



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

May 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I was pondering what I knew about my family, I wondered what was really important about family history. Is it really the pedigree chart that shows us the names of ancestors starting from us and leading us into past generations of grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, and so on? Is it the many nationalities and countries that we find that our ancestors came from? Is it the personal thrill of finding out that our ancestors were famous or even royalty?

Yes! It is all of these things—and the fun and excitement of researching the many places we have to go to obtain this information. It is what keeps our genealogical spirit going, especially when the search is successful and we add one more name or a new line to our family tree.

I asked myself, is this enough for someone else to look at and get excited about, all of this material I have spent years and thousands of hours accumulating? Is there something I can do to make my family history so interesting to someone else that he or she will want to read it and maybe even continue to add more information to it?

Folks, there is a real reason that we refer to the work that we do in genealogy as family history. It is the stories that we find or create that bring life to these names and will get our family members and others to read and preserve for the future the work we have done.

What kind of things do we want to write about? Why not start with what you know at this time? How about looking at the members of your immediate family—your mother, your father, and your siblings? For example: My father was an electrician and worked for the New York, New Haven &

Hartford Railroad for 33 years, maintaining the electrical system that made the trains go from Connecticut to Grand Central Station in New York City. I got to go with him to the substations that controlled the electrical circuits for the trains. I even learned why the lights always flickered at the railroad stations. I got to travel with him on these trains to Canada to see his folks and sleep in a Pullman car.

My parents were part of the USO for service men and women. We always had sailors at our house from a naval training school in Noroton, a section of Darien, Conn.

I remember December 7th, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. Dad had to pile sailors in and on his 1933 Plymouth and take them back to the base.

When you visit grandparents, uncles and aunts, and you see old pictures hanging on the wall or in a book that they show you, ask them to identify the people in the photographs and get them to tell you about them; write down what they say and make a story from this information.

Write about your life growing up, how you walked to school and traveled on trolley cars to get around town, went to the movie theater on Saturdays, the family get-togethers on Sunday after church. The stories you record will paint a picture of what life was like for your generation.

It is these stories that will make people want to read about you and your family, and, who knows, they might even get bit by the genealogy bug. I encourage you to keep the history of your family alive and interesting for those new generations.

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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, CONFERENCE ROOM (on the mezzanine, above the 2nd floor), DARIEN LIBRARY, 1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

14 MAY 2011: NORA GALVIN will speak to us about **DNA IN GENEALOGY**, especially mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), the kind that is inherited from our mothers. Nora, the descendent of nine immigrants from eight counties in Ireland, has lived in Ohio and Virginia, but now makes her home in New England. She has been a secondary-school science teacher and a research scientist at a major pharmaceutical company where one of her roles was using DNA as a drug discovery tool. She brings a scientist's intrinsic curiosity and attention to detail to her genealogical research.

1 OCTOBER 2011: TONI McKEEN will 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 records and vital records. Toni has been passionate about genealogy for over 20 years, and has researched her huge Italian family, as well as her husband's Irish family. She has taught several levels of genealogy and has given numerous lectures on genealogy in New York and Connecticut, including previous MGS meetings.

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. ■

140 FREE ONLINE GENEALOGY RESEARCH COURSES: Growing Course Catalog Makes It Easier to Expand Family History Skills

SALT LAKE CITY (released by FamilySearch 20 April 2011)—Ever found yourself researching your family tree and discovering a new branch that extended to another country—and you are not familiar with that country's records or language? Or perhaps you are a fan of the popular reality show *Who Do You Think You Are?* and wonder, "How do the producers know what public records to search to find all of those cool stories about that celebrity's ancestors?" Maybe you'd like to learn more about how to do your family history research but don't think you can afford to take a class. Thousands of individuals are now satisfying many of those needs through FamilySearch's growing collection of free online genealogy courses.

In just one year, the number of free FamilySearch courses has grown to over 140—and new courses are added monthly. Most recently, over 25 courses were added for Australia, England, Germany, and the U.S. Additional courses were added that focus on basic tools and techniques for anyone just getting started in family history research, as well as courses for intermediate and advanced researchers.

"The goal of the initiative is to educate more people worldwide about how to find their ancestors. We do it by filming the experts teaching a particular class of interest and then offering free access to that presentation online—complete with the PowerPoint used and any electronic handouts that the user can download or print for future reference," said Candace Turpan, FamilySearch instructional designer.

Turpan's team films presentations made by its staff from the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, as well as special guests (the library is frequented by accredited researchers from all over the world). They also travel to industry conferences or other venues where record and research specialists gather. There they film specialists' presentations and make them available online.

Of course, you don't have to be into genealogy to find presentations of interest. Fans of *The Da*

Vinci Code or *National Treasure* might find the Cemetery Art course by Ellen Miller of the Mid-Continent Public Library System in Independence, Missouri, very intriguing and enlightening. Miller's course teaches about funerary traditions and cemetery iconography. "[Tombstone] practices differ from country to country, culture to culture, and religion to religion. As funeral ceremonies differ, so do the burial practices," said Miller. Those elements often influence the types of funeral markers and symbols used on headstones, footstones, and tablet stones and can therefore tell important facts about the person they help identify. The key is in understanding the messages behind the symbolism.

FamilySearch uses viewing software that splits the viewing screen (sort of like the picture-in-picture features on some televisions) so the user can watch the video of the presenter while also seeing the PowerPoint presentation. Most courses are 30 minutes in length. You can also fast forward through the presentation or presentation slides or stop and pick up later where you left off—a luxury you don't get in the live presentation. "Maybe you enjoy the thrill of deciphering or reading old records in other languages. FamilySearch also has free courses to help genealogy students understand key words and terms of older foreign alphabets and handwriting, including Gothic," added Turpan. The intent behind all of these courses is to give people the keys they need to successfully find their elusive ancestors in historic records. "Sometimes they just need a new sleuthing skill or resource. These genealogy courses are perfect for those personal development needs," concluded Turpan.

Whatever your motivation or objective, bookmark and make regular visits to the growing catalog of free courses at FamilySearch.org. And if you or someone you know currently teaches a class that would be of value to the genealogy community and wants to share it, find out how online at FamilySearch's genealogy classes online.

Latest Course Additions

Australia:

- Australia BDM Civil Registration Index
- New South Wales Early Church Records 1788–1886
- Using the New South Wales Birth, Death, Marriage Index

England:

- Getting the Most from the National Archives Website
- Researching in the British Isles
- What Is Britain?

Germany

- My Experiences in German Family Research

Research Principles and Tools:

- Cemetery Art
- Finding Your Way: Locating and Using Maps in Your Research
- How to Find More at a Genealogy Library
- If I'd Only Known: Beginner Genealogy Mistakes
- Managing Your Family Records on the Internet

United States of America:

- Basic U.S. Military Records with Tiff
- Beginning Census Research and Record Keeping
- Colonial Immigration
- Colonial Land
- County Histories and Your Family
- Finding the Slave Generation
- Locating Ancestors on the Final Rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes
- See You on Sunday! Church Records in Genealogy
- Some Underused Online Resources
- U.S. Courthouse Research
- Welcome to the World of Periodicals

ICAPGen The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists:

- Mentoring Class: Introduction to ICAPGen
- Mentoring Class: Research Binder
- Mentoring Class: Evidence Analysis, Part II
- Mentoring Class: Written Exam and Oral Review

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. FamilySearch is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch records, resources, and services to learn more about their family history. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch has been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons

may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 4,600 family history centers in 132 countries, including the main Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. ■

WHAT'S NEW IN THE 1940 U.S. CENSUS?

The digital (NOT microfilm) release date for the 1940 U.S. census is 2 April 2012. This census counted a population still living in The Depression, but not yet at war. Commonly, censuses differ from those that came before, and this is certainly true of the 1940. Among the differences:

The person that answered the questions in each home was indicated by the enumerator, as was each person's address in 1935 and also employment in one of the New Deal public works programs, e.g., Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), National Youth Administration (NYA), or Works Project Administration (WPA).

At the bottom of each schedule, two people enumerated on preselected lines answered supplemental questions, such as birthplace of parents, veteran's service, and Social Security and Railroad Retirement. Both here and on the main portion of the schedule, people were asked for the industry they worked in and their specific occupation.

Citizenship of the Foreign-Born (Column 6)

Beginning in 1900 people were asked if they were naturalized, had filed their papers, or were aliens. In 1940 the category "American Citizen Born Abroad" (Am. Cit.) was added. A person born abroad was an American citizen if his or her father was an American citizen who had resided in the U.S. before the time of the child's birth, or the person was born after 24 May 1934 and either parent was an American citizen who had resided in the U.S. before the time of the child's birth.

Identification of Persons Furnishing Information (Column 7)

An X with a circle around it identifies the name of the person providing information. If the person

providing the information is for some reason not a member of the household, that person's name is written in the left-hand margin opposite entries for the household.

Education—Highest Grade of School Completed (Column 14)

Questions about education had appeared in earlier censuses, but in 1940 for the first time the highest grade of school completed was requested.

In What Place Did This Person Live on April 1, 1935? (Columns 16-17)

An interest in internal migration prompted the request for 1935 addresses. Migrants were those who had moved. Nonmigrants were those living in the same place in 1940 as they did in 1935. Immigrants were those people living in the continental U.S. in 1940 who in 1935 had lived in an outlying territory, possession of U.S., or in a foreign country.

Employment Status (Columns 21-33)

Thirteen questions about the employment status of people 14 years of age and older were asked. These included "Amount of money, wages, or salary received (including commissions)" and "Did this person receive income of \$50 or more from sources other than money wages or salary (Y or N)."

Public Emergency Work (Column 22)

Did anyone in the household work during the week of 24-30 March 1940 on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the WPA, the NYA, the CCC, or state or local work relief agencies? WPA (established 6 May 1935) sought to move unemployed workers from relief to jobs, such as rebuilding the national infrastructure, production of state guides, assistance with disaster relief, the arts and theater. The CCC (created 31 March 1933) employed men 18 to 25 in conservation work in national parks and forests.

Questions on the Supplemental Schedules

- From 1880 on people were asked for the birthplace of their parents, as well as their own birthplace. In 1940, however, this question was moved to the supplemental schedule (columns

36-37).

- In 1940 instead of asking if someone had served in the Civil War, people were asked if they had served in the World War, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, or Boxer Rebellion, and if in a Regular Establishment (Army, Navy, or Marine Corps), peacetime service only, or another war or expedition. The wife, widow, or under-18-year-old child of a veteran was also required to answer the questions.
- The supplemental schedule also asked about participation in two national insurance plans—Social Security and Railroad Retirement (columns 42-44).

Regardless of what questions were asked and what columns contained the answers, the 1940 census (as do all censuses) provides a snapshot of the nation at a specific point in time, and for that reason it is invaluable. ■

Information found in the article "New Questions in the 1940 Census" by Constance Potter, which appeared in *Prologue*, Quarterly of the National Archives and Records Administration, Winter 2010, Vol. 42, No. 4.

GENEALOGY DISPLAY PROJECT

An MGS member has suggested that we mount a display of old photos and other genealogical materials, such as family histories, family trees, census pages, ship rosters, etc. These would be displayed in the Gallery on the lower level of the library with the goal of generating interest in genealogy and MGS. MGS members would provide the displays and, perhaps, be available to answer questions at certain times.

The Gallery is booked with art shows through the end of this year. A small art committee at the library reviews requests for exhibition space, and we have no way of knowing at this point whether or not a genealogy display would be approved for the Gallery. It has never been done before. We have one volunteer willing to explore the possibilities, but she does not wish to work alone, so we need at least one more person to work with her. If you are interested in helping with this project,

please e-mail:

MGSVOLUNTEER@GMAIL.COM. ■

BEYOND NAMES AND DATES: UNCOVERING YOUR ANCESTORS' STORIES—19 MARCH 2011

Leslie Albrecht Huber gave us an excellent talk on this subject, essentially a way to add interest and excitement to the lives of all those ancestors you have been researching. Even though we do not all have prominent ancestors—people whose names appear in newspapers and books—through diligent effort we can build a story about the lives they lived.

The very first thing we should do is reexamine the records that we already possess. They may contain clues related to our ancestors' lives, such as occupations, names of other people (witnesses, employers, servants, etc.), causes of death, and any notes the record keeper might have added.

These will assist us in building a timeline, in which historical events or events from the lives of others that would have impacted our ancestors should be included. Doing this will give us a feel for the world in which our ancestors lived and indicate how events affected their situations.

Be aware that the lives of those that lived near our ancestors often paralleled the lives of our ancestors. For example, if hail or drought damaged crops on one farm in a neighborhood, it is extremely likely that crops on all farms in the neighborhood suffered.

Investigate other types of records, such as financial, school, payment and employment records, records of societies to which our ancestors belonged, and newspaper articles.

Personal accounts of others may include experiences shared by our ancestors, or may even mention our ancestors. We should first look for these among people closely related to our ancestors before expanding the search to include more distant relatives and acquaintances.

Finding such records can be difficult. First, we should contact members of our extended families. Then check libraries and historical societies near where our ancestors lived. Online indexes may be available, but it is also possible that what is being sought is part of a manuscript collection that has

never been indexed. The National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/> may be helpful. Also explore footnotes in papers and books about events our ancestors experienced, which may lead to the original records.

Learn as much as you can about the political climate: Was there a war or revolution going on? Were people leaving the area and migrating elsewhere? Had new inventions or transportation improvements affected employment opportunities? Explore career possibilities. What types of job could our ancestors have hoped for. Look into public health emergencies. Were large numbers in one area dying of one specific disease at one particular time?

We may now be able to produce a credible description of an ancestor's life, but we must be cautious if we do not wish to turn all of our hard research into a work of fiction. While much can be inferred, unless matters are provable, make heavy use of the word "probably." ■

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 1-866-840-1752, fax 212-401-1638; e-mail: newyork.archives@nara.gov.

- 10 May: "Finding Family: Civil War Draft Records."
- 14 June: "Finding Family: What to Do When You Hit the Brick Wall."

Waltham, Mass., 380 Trapelo Rd. Lectures are on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., except for "Genealogy for Kids" lectures, which are on Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. All are free, but space is limited. Register by calling 866-406-2379 or e-mailing waltham.archives@nara.gov. **Please note:** The schedule may be affected by upcoming renovations, so be sure to call ahead.

- 3 May: "Genealogy Online: Using the Online Resources of the National Archives."
- 7 June: "Finding Your Ancestors in Maritime Records."
- 12 July: "Introduction to Genealogy."

- 2 Aug.: "Census, Passenger Lists and Naturalization Records."

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 36 W. 44th Street, 7th fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; FAX 212-754-4218. The NYG&B's Education Committee is offering: "**Researching Your British Roots From the U.S.**," a day-long program on Sat., May 21, at NYG&B headquarters. Renowned British researchers and lecturers Paul Blake, FSG, and Maggie Loughran will present a four-lecture program geared to researchers whose ancestors came from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. For information e-mail education@nygbs.org or call 212-755-8532, Ext. 211.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116, 888-296-3447.

- On 18 May at 7 p.m., NEHGS welcomes author Joshua C. Kendall who will speak about his recent book, "The Forgotten Founding Father: Noah Webster's Obsession and the Creation of an American Culture."
- NEHGS's inaugural visit to Fort Wayne, Ind., will take place Sun.-Sun., 22-29 May. One of the world's largest genealogical collections at the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) will be explored. With more than 350,000 printed volumes and more than 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche, ACPL is a destination for every genealogist. The tour includes individual consultations, group meals, lectures, and other events.
- Tues., July 5, to Fri., July 15, the New England Historic Genealogical Society will offer a tour of Ireland led by Donald Friary, president of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, director emeritus of Historic Deerfield, and an NEHGS councilor. He will share with attendees the broad sweep of Irish history from the Bronze Age to the present. Local cuisine will be sampled. By special invitation, several great houses will be visited, and dinners will be held in two of Ireland's most beautiful and exclusive settings—Glin Castle with Desmond Fitzgerald, the Knight of Glin; and Leixlip Castle with the Honorable Desmond Guinness. By private arrangement, the group will also visit the meticulously restored Georgian house and gar-

dens belonging to a longtime friend of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This is a trip that may never be repeated.

For more information and to register for any of these programs, visit www.americanancestors.org.

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

- 14 May: "Exploring the 1940 US Census" will be presented by Christopher Zarr.
- 11 June: "Controlling Your Genealogy Computer Files" will be presented by Janice Parker.

National Genealogical Society, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304; telephone 800-473-0060. The 2011 Conference in the States theme is *Where the Past is Still Present*. The conference will be held Wed. to Sat., 11-14 May at the North Charleston Convention Center in Charleston, SC. Registration forms and more information can be found at: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info.

Worldwide Cruises has two genealogy events scheduled at this time and invites you to "**Explore Your Roots**" during lectures on a broad number of subjects aboard Royal Caribbean's *Freedom of the Seas*:

- **Sun. to Sun., June 5-12**, in the Eastern Caribbean (from Port Canaveral, Fla.). Lecturers will be Shamele Jordon, Lisa Parry Arnold, DearMYRTLE, Suzanne Russo Adams, Duff Wilson, Crista Cowan and The Ancestry Insider.
- **Sat. to Thurs., Oct. 22-27**, five-night Bermuda cruise (from Cape Liberty, New Jersey) Lecturers include Megan Smolenyak, Shamele Jordan, Lisa Parry Arnold, George G. Morgan, Lesley Anderson, Duff Wilson, Crista Cowan. Seminar Bonus: Each participant will have a private 30-minute consultation with one of the professional genealogists.

For more information contact: Lynn Polgar, Cruise Consultant, 15090 White Ave., Allen Park, MI 48101; (313) 294-2107; e-mail cruise.lynn@gmail.com. Visit the Website at: http://www.wwcruisehq.com/index_files/WorldwidecruiseHeadquarters_Family_History_Cruise.htm.

Legacy Family Tree, a genealogy software company, and World Cruise Headquarters are offering a cruise on board Royal Caribbean's *Explorer of the Seas*. Professional genealogist and technology educator Thomas MacEntee (and popular webinar speaker) will be the featured speaker. The cruise takes place Thurs., Sept. 29, to Sat., 8 Oct., starting and ending in New Jersey and visiting the following ports: Cape Liberty Cruise Port, N.J.; Portland and Bar Harbor, Maine; Saint John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Boston, Mass. Thomas MacEntee will offer presentations related to genealogy technology including "They're Alive—Searching for Living Persons," "Managing Your Genealogy Data," "Google for Genealogists," and "Backing Up Your Genealogy Data". He will join Legacy Family Tree's Geoff Rasmussen and others who will offer classes on Legacy and other genealogy technology. For more information, or to

register, visit http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/CruiseInfo_2011.asp. ■

COMING SOON! AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF YOUR NEWSLETTER

Faced with ever-increasing prices for copying and postage, as well as some inexplicable delays at the copy shop, your Board of Directors has decided to make your newsletter available electronically starting with the first issue released in 2012. A full explanation of how this will work will appear in our September issue. ■

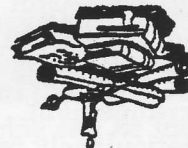
NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH? E-mail mgsvolunteer@gmail.com, and an MGS volunteer will contact you to schedule a help session at Darien Library.

Deadline for next newsletter
13 September 2011

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

MEETING
14 MAY 2011, 2 PM
DARIEN LIBRARY

Middlesex Genealogical Society
PO Box 1111
Darien CT 06820-1111



STAMFORD CT 06907
04 MAY 2011 PM 26 L