 1836 (Probate 15/470). The house itself was not sold out of the Hosmer family until 1850 (MLR 80/92). In 1834 inventory lists his estate as follows: $1,256.65 in moveable estate (consisting mostly of books) and $3,500 for his large Washington Street home, totalling $4,756.65. The house was sold in 1850 for $1,400, though valued fifteen years earlier for over twice that amount.

10: The Middletown Woolen Manufacturing Company

The Middletown Woolen Manufacturing Company was purchased by the Middletown Bank (through Arthur Magill) in 1817 (MLR 44/457) for $12,000. The plot included one and one-half acres of land and several buildings, one of them brick. Included in the deed is an inventory of the machinery, including: one steam engine, two picking machines, eleven spinning jennys, and twelve broad looms (see appendix).

11: Sarah Southmayd residence

Sarah Southmayd, daughter of David Allen and wife of Stephen Southmayd, purchased this house from Samuel Gill in 1819 (MLR 47/209). The
price she paid for the land and house is not included in the deed.

Similarly, there is no indication that the property was sold as late as 1855. Mrs. Southmayd died in 1843 (Probate 17/70) and probably gave the house to her son Samuel. An inventory lists the price of her Washington street home at $1,200. She also owned a brick store and out-building at the corner of Main and William Streets, valued at $2,000; fifteen shares of Capital Stock at the Middletown Bank at $1,312.50, and three and one-half acres of additional land at $24.50. Her entire estate totaled $4,737.00.

12: Henry de Koven residence

Henry de Koven, another Middletown merchant, also died leaving a sizeable estate. Although the execution of his will is not recorded until 1874 (Probate 27/573), an inventory of his estate in 1840 indicates that de Koven's fortune lay primarily in $20,000 of quarry stock. Along with his dwelling house on Washington Street valued at $3,500 (by 1840, this house is most likely the 1825 Sebor home), is listed $3,700 in Middletown Bank Stock and $1,563.75 of moveable property. His total estate came to $29,563.75. Oddly, the file on the de Koven house at the Preservation Trust does not mention the house swapping with Jacob Sebor between 1819 and 1838. (see §3 on the Sebor residence).

13: Stephen Shaddick residence

In the first half of the Nineteenth Century, the merchant Stephen Shaddick acquired much of the property on Lumber and Water Streets (Located between Elm and Washington streets). In 1815, Shaddick already owned one of the numerous wharves on the east side of Water Street; an 1815 deed (MLR 46/33) states that Shaddick purchased a wharf from Elisha Cotton "lying between the Shaddick Wharf and Nathaniel Shaler's Wharf on the South side." This block of property, purchased for $1,800, may be the same "steamboat wharf" Shaddick refers to in his 1859 inventory (see
In 1819, Shaddick purchased the Jepson house on Lumber Street from Sarah Jepson for $300 (MRL 47/346). In 1827, Shaddick sold what is probably the same house and property, plus the "store and land opposite (the Jepson house) and easterly theretofrom" to Joel Hall for $1,500 (MRL 56/171). In 1832, Shaddick re-purchased all this property (back) from Hall (MRL 59/363). Shaddick's 1859 inventory refers to this store opposite the Jepson house as "the Yellow Store." Between 1832 and 1859, Shaddick must have purchased or built the dwelling north of this store; the 1859 inventory states that the dwelling north of the yellow store belonged to him (see appendix). As of 1859, the large house to the north of this dwelling house, at the corner of Washington and Water streets, belonged to John H. Henshaw.

Shaddick's 1859 inventory also includes two houses on Ferry Street which were owned by his family during the 1825 period as the Isaac Bronson and Joseph Asop deeds both refer to the land north of them as belonging to William Shaddick. Finally the inventory includes the house to the south of the Jepson house, to be discussed in §14 below. As of 1859, all of Shaddick's real estate totaled $13,300. When added to his personal estate of $339.78, Shaddick's 1859 estate totaled $13,639.78.

§14: John and Daniel Hinsdale residence

In 1824, John and Daniel Hinsdale purchased this portion of Denny's Tan works from Stephen Crittenton (MRL 51/422). In 1830, this property was sold to Stephen Shaddick (MRL 57/277), through Daniel Burrows and I. Bacon, who held the property for the Hinsdale brothers in 1827 (MRL 54/329). Although the Hinsdale brothers owned a considerable amount of property during the 1825 period, no trace of either brother can be found in the probate records. The two Hinsdales are cited in the 1820 Census as a firm.
Their tax exceeded $800.  

§15: Stephen Rainey residence

Stephen Rainey, a shipbuilder, purchased his Elm Street house from J. William Dunham in 1820 for $57.30 (MLR 47/486). Yet, an 1837 inventory (Probate 15/563) values his Elm Street house at $1,600. According to this inventory, Rainey also owned a house on Cherry Street, valued at $800, four lots of land in the State of Ohio at $325, and §322.85 of movable property. His entire estate totaled §4,181.85.

The thirteen individuals comprising this small one-block community on lower Washington Street were, generally, a homogeneous group. The majority—Allen, Bronson, Alsop, Sebor, Hosmer, Shaddock, de Koven, and working for him—James Mix and other streetcars, became the Hinsdales—were merchants. Two of the exceptions—Enoch Huntington and Jonathan Barnes—were well-respected professionals of the Middletown Community. The two women, Sarah Southmayd and Susannah Hall, were also outside the merchant profession. Yet the fact that both of them owned other real estate suggests that neither women actually resided on Washington Street. Regardless of where they lived, their sizeable holdings indicate that they were also well-respected members of the community. The third exception, Stephen Rainey, though not a trader by profession, built the ships that kept his fellow merchants in business. He, too, must have been a valuable contributor to the community.

A close study of figures may reveal that even the wealth of this occupationally homogeneous community was spread fairly equally between particular members. The significant spread in the value of individual estates is misleading. The two highest estate figures, those of Enoch Huntington at $76,86 and Jonathan Barnes at $372.16 represent personal estates only; all other estates include both personal and real estate.
Those other estates seem to fall within two distinguishable financial brackets. Those of:

Stephen Rainey—$4,181.85
Susannah Hall—$7,718.85
Stephen Hosmer—$4,756.65
Sarah Southmayd—$4,537.00

which fall within a $4-7,000 range, and those of:

Joseph Alsop—$26,880.00
David Allen—$25,754.19
Jacob Sebor—$13,289.73
Henry de Koven—$29,563.75
Stephen Shaddick—$13,639.78

Which fall within a $13-29,000 range. In the first group, most assets lie within property holdings. In the second group, assets lie either in stocks or far more significant property holdings. Yet, I have reason to believe that in the year 1825, no such differentiation between the two groups existed. In other words, the great wealth holdings of the second five men were acquired after 1825.

For the 1820 Census reveals that these particular individuals residing in the North and Middle schools (those on the northern side of the street were in the north district) paid fairly equal taxes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tax</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enoch Huntington</td>
<td>$150.18</td>
<td>North district</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Barnes</td>
<td>$133.00</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Rainey</td>
<td>$64.20</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susannah Hall</td>
<td>$315.30</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Hosmer</td>
<td>$157.70</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Southmayd</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Alsop</td>
<td>$673.52</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Allen</td>
<td>$113.01</td>
<td>South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Sebor</td>
<td>$149.92</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry de Koven</td>
<td>$120.62</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Shaddick</td>
<td>$184.50</td>
<td>North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John and Daniel Hinsdale</td>
<td>$833.79</td>
<td>Middle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average of these taxes, $263.25, is slightly higher than that of the general population (three districts combined) AND higher than the merchant population of these three districts. However, when I exclude the Hinsdale and Alsop figures from this average (they are considerably
higher than the others), the figure drops to $134.27. This average falls between the average taxes of the general North ($123.60) and Middle ($164.90) districts; five of the people listed above are from the North district, five are from the Middle district.

In 1820, then, the residents of this small Washington Street community not only seem to a fairly equal share of taxes, but seem to pay about the average of North and Middle school districts as well. Only Joseph Alsop and the Hinsdiles are the exception. The others seem to amass their wealth gradually after 1820, like Stephen Shaddick’s gradual acquisition of the property by the water.

One must also take into consideration when viewing the estate inventories that the value of money varies over the years. If David Allen’s estate is valued at over $25,000 in 1869, what is its relative value in 1825? Certainly, the value of property seems to have fluctuated in the first half of the Nineteenth Century. The Allen residence, for example, was bought in 1822 for $1,700 and sold in 1850 for $6,000. Yet, the value sometimes drops: The Hosmer residence is valued in 1834 at $3,500 and is sold in 1850 for $1,400; the de Koven house is bought in 1818 for $4,000 and valued years later at $3,500. Is there a decline in property value toward the middle of the Century? I had no time to investigate the hypothesis.

Certainly, there are a slew of unanswered questions concerning the general character of this small community. The group does appear to be both occupationally and financially homogeneous. But what of the interaction between the members of this group? My limited research has indicated that these thirteen people do pop-up regularly in deeds and wills. For example, both Stephen Hosmer and Jonathan Barnes witnessed the signing of the will of their neighbor Jacob Sebor. Again, this may be merely co-
Incidental. With more information—resources such as diaries, letters, other private documents—speculations such as these may have a verifiable foundation. Obviously, reference to wills and inventories only exposes a small section of a very large picture, (And the information offered by these inventories alone may expose a larger portion of the picture than I could see. Hence, my inclusion of five inventories in the appendix that follows: hopefully, a more experienced historian can interpret this data in a more scholarly fashion.)

Perhaps a quick glance through a private journal or two may solve such basic questions as: Are there marriage alliances between any of these community households? Did those people who owned multiple residences actually live in this Washington Street community in 1825? What are the reasons behind the ostensibly rapid turnover of property ownership? Time prevented this historian from turning to these private documents, the next logical phase of that endless puzzle-solving called social history.

Now that a section of the groundwork has been laid, it's simply a matter for the next historian to pick up the pieces and continue.
A. Inventory of David Allen—March 19, 1869
B. Inventory of Susannah Hall—October 29, 1810
C. Inventory of Fnoch Huntington—April 14, 1826
D. Inventory of Middletown Woollen Manufacturing Co.—March 29, 1817
E. Inventory of Stephen Shaddock—December 2, 1859

Perhaps a quick look at the household composition and major sources
of labor/money will help determine why these community "households" split
between those who owned multiple residences, actually lived in this
Washington Street community in 1825, and those who experienced a rapid turnover of property ownership. Time prevented this historian from...
### Appendix A: Inventory of Mr. David Allen

**Middletown Probate Record Volume 24**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House on Washington Street</td>
<td>$6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House furniture—silverware and watch</td>
<td>$410</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark House and land on S. Street</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land with vacant lot near Cooper shop</td>
<td>$650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House East of Cooper Shop</td>
<td>$550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House next east of above</td>
<td>$1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant lot North of land of Thomas Allen</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three acre meadow</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten house and small piece of land</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House on corner of Union and South Sts. with land</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House and Wagon, $82, sold at auction</td>
<td>$244.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goods</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property for Union Mills</td>
<td>$2,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage notes</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$435</td>
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<td>Unsold Merchandise</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Hand</td>
<td>$884.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:** $25,754.19
Appendix B: Inventory of Ms. Susannah Hall
October 29, 1810

Bunk
Blanket
bedquilts
2 wool sheets
3 cases
6 table cloths
17 towels
3 aprons
2 cloaks
1 riding hood
1 meal bag
2 spinning wheels
2 chip baskets
3 reevers veeds
1 cupboard
2 bread trays
sugar boxes
knife boxes
wooden pail
cider bottles
8 chairs
1 arm chair
2 tables
2 paper boxes
43 gold beads
earth pots
brass kettle
copper tea kettle
coffee mill
weaving spools
6 milk pans
5 cases knives and forks
1 lamp
bellows and fire shovel

The items listed above totaled $141.22

House and Farm Sold at Auction

Inventory of May 25, 1810

Cash in hands of Joseph Boardman $212
5 sheep leased to N. Rockwell $11.37
10 acres, 92 rods of land lying
next to the Stage Rd. from Middletown to Durham $528.75
Appendix C: Inventory of Mr. Enoch Huntington
April 4, 1826
Middletown Probate Records Vol. 13, p. 391

Red book case
desks
case of drawers
bed and curtains
table cloth
cotton sheet
window curtains
4 large silver spoons
teaspoons
2 portraits
2 volumes Guthrie's Georgia
Country Justice
Espinaph Reports
1 Graydon's Digest
2 Laws of Connecticut
1 Phillips Evidence
Bacon's Abridged
1 Chitty on Bliss
1 Gilbert's Law of Evidence
1 Evans Essay
1 Abbot on shipping

2 Connecticut Statutes
2 Vernon's Reports
1 Bankrupt Laws
1 Military Laws
1 Parks Law of Instruction
1 Powell on Contracts
1 Merchants Laws
1 Precedents of Dec, Law of Judiciary
Clark's Magazine
Notes to Blackstone
Shipman's Manual
Swift's Evidens
Laws on wills
Psalm Book
British Plutarch
4 Elegant extracts
1 Stranger in France
1 lot of old books of little use

The above items totaled $76.86
Appendix D: Inventory of Middletown Woolen Manufacturing Co.
March 29, 1817
Middletown Land Records, Vol. 44, p. 457

The following is the beginning of a very long list of the deed:

1 steam engine—6 engines with mahogany cylinders
1 roving billy—40 spindles
2 roving billys—30 spindles
2 picking-machines
11 spinning jennies of 60 spindles
12 broad looms:
complete—3 fulling millings
1 gig mill
2 shearing frames with 4 pair hand shears

Appendix E: Inventory of Stephen Shaddick
December 2, 1859

Middletown Probate Records, vol. 22, p121

Steamboat Wharf and warehouse situated there $3,500
Yellow store and high wharf above referred to and water privileges north of same $3,000
Dwelling house with land belonging to same as above $700
Jepson house with outbuildings $1,100
Land and buildings south of Jepson house $1,700
House on Ferry Street $2,000
House next door on Ferry Street $1,300
real estate $13,300.00
personal estate as per inventory on file $339.78

Total estate: $13,639.78