



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXVII, No. 4

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

November 2011

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It sure looks as though winter is here, and with it the opportunity to spend more time at home. Maybe we can allocate some of this extra time to reviewing our own family history records. See where information is lacking, where we need to do some more research. Maybe we need to reorganize our information so that it is easier to find what we are looking for. Maybe we think that there is no more information available. I remind you that as more and more information is added to the many sites that are available, a new door may have been opened to you that was not there before. The two sites that are giving us new information, or alternative places to look for information, are Familysearch.org and Ancestry.com. Remember that Family History.org is digitizing and putting on line the records at Salt Lake City at a very high rate each month, thereby making much more information available. Ancestry.com seems to also be giving us alternative means to find information that we are missing. Remember that we have Ancestry.com on the computers at Darien Library so even that information can be obtained without cost.

Our board of directors is working on many projects to aid each of you and the community to make research of your family not only much easier but also more exciting. The library is assisting us to bring family history to all it's patrons and the community as well. Watch your e-mails from the library and also the local papers for more programs to help you.

I look forward to our society's being your mentor and helping you to learn more about your ancestors and to bind your families together.

Lloyd Sturges Jr.

## PHILIP ABBE MOREHOUSE

With great sadness we announce the passing on 26 October 2011 of Philip Morehouse, long-time member of MGS and its board of directors. He was 93.

Phil was a life-long resident of Darien, educated in Darien public schools and a 1936 graduate of Darien High School. He attended the University of Connecticut, where he obtained both a bachelor's

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## 2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal is due 1 January 2012. *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 need to receive any significant changes, e.g., new e-mail address. You may bring your renewal to our 19 November meeting, or drop it in the mail addressed to Middlesex Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820.

As you know, our newsletter will soon be delivered to you electronically, so a current, accurate e-mail address is very important. If there is any doubt that we have your up-to-date e-mail address, please provide it

Electronic delivery of your newsletter will begin in 2012 and will result in considerable cost savings to the society. This will enable MGS to maintain our annual dues at \$25 per individual, \$30 per couple or family.

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2011-2012 OFFICERS

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	President
Robert E. Kenyon III	Vice President
Dale Pollart	Treasurer
Joan Rinaldi	Secretary

### BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Steven Anderson	
Jim Baker	
Virginia Banerjee	
Peter Biggins	
Leonard Christie	
Keeley Kriskey	
Donna Moughty	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. (Our 19 November meeting will take place in the Community Room on the first floor.) COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.**



**19 NOVEMBER 2011: DONNA MOUGHTY**, past president of MGS, professional genealogist and former regional manager for a national technology company, will present **SOURCES FOR IRISH RESEARCH**. She will separate reality from myth in identifying and evaluating those records that survived the 1922 Public Records Office fire, and she will also explain Irish civil jurisdictions. The 1901 and 1911 Irish

censuses will be covered, and Griffith's Valuation and the Tithe Applotment, as well as church, civil and other records. She will also offer suggestions for ways to uncover missing information about your ancestors in this country before attempting research in Ireland.

Donna teaches classes for beginners and lectures on a variety of subjects, including the Internet, Irish research and computer topics. She also provides consultations, research assistance and training. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and served as chair of the Professional Management Conference from 2005 to 2008, Treasurer of the Genealogical Speakers Guild from 2004 to 2009, and a delegate to the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Her genealogical blog can be found at [www.moughty.com](http://www.moughty.com).

**21 JANUARY 2012: TONI McKEEN** will return to MGS to present **LETTING CITY DIRECTORIES WORK FOR YOU**. Learn how and where to find these records, the important and surprising clues they hold, and their use in finding those missing census and vital records.

Toni has been doing genealogy research on her own extensive Italian family and her husband's Irish family for the last 27 years. For the past seven years she has also been teaching several levels of genealogy in her hometown of Ridgefield, Conn., and has been a popular lecturer at various genealogy societies in the New York, Connecticut, Boston, and Long Island areas.

**17 MARCH 2012:** To be announced.

*(Continued on page 6)*

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## ANCESTRY.COM ADDS MORE THAN 50 MILLION NEW BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH RECORDS—EXPANDING THE LARGEST SEARCHABLE U.S. VITAL RECORDS COLLECTION TO NEARLY A HALF BILLION

New Collections from 23 States include records on famous Americans like John Wayne, Clark Gable and Ernest Hemingway.

PROVO, UTAH – (October 27, 2011) – Ancestry.com, the world's largest online family history resource, today announced it has added 53 new historical vital record collections to its nearly half billion U.S. vital records, the largest searchable online collection of its kind. The foundation of family history research, civil vital records (recordings of births, marriages and deaths), were typically created at or near the time of the event and serve as an essential resource for the millions of Americans who are beginning or continuing their family history research. The new additions encompass 23 states, include more than 50 million historical records dating from the 1600s (some of the oldest U.S. records available) through to 2010 and have been made available through partnerships with state and local archives, county offices and newspapers. Many notable Americans can be found in the collections, including John Wayne, Ernest Hemingway, Clark Gable, Spencer Tracy, Judy Garland and many more.

Interesting facts presented by these records include John Wayne's birth name as Marion Robert Morrison, changed to the legendary stage name when he began working in Hollywood. "Gone with the Wind" star Clark Gable hailed from the small village of Cadiz, Ohio according to the Ohio Births and Christening Index (1800-1962). The Minnesota Birth and Christening Records (1840-1980) show that "The Wizard of Oz" star Judy Garland's given birth name was Frances Gumm.

These new vital record collections are available to all current Ancestry.com subscribers and can be found at [www.ancestry.com/vitals](http://www.ancestry.com/vitals).

Vital records contain a wide variety of valuable information. Birth records can include information about baptisms and christenings, as well as birth certificates and registers. Marriage records tend to be the oldest vital records and can include

consent affidavits (typically for individuals under legal age), declarations of intent, banns, bonds, contracts, licenses, certificates, registers and returns. Death records may include death certificates, burial records, cemetery records, and other documents such as probate records, court minutes, and coroner's records.

Traditionally, vital records in the U.S. have been created and maintained locally by multiple entities—churches, town clerks, justices of the peace and others. With no single source for information, research has previously been time intensive, requiring countless hours and travel to make and confirm discoveries.

With the digitization of millions of these valuable records, Ancestry.com has simplified the process to a click of a mouse and keyboard. Interest and curiosity in family history research is growing rapidly, evidenced by a recent Harris Interactive survey that revealed four in five Americans are interested in learning about their family history and three out of four claiming that knowing their family history is important to them.[1]

"Vital records are among the most valuable genealogical resources for proving or disproving other sources, giving a more complete picture of ancestors, helping distinguish between different people with the same names and finding clues about earlier life events," said Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett, whose office oversees the Tennessee State Library and Archives. "By compiling such a massive collection, spanning not only different locales, but centuries of essential information, Ancestry.com is making it possible for anyone to learn more about family history."

Some of the new vital record collections now available on Ancestry.com date well back into the 17th Century including:

- Connecticut, Deaths and Burials, 1650-1934: Town clerks began recording births, marriages and deaths by 1650. These records are derived from microfilmed records of deaths and burials. This collection includes legendary names such as P.T. Barnum of circus fame and dictionary pioneer Noah Webster.
- Maryland, Births and Christenings, 1662–1911: This collection is extracted from more than 200,000 Maryland birth, baptism, and christening records sourced from church, civil and family records. This collection includes the birth of John Hanson, President of early America's Con-

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tinental Congress.

- New Hampshire, Death and Burial Records, 1654–1949: New Hampshire's earliest records were in the mid-1600s, though laws requiring a statewide compilation of records were not passed until 1866.
- New Hampshire, Marriage Records, 1637–1947: Records in this collection are derived from certificates of intention of marriage and certificates of marriage for more recent years.
- New Jersey, Births and Christenings, 1660–1931: This collection is comprised of more than 2.3 million birth, baptism, and christening records. Information found here may include name, gender, race and birthplace.

"The United States possesses a unique history, and vital records offer an accurate, in-depth look into the lives of individuals, families and the nation as a whole," said Josh Hanna, Executive Vice President, Ancestry.com. "Ancestry.com is committed to the continued expansion of our vital record collections and increasing the breadth of information for all Americans looking to learn more about their past."

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## ELLIS ISLAND MUSEUM UNVEILS NEW GALLERIES

### First Phase of The Peopling of America® Center Explores Pre-Ellis Era

NEW YORK, NY (October 28, 2011) — Today, The Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation and the National Park Service opened the first phase of the Peopling of America® Center, a major expansion of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which will explore arrivals before the Ellis Island Era. This 10,000 square foot experience focuses on the history of immigration from the Colonial Era to the opening of Ellis Island in 1892. Interpretative graphics and poignant audio stories tell first-hand accounts of the immigrant's journey—from making the trip and arriving in the United States to their struggle and survival after they arrived, and efforts to build communities and ultimately a nation.

"Until now, our exhibits have centered on the years when Ellis Island was open," said Stephen A. Briganti, the Foundation's President and CEO.

"Of course, the history of migration to America goes back to our nation's beginnings right up to today, so there were many people whose stories weren't told. The Peopling of America® Center will fill an enormous gap in America's understanding of its past, present, and future."

Also unveiled today was the American Flag of Faces™, a large interactive video installation filled with a montage of images submitted by individuals of their families, their ancestors, or even themselves which illustrates the ever-changing American mosaic. A living exhibit, Flag of Faces accepts photo submissions and can also be viewed at [www.FlagoffFaces.org](http://www.FlagoffFaces.org).

The Center's second phase, which will open in Spring 2013, will present a series of interactive multi-media exhibits that focus on the immigration experience from the closing of Ellis Island in 1954 to the present day, including a dynamic radiant globe that illustrates migration patterns throughout human history. The Peopling of America® Center was designed by ESI Design and fabricated by Hadley Exhibits, Inc. For more information, visit [www.flagoffaces.org](http://www.flagoffaces.org).

### The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization founded in 1982 to raise funds for and oversee the historic restorations of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, working in partnership with the National Park Service/U.S. Department of the Interior. In addition to restoring the monuments, the Foundation created a museum in the Statue's base and the world-class Ellis Island Immigration Museum, The American Immigrant Wall of Honor® and the American Family Immigration History Center®. Its endowment has funded over 200 projects at the islands.

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## UPCOMING SEMINARS

**National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, New York City, 201** Varick St. Programs run from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and are free, but space is limited. Register by calling toll-free 866-840-1752, fax 212-401-1638; e-mail: [newyork.archives@nara.gov](mailto:newyork.archives@nara.gov).

"Using NARA's Online Catalog," Tues., 13 Dec.

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Online Public Access is still growing in content one year after NARA piloted it as the online public portal to their records and information about their records. Learn how to search OPA and how to access all interrelated catalogs. This presentation will provide participants with an overview on how to find genealogical information within it.

**New York Genealogical & Biographical Society**, 36 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; FAX 212-754-4218. The NYG&B's Education Committee is offering:

- "Beyond the Basics of Irish Genealogy" will be presented Thurs., 17 Nov., 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., by MGS past president Donna Moughty. Donna will discuss how to research your Irish ancestors by using substitutes for records destroyed in the fire at Four Courts in 1922 and destroyed by the government. Learning where your ancestors lived in Ireland is crucial, and Donna will discuss ways to find this information using resources both in Ireland and the U.S. This is an NYG&B program for which registration is required and for which there is a fee: \$30 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. Registration can be accomplished online at <http://newyorkfamilyhistory.myshopify.com/collections/events>—or call Lauren Maehrlein at 212-755-8532. The program will take place at NYG&B headquarters on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor at 36 W. 44<sup>th</sup> St., NYC.

In addition, NYG&B is cosponsoring three programs with the New York Public Library at 42<sup>nd</sup> St. in NYC. These programs are free to the public and no registration is necessary (with the exception of the "Block & Lot" program). They take place at the Stephen Schwarzman Building, South Court Classrooms, New York Public Library, Fifth Ave. and 42<sup>nd</sup> St., which is fully wheelchair accessible.

- "An Introduction to Irish Research" will be presented on Wed., 16 Nov., from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., by Donna Moughty.
- "Block & Lot: New York City," Sat., 26 Nov., 2 to 3 p.m. Have you ever wanted to document the history of your home, apartment or neighborhood? Would you like to learn about the growth of your favorite historic district or deepen your knowledge of landmark New York City buildings? Discover how you can use

NYPL resources to unlock the history of a building, a block, or an entire borough. In this class you will learn how to use antiquarian maps, fire insurance atlases ("Sanborns"), on-line property data, books and historic real estate photos to document the history of the City's built environment. Registration is required and is available at <http://www.nypl.org/events/classes/>

- "Researching with E-Resources: Catalogs." Tues., 29 Nov., 2 to 3 p.m. This class will concentrate on the use of the NYPL Online Catalog and of WorldCat, an online catalog of materials held in libraries worldwide. Effort will be made to focus on the specific needs of the class, so bring your current research projects.

**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.) Meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, NY (across from Mercy College on Route 9). There is a \$3 fee for nonmembers.

- 10 Dec., Patrick Raftery will present "The Cemeteries of Westchester County."
- 14 Jan. 2012., Nora Galvin will present "Special Schedules of the U.S. Census."
- 11 Feb., Tony Lauriano will present "Overcoming the Brick Walls in Your Research."
- 10 Mar., Joe Buggy will present "Researching Irish Ancestors in New York City."
- 14 Apr., Marian Wood will present "Genealogy Web Message Boards and Blogs."
- 12 May, Maureen Wlodarczyk will present "One Thing Leads to Another: The Continuing Journey of Genealogical Discoveries."
- 9 June, Dorothy Dougherty will present "Searching the 1940 U.S. Census."

You can visit the society's website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>.

**National Genealogical Society**, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304; telephone 800-473-0060: The 2012 Conference in the States theme is *The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier*. The conference will be held Wed. to Sat., 9-12 May at the Duke Energy Con-

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vention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration forms and more information can be found at: [http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference\\_info](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info).

**Legacy Family Tree 2012**, British Isles Norway and Denmark; two cruises; come on one or come on both:

- Cruise 1: Sat., 12 May 2012 to Mon., 21 May 2012 (9 days), starts and ends in Oslo, Norway, and visits the following ports: Le Havre (Paris), France; Cherbourg, France; Dublin, Ireland; Liverpool, England; and Edinburgh, Scotland.
- Cruise 2: Mon., 21 May 2012 to Sun., 27 May 2012 (6 days), also starts and ends in Oslo, Norway, and visits Arhus, Denmark; Bergen, Norway; and Geiranger, Norway Fjord.

Both cruises are aboard Royal Caribbean's *Vision of the Seas* ship. You may sign up for one sailing or for two back to back with the same cabin assignment. Should you choose both cruises, you will not have to pack your bags at the end of Cruise 1. Just enjoy Oslo for the day and come back to your stateroom later to keep sailing.

On the days at sea attend the Legacy Family Tree genealogy classes and learn the real secrets to becoming an expert with Legacy and improving the way you do your research. Go home with the knowledge and tools you need to be more successful. You will be learning directly from the experts.

Legacy Genealogy's travel agent is Trekalot, which is handling all of the details. Contact information for Trekalot: telephone 1-888-505-6997 or send an e-mail to [info@trekalot.com](mailto:info@trekalot.com).

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## INSTANT BOOKS

If you have visited Darien Library in the past few weeks, you have probably seen a very large piece of equipment in the adult fiction section of the main floor. It is the Espresso Book Machine (by On Demand Books), which, at the push of a button, prints, binds and trims a bookstore-quality, perfect-bound paperback book, in any language, with a full-color cover. (Inside pages can only be printed in black and white.) At the moment, Darien Library is the only library on the east coast that has this equipment.

This opens all sorts of possibilities for which genealogists will be grateful. Many of us know of out-of-print books that would be extremely useful

to have—if only a copy could be obtained. The Espresso Book Machine can handle this need in two ways: (1) Many in-copyright works are made available by major publishers, such as Harper Collins, Simon and Schuster, McGraw Hill, Hachette, Macmillan, and O'Reilly. (2) Many titles in the public domain are made available as scans through the Google Books Program. All of these can be printed on-demand, whenever needed.

Some of us would like to put into book form the family history our researches have uncovered, but the task has always seemed too daunting. No longer. An on-site Espresso Book Machine consultant will help you with decisions to be made. Your book can be anywhere from 40 pages to 700 pages long, and in trim sizes from 4.5" x 5" small to 8.25" x 10.5" large, with a wide variety of sizes in between. There are no minimum print runs; you can print just a few copies or many. You need two PDF files, one for the cover of your book, which can be in color, and the other for the interior, which must be in black and can be printed on either white or cream paper. These can be sent via e-mail if you wish.

At the moment demonstrations of operation of the Espresso Book Machine are being given at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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## MGS PROGRAM MEETINGS

*(Continued from page 2)*

**12 MAY 2012: FAMILY HISTORY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.** will be presented by **VIRGINIA BANERJEE**. Family history research is a great hobby that can involve the whole family. Learn about a wide variety fun activities for young folks as well as the older members of the family. Engage everyone's interest... increase and preserve your knowledge of family history and your family.

Virginia Banerjee 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. During many field trips, she has sought to document ancestry on both sides of her 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.

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# 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. <input type="checkbox"/>
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**PHILIP ABBE MOREHOUSE**

*(Continued from page 1)*

and a law degree. He was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1948 and spent 30 years with the law firm of Cummings and Lockwood in the Darien office. After leaving Cummings and Lockwood in 1980, he was elected Probate Judge for the District of Darien and served in that position until 1988.

Phil served in the U.S. Army, 18<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the First Infantry Division (the "Big Red One") during World War II. Afterward, he continued service in the U.S. Army Reserves and was Judge Advocate of the 76<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Hartford until 1961 when he retired as a Lt. Colonel.

In addition to MGS, Phil belonged to a number of organizations that served the community. Among them were the First Congregational Church of Darien, Kiwanis Club of Darien, Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission, 150th Anniversary of the Town of Darien Committee, First Infantry Division Foundation, Spring Grove Cemetery Association, Senior Men's Association, Darien Housing Authority, Darien Free Library Association, Post 6933 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the

U.S., Sons of the American Revolution, Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants, American Bar Association, and Connecticut Bar Association.

Phil's family has a long history in what is now Darien as his ancestor Thomas Morehouse settled in Middlesex Parish, then a part of Stamford, in 1641.

We shall miss Phil's wise counsel and sound advice at MGS meetings and offer our deepest sympathy to his family.

**NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH? E-mail [mgsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:mgsvolunteer@gmail.com), and an MGS volunteer will contact you to schedule a help session at Darien Library**

**Deadline for next newsletter  
3 January 2012**

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Peter Biggins  
230 Old King's Highway North  
Darien, CT 06820-

**MEETING  
19 NOV. 2011, 2 PM  
DARIEN LIBRARY**

**Middlesex Genealogical Society  
PO Box 1111  
Darien CT 06820-1111**

