



Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXIX, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

December 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual meeting on Saturday, 16 November marked a change in the officers of the board of your society for the first time in many years. Three board members retired after giving significant service over an extended period of time.

- Lloyd Sturges joined the board in 2000 and has ably served as our president for the past nine years. Lloyd's strong interest in genealogy was always evident to those around him.
- Robert (Pete) Kenyon III, ably served as vice president and program chair for the past many years diligently seeking out speakers who can inspire and motivate those with an interest in genealogy.
- Dale Pollart has served as our treasurer and membership chair carefully watching over our resources and always providing measured and thoughtful input to the society
- Joan Rinaldi resigned from the board during the past year after making a significant ongoing contribution as our secretary

We thank them all for their dedicated service to the society and look forward to their ongoing guidance and counsel in the coming years. We wish them well on discovering new members of their genealogical family.

Steven A. Anderson

NOTE FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

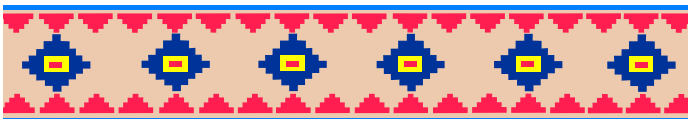
Happy New Year to all. It has been a very exciting number of years serving as president of this society, especially with the great team that this board of directors has enjoyed. The progress over the years, the challenges, the projects, the many people that we have had the joy of helping in their family search, and the great relationship we enjoy with our partner, Darien Library, have made it a wonderful experience.

The need to know and record our genealogy extends back to the records listed in the beginning of the bible. Even in today's world, even those who have not been bitten by the genealogy bug tend to take and save many pictures of their ancestors, along with "stuff," such as that old

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2014 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due 1 January 2014. ***Please consider this to be your renewal notice.*** You may use the application form on page 7 of this newsletter if you wish, or a plain piece of paper marked renewal with your name and address. Please note that while you do not have to provide us with any information that we already have, we would like to receive any significant changes, e.g., new e-mail address. You may bring your renewal to our 25 January meeting, or drop it in the mail addressed to Middlesex Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820. Annual dues are \$25 per individual, \$30 per couple or family



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2013-2014
OFFICERS

Steven Anderson	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
Keeley Kriskey	Treasurer Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Virginia Banerjee
Peter Biggins
John Driscoll
Tara Finn Forschino
Timothy Gordon
Peter Riordan

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor

Middlesex Genealogical Society was established for the purpose of helping those interested in genealogy to pursue the investigation of their family heritage and to provide guidance in research to that end. The society holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy Section at Darien Library and publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494). Annual membership dues are \$25 per individual and \$30 per couple or family.

Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 1111
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

Website: <http://mgs.darien.org>

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY, 1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

25 JANUARY 2014: PHIL HAYES will present **FIRE UP YOUR RESEARCH...THE DIGITAL GENEALOGIST IS HERE**. This program will teach those who have access to the latest computers, tablets and smart phones how to use them to significantly improve their genealogy research, both in the home and on the road. He will cover:

- Hardware: including computers, iPads, surfaces, smart phones, cameras and Scanners.
- Family Tree Apps: An overview of your options.
- Must Have Apps: If you are a genealogist, you must have these!
- Other Cool Apps: Neat, but not absolutely necessary apps.
- Tips & Tricks for the Digital Genealogist.
- Digital Photo Management.
- Google Search: Things I bet you didn't know Google could do.

A question and answer period will follow.

Phil is the CEO of Sirius Innovations, LLC, in which position he has served as Technology Solutions Consultant and Web Applications Programmer for Fortune 500 companies, large municipalities and hospitals. He is fluent in SQL, Cold-Fusion, PHP, and Javascript programming languages. He is also a power user of of the WordPress Content Management System, commonly used for blogging.

Combining the power of technology and the primary sources from historical documents, Philip developed his own family history Website based on the Word Press Content Management System (<http://www.hayesfamily.us>). It has inspired many people to develop an interest in the family's history and has connected Phil to several undiscovered relatives and their family stories.

Phil is a member of numerous historical and genealogical societies, including the Association of Professional Genealogists.

15 MARCH 2014: TONI McKEEN will present **FINDING ELUSIVE FEMALES**. Tony has been doing genealogy research on her own extensive Italian family and her husband's Irish family for the last 28 years. For the past 10 years

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PERSPECTIVE

by John Driscoll

About 10 or 11 years ago I started to compile my family's history. It's a project that I had been meaning to do since I was in my twenties. I now find that I have the time to devote to my quest. The advances in the internet combined with notes my mother collected and the fact that most of the Driscolls, Prendergasts, Healys and Curleys settled in Brooklyn or the city, made this a very viable project. I was able to find my great-great-grandfather, John Driscoll, 1824-1893, mentioned and quoted in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*. This led to many discoveries that I see as an ongoing challenge.

When I was born the United States was 170 years old. I have existed for over one quarter of our country's entire history. As a boy and a young man, the changes in history were subtle. Since I lived through them, I didn't appreciate the changes that were taking place around me on a longer timeline. Eras passed. The peace of the 1950's and the upheavals of the 1960's slid into the past and at some point I realized that the current generations look at them as I looked at the time before I was born; a history to be learned, not lived.

With the hobby of genealogy, my interest in the past has been sharpened. How I wish I had asked my parents all those questions that I now want answered. "What did you do in the war Daddy?" "What was the Great Depression like?" They told stories of their youth, but little of it sank in. Mom would tell me about her \$10 a week job in the 1930's and Dad would relate a tale or two of him and his friends, but nothing like the detail I now crave.

I do remember my father telling me various tales such as getting a chicken from the back yard and chopping its head off for dinner, or heating bricks in the fire to wrap up and put in the bottom of the bed at night to keep his feet warm, or his mother making him rhubarb pie, or his Dad sending him to the bar with a pail to fill with beer....etc. He loved airplanes. I guess when you were a boy at the dawn of flight, it had more meaning to you. I still have pictures of planes and plans of the models he made.

As I asked little of my parents, so too do my

boys ask little of my past. It's human nature I guess. It's tough enough to handle your own family when you are young. The time for reflection comes when you are older. I believe that is probably true of all generations both forward and backward. If you are young and reading this, try to fit some time into asking your elders about their lives. Write it down and save it for a time when you can no longer ask.

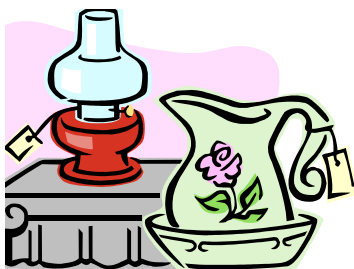
I remember my grandparents as old people who either doted on us or were stern with us. I now see them as children and young adults; firemen and mail clerks, mothers and housewives; real people who had the same hopes and dreams, joys and tragedies that we all experience. It is easy then, to go back another generation, then another. I study the times they lived in and try to get a feel for what they went through.

We, the "baby boomers" have had it best of all generations. We were born in a time of great prosperity in our country, a post war superpower. By the time we were teens, our lifestyle was taken for granted. We did not want for anything. The reasons for the United States' involvement in world affairs became muddled and the views of our parents' generation who lived through the Depression and World War II and those who grew up knowing nothing but full bellies and peace clashed.

Now *we* are that older generation. When I think of those who have gone before me, I get the feeling that time is passing very quickly. Soon (I hope not too soon) I will join the ranks of those in my family file. Someone else will pick up where I left off and expand this story for generations to come.

Some things will stick in your mind forever, the assassination of John F. Kennedy...the great blackout of 1965...the Challenger shuttle disaster...

Take the time to write a chronicle of your own life for future generations. Put in every detail you can think of, as if someone was asking you specific questions. It may sound boring but, could you imagine if you had your ancestor's personal recollection of the Lincoln assassination? Make a note of famous people you have known, your favorite sports figures, movies, songs, etc. It may sound trivial, but some descendant is going to treasure these written memoirs.



YEAR-END REPORT: MY 2013 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: GOING PAPERLESS

by Richard W. Eastman

Reprinted from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*, 29 December 2013, <http://www.eogn.com>. Copyright Richard W. Eastman.

On 1 January of this year [2013], I wrote a short article entitled *A New Year's Resolution: Going Paperless* in which I promised I would stop wasting paper and not file all sorts of paper in piles, nor in binders or filing cabinets. I am happy to report that I have achieved nearly 100% success during 2013.

I now print almost nothing on my computer. Most everything is saved in Evernote or in an appropriate folder in Dropbox. Of course, the same items can be retrieved quickly and viewed not only on my desktop or laptop computers, but also with my iPhone or iPad, wherever I am. (An Android phone or tablet will do the same.) The few pieces of paper that need to be given to others are usually sent by email, never printed and mailed.

During the year I purchased an Evernote scanner, essentially a Fujitsu ScanSnap desktop scanner that is bundled with software designed for use with Evernote on a Macintosh or Windows computer. You can read more about my experience with that scanner at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/11/a-scanner-designed-for-evernote.html and in a Plus Edition article at <http://eogn.com/wp/?p=28193>. This high speed scanner will scan and digitize both sides of paper. I can insert up to 50 sheets of paper at a time into the input tray and push one button, and everything is automatically stored in Evernote and Dropbox within a minute or so.

The mailman still brings old-fashioned "snail mail" to the house every day. All of the incoming mail is immediately sorted into three categories:

1. **Junk mail** and some other items are filed in the nearest wastebasket.
2. **Items to be saved** are placed into the Evernote scanner's input tray, scanned, and automatically saved in both Evernote and Dropbox. The original paper is then thrown into the wastebasket.
3. **A very few items are saved elsewhere**, as appropriate. There aren't many of these items during the year, but a few examples

include my newly-renewed driver's license, the yearly renewal tag that needs to be applied to the automobile's license plate, checks that need to be deposited in the bank account, and similar items.

NOTE: Checks are always deposited by using my bank's "deposit checks online" app on the cell phone. I snap a picture of the front and back of the endorsed check with the smartphone or tablet computer's camera, using the bank's app. The check is then electronically deposited into my account within a few seconds. It's fast, secure, and free. It also saves time and gas because I don't have to drive to the bank. I then save the paper check for a day or two until I see it show up in my bank account. (My bank sends a daily email showing all new deposits, withdrawals, debit card charges, and the end-of-day balance.) The checks have always appeared in my bank account within one business day. I then shred the original check and throw it away. That's another method of being paperless.

I also pay nearly all bills with my bank's "pay bills online" service or with credit cards. That's much safer than writing checks or carrying cash.

Of course, I do not ignore genealogy. That is also paperless nowadays. Most of my new genealogy research is performed online, where it is easy to save newly-found information in Evernote, in Dropbox, and in my favorite genealogy program. For instance, earlier today I saved more than 30 obituaries from the *Bangor Daily News*' web site.

In the few instances where I visit a library in person and find new information, I usually take a picture of the information with the cell phone's camera and then save the images in Evernote and Dropbox. In the very few instances where I can only obtain photocopies, I take them home, run them through the scanner, and then throw the paper away.

Unfortunately, I can only report a partial success with my backlog of paper that sits in a four-drawer filing cabinet at home. That filing cabinet contains photocopies and other genealogy-related paper accumulated over the past thirty-five years. At the beginning of the year, I promised myself that I would scan all that paper and save it in my computer. My progress towards that goal has been glacial, at best. I did scan a few pages but far less than what I had

hoped for. Oh well, there is always next year...

Of course, all this digital information is backed up in multiple locations, both locally and in the cloud. My desktop computer has a multi-terabyte hard drive plugged into one of its USB connectors. Every bit and byte on my computer's internal hard drive is copied to the external hard drive, including past versions of all files. ([TimeMachine](#) saves all versions of all files. I can go back and retrieve any version of any file, even the files as they existed days, weeks, or years ago.)

A hard drive plugged into the computer's USB connector combined with a good backup program provides convenience and security. File retrieval is quickly available whenever needed. Of course, the external hard drive is worthless if a fire, flood, hurricane, or burst water pipe destroys both the computer and the attached hard drive. Therefore, all data files are also securely backed up in the cloud on [Amazon's S3 backup service](#). In addition, all records in [Evernote](#) are securely stored on Evernote.com's servers, and all [Dropbox](#) files are securely stored on Dropbox.com's servers as well as copied to my laptop computer.

I now have a minimum of four copies of all my important documents, stored in four different locations (at home, in Amazon S3's multiple servers, in Dropbox's servers, and in Evernote's servers). I think this provides much better protection than storing information only on fragile paper in one location that is at risk from fires, floods, hurricanes, or burst water pipes.

I can report 99% success at being paperless during all of 2013. I no longer have mounds of paper lying around. I can find anything quickly and easily, thanks to the capability of quickly searching the computer's entire hard drive for any words. I can retrieve any item quickly when I need it. (You can read my earlier note about retrieving my eyeglass prescription while standing in a local LensCrafters store at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/04/another-reason-to-store-your-data-in-the-cloud.html.)

In short, life without paper is great! You might make a similar resolution for 2014. If I can do it, you can also.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, Boston, Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham,

MA 02452-6399, phone 781-663-0130, fax 781-663-0154, e-mail boston.archives@nara.gov. Programs are free, but reservations are required. Telephone toll-free 866-406-2379 or e-mail the address above.

- 1 April 2014, 2 p.m., “**Researcher Forum.**” Learn about the new and exciting initiatives for researchers, and use this open forum opportunity to tell NARA how the National Archives experience can be made better for you.
- 8 July, “**Passenger Lists, Censuses & Naturalizations: The Big 3 Sources for Family History.**” In this workshop you will learn how to locate and use NARA resources. Then you will be free to start your research with the assistance of archives staff and volunteers.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 36 W. 44th Street, 7th fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; fax 212-754-4218. NYG&B will begin its annual series of **Repository Tours** at:

- **The New York Public Library**, Manuscripts and Archives Division, Tues., 11 March, 6-7 p.m.
- **Municipal Archives Tour #1: Basic Orientation**, Fri., 11 April, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
- **Municipal Archives Tour #2: Beyond the Basics**, Fri., 2 May.

Please note: Tickets are not yet available for these tours, but should be soon, at which time dates for additional repository tours should also be available.

NYG&B is also part of the **New York Family History School** and promotes programs sponsored by co-partners in this endeavor. These currently include:

- “**Moving Emancipation Into Equality: A Conversation on Post-Civil War Brooklyn**” with Carla Peterson, author of *Black Gotham* (ny-family-history-school/ny-family-history-school-programs/moving-emancipation-equality-conversation), Thurs., 16 Jan. 2014, 6:30 p.m., at the Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn, NY 11201. Sponsored by the Brooklyn Historical Society.
- “**Citizen Cartography @NYPL: Discovering Local Histories,**” on Tuesdays, 14 Jan., 11 Feb., 11 Mar., and 8 April, 6 p.m. in the South Court Classrooms, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, Fifth Ave. & 42nd St., NYC. Sponsored by the NYPL.
- “**Jewish Records Indexing—Poland: A New Era Has Begun,**” Sun., 19 Jan., 2 p.m., Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th St., New York, NY. Sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society. Hadassah Lipsius will outline recent developments in the PSA/JRI-Poland relationship, current indexing activity, online availability of actual images of records, newly discovered resources, and overall

plans for the future.

National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204; toll-free phone 800-473-0060; fax 703-525-0052; e-mail conference@ngsgenealogy.org; Website www.ngsgenealogy.org.

The NGS 2014 Annual Conference is entitled "Virginia: The First Frontier," and will take place in Richmond, Va., Wed.-Sat., 7-10 May. Conference events will take place at the Marriott Hotel at 500 East Broad St. in Richmond or at the Greater Richmond Convention Center across the street. Discounted, early-bird registration ends 24 March; pre-registration ends 22 April 2014.

Fairfield County Gaelic American Club, 74 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824, telephone 203-377-2346. On Sunday, February 9, 2014, 2-4 pm, C.J. May will present "Love and Death in Ancient Ireland: Hard Facts and Fabulous Fiction of Romance and Battle in the Warrior Culture of Pre-Christian Ireland" at the Fairfield County Gaelic American Club. Registration is \$5 per person online at marroyo@optonline.net. To complete your registration mail a \$5 check, payable to Feile, Inc., to Mary Adams-Arroyo, 221 McGrath Court, Stratford, CT 06615.

Westchester County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10601, presents speakers on genealogical subjects on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (Premeeting networking starts at 9:30 a.m.) Unless otherwise indicated, meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is requested of nonmembers. Visit the society's website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>.

- 8 Feb., "Mount Kisco Episcopal Cemetery Project" presented by Madeline Kearin, Susan Ross and Laurie Kimsal.
- 8 March, "Treasures of Westchester" presented by Patrick Raftery. **Please note:** This meeting will be at Westchester County Archives.
- 12 April, "Tips & Tricks for Using *Family Tree Maker*" presented by Toni McKeen.
- 10 May, "Records of St. Malachy's Home, an Orphanage in Brooklyn Diocese" presented by Joseph Coen, C.A.
- 14 June, "Fire Up Your Research: The Digital Genealogist is Here" presented by Philip Hayes.

Genealogy Cruises

Fifth Unlock the Past Cruise—British Isles Discovery (www.unlockthepast.com.au) will take place 19-29 July 2014 aboard the *Marco Polo*. With a passenger capacity of 800, the *Marco Polo* will provide a more intimate cruising experience than many other ships. It is fully stabilized and air conditioned, and has eight passenger decks serviced by three main lobbies and four elevators. Departure will be from Tilbury, London; with stops at Invergordon, Scotland; Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands; Stornoway in the Outer Hebrides; Tobermory, Isle of Mull; Dublin, Ireland; St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly; St. Peter Port, Guernsey; Honfleur, France; and return to Tilbury, London Although talks will not be scheduled while the ship is in port, it is expected that about 40 genealogical topics will be covered in 25 sessions while at sea.

Cruising With Legacy Family 2014— Legacy Asia:

- **First Cruise, 26 Oct.-9 Nov. 2014;**
- **Second Cruise, 9 Nov.-23 Nov. 2014.**

The first cruise will be packed with genealogy classes on each sea day. The second cruise has no genealogy classes. It is for those who want to continue on and see more of Asia.

The first cruise will depart from Tokyo (Yokohama) on 26 Oct. 2014 and visit Mt. Fuji (Shimizu), Kobe, Kagoshima, and Nagasaki, all in Japan; then visit Shanghai (Boashan), China, Taipei (Keelung), Taiwan; and Hong Kong, China, where the first cruise ends 9 Nov. 2014.

The second cruise starts at Hong Kong, where and when the first cruise ends. (If you are doing both cruises, you simply stay in the same stateroom.) The second cruise departs Hong Kong 9 Nov., then visits Hanoi, Hue (Halong Bay); and Ho Chi Minh (Phu My), all in Vietnam; Bangkok / Laemchabang, Thailand; and Singapore, where the cruise ends 23 Nov. 2014.

For more information on either or both of these cruises, visit:

www.legacyfamilytree.com/CruiseInfo_2014.asp

Eastern Caribbean Genealogy Cruise will take place 7-14 Dec. 2014 aboard the Celebrity *Silhouette*. There will be genealogy events every day, hosted by Gary and Diana Smith, with special guest speakers Dick Eastman and Jana Sloan, CG. The cruise will depart from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 7 Dec., then visit San Juan, PR; Basseterre, St. Kitts; and St. Maarten; before returning to Fort Lauderdale on 14 Dec. For more information, call Cruise Everything Today! at 800-959-7447 or 239-275-1717 or visit: www.cccruisegroups.com/genealogy-cruise-2014.html

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 1111

Darien, CT 06820

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues: \$25/individual, \$30/couple or family. Photo I.D. (e.g., driver's license), required. If joining/renewing in person, show photo I.D.; if via mail, send copy of photo I.D. Please consider adding a contribution to support our genealogical resource expansion.

Code of Ethics: In consideration of being accepted as a member(s) of the above society and in order to protect the integrity of Public Records and Library Books, I/we am/are ethically bound and hereby agree that I/we will research Vital Records for Genealogical or Historical purposes only. I/we also agree:

- 1. That I/we will treat with the greatest care and respect all Public Records and Library Books that may be made available for my/our use;
2. I/we will respect the privacy of the individuals whose information I/we may encounter in my/our research;
3. I/we will respect the custodians of the records.

This pledge is freely made by me under penalty of forfeiting my membership in the society.

Signature of applicant Date

Previous Member Yes [] No []

Signature of co-applicant Date

Previous Member Yes [] No []

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.) Full Name of Applicant

(Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.) Full Name of Co-applicant

Street Address (mandatory):

Mailing Address:

Telephone: Town: State: 9-digit Zip: E-mail:

Date and Place of Applicant's Birth:

Date and Place of Co-applicant's Birth:

Occupation of Applicant:

Occupation of Co-applicant:

I/we belong to the following Historical Societies:

I/we belong to the following Genealogical Societies:

I/we belong to the following Lineage Societies:

Reason for interest in genealogy:

Dues enclosed:

Contribution enclosed:

MGS use only. Photo I.D. []

MGS PROGRAM MEETINGS*(Continued from page 2)*

she has also been teaching several levels of genealogy in her hometown of Ridgefield, Conn., and has been a popular lecturer at various genealogical societies in the tri-state area and in Boston.

17 MAY 2014: VIRGINIA BANERJEE will present **CASE STUDY: SEARCHING FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR**. Virginia is an experienced family historian whose interest in genealogy began when she was a teenager but became more focused over the past 40 years. She has published articles, taught and lectured widely, and is a director of the Middlesex Genealogical Society and of a family association of an old Connecticut family. She completed research and private publication of a book concerning Indian history, her late husband's Indian family genealogy and memoirs of their life in India in the early 1950s.

PAST PRESIDENT'S NOTE*(Continued from page 1)*

chair, or a vase or candy dish, the old family bible, etc. All this preservation is an expression of the natural need for our ancestors. Today it has become easier to get reliable information and facts than ever before. So, what is our role and what keeps it exciting and important for us in a genealogical society such as ours? I know that in my case it is the thrill of seeing someone when they find "great-grandma" and information about her. So I guess our role is to keep reaching out to our friends and neighbors in this community to help them with their quest for knowledge of their families.

I congratulate Steve Anderson on taking the helm in our society and know that he will take us down new and exciting roads.

Lloyd Sturges Jr.

**Deadline for next newsletter
28 February 2014**
