



The Newsletter of

Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXIII, No.1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

March, 2017

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Peter Biggins	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
Keeley Kriskey	Treasurer
Pamela Shea	Secretary

Virginia Banerjee
Tara Finn Forschino

Mary Lavins	Email Communications
Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President
John Driscoll	Newsletter Editor
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past Vice President
Dale Pollart	Past Treasurer

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/>

IN THIS ISSUE

- Presidents Message pg.1
- Overview of INS History pg. 2
- European Travel and DNA Testing pg. 3
- Upcoming M.G.S Meetings pg. 5
- Upcoming Regional Events pg. 7
- Tips pg. 7
- Leave Them Smiling pg. 8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In January this year I got a call from someone offering two free editions of Family Tree Maker for members of the Middlesex Genealogical Society. That's nice! But how do we decide who gets them? A raffle? A bidding war? A door prize?

If you have a good idea as to how to do this let us know. Contact me at pabiggin@optonline.net or 203-655-3694.

The call came from Mark Olsen, who is with MacKiev, a Ukrainian software company that acquired Family Tree Maker from Ancestry.com in 2016. See: <http://www.mackiev.com/ftm/>

Our two editions of Family Tree Maker each work for both PC and Mac computers.

Prior to acquisition, MacKiev had developed the Mac versions of Family Tree Maker for Ancestry.com Family Tree Maker is the most pop-

ular genealogy software management program. For more information on Family Tree Maker, see the article by our Len Christie in the March 2016 edition of this Newsletter: <http://mgs.darien.org/mgsxxxiione.pdf>

Peter Biggins

Overview of INS History

A Four Part Report from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Part One

Early American Immigration Policies

Americans encouraged relatively free and open immigration during the 18th and early 19th centuries, and rarely questioned that policy until the late 1800s.



Castle Garden

After certain states passed immigration laws following the Civil War, the Supreme Court in 1875 declared regulation of immigration a federal responsibility. Thus, as the number of immigrants rose in the 1880s and economic conditions in some areas worsened, Congress began to pass immigration legislation. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and Alien Contract Labor laws of 1885 and 1887 prohibited certain laborers from immigrating to the United States. The general Immigration Act of 1882 levied a head tax of fifty cents on each immigrant and blocked (or excluded) the entry of idiots, lunatics, convicts, and persons likely to become a public charge.

These national immigration laws created the need for new federal enforcement authorities.

After certain states passed immigration laws following the Civil War, the Supreme Court in

In the 1880s, state boards or commissions enforced immigration law with direction from U.S. Treasury Department officials. At the Federal level, U.S. Customs Collectors at each port of entry collected the head tax from immigrants while "Chinese Inspectors" enforced the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Origins of the Federal Immigration Service

The federal government assumed direct control of inspecting, admitting, rejecting, and processing all immigrants seeking admission to the United States with the Immigration Act of 1891. The 1891 Act also expanded the list of excludable classes, barring the immigration of polygamists, persons convicted of crimes of moral turpitude, and those suffering loathsome or contagious diseases.

The national government's new immigration obligations and its increasingly complex immigration laws required a dedicated federal enforcement agency to regulate immigration. Accordingly, the 1891 Immigration Act created the Office of the Superintendent of Immigration within the Treasury Department. The Superintendent oversaw a new corps of U.S. Immigrant Inspectors stationed at the country's principal ports of entry.

Federal Immigration Stations

On January 2, 1892, the Immigration Service opened the U.S.'s best known immigration station on Ellis Island in New York Harbor. The



Ellis Island

enormous station housed inspection facilities, hearing and detention rooms, hospitals, cafeterias, administrative offices, railroad ticket offices, and

representatives of many immigrant aid societies. America's largest and busiest port of entry for decades, Ellis Island station employed 119 of the Immigration Service's entire staff of 180 in 1893.

The Service built additional immigrant stations at other principal ports of entry through the early 20th century. At New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other traditional ports of entry, the Immigration Service hired many Immigrant Inspectors who previously worked for state agencies. At other ports, both old and new, the Service built an Inspector corps by hiring former Customs Inspectors and Chinese Inspectors, and training recruits.

Implementing A National Immigration Policy

During its first decade, the Immigration Service formalized basic immigration procedures and made its first attempts to enforce a national immigration policy. The Immigration Service began collecting arrival manifests (also frequently called passenger lists or immigration arrival records) from each incoming ship, a former duty of the U.S. Customs Service since 1820. Inspectors then questioned arrivals about their admissibility and noted their admission or rejection on the manifest records.

Beginning in 1893, Inspectors also served on Boards of Special Inquiry that closely reviewed each exclusion case. Inspectors often initially excluded aliens who were likely to become public charges because they lacked funds or had no friends or relatives nearby. In these cases, the Board of Special Inquiry usually admitted the alien if someone could post bond or one of the immigrant aid societies would accept responsibility for the alien.

Detention guards and matrons cared for detained persons pending decisions in their cases or, if the decision was negative, awaiting deportation. The Immigration Service deported aliens denied admission by the Board of Special Inquiry at the expense of the transportation company that brought them to the port.

Enhanced Responsibilities

Congress continued to exert Federal control over immigration with the Act of March 2, 1895, which promoted the Office of Immigration to the Bureau of Immigration and changed the agency head's title from Superintendent to Commissioner-General of Immigration. The Act of June 6, 1900, consolidated immigration enforcement by assigning enforcement of both Alien Contract Labor laws and Chinese Exclusion laws to the Commissioner-General.

Because most immigration laws of the time sought to protect American workers and wages, an Act of February 14, 1903, transferred the Bureau of Immigration from the Treasury Department to the newly created Department of Commerce and Labor. An "immigrant fund" created from collection of immigrants' head tax financed the Immigration Service until 1909, when Congress replaced the fund with an annual appropriation.

Part two in the June 2017 M.G.S. Newsletter

European Travel and DNA Testing

By Peter Biggins

Last December some genealogy just fell in my lap. Someone in Virginia sent me an email saying that someone in Germany had written a 20-page article on my maternal great great great grandfather. I bragged about it to several people at the social hour prior to Tony Lauriano's January presentation at the Darien Library on "Finding Foreign Records."



My ancestor was Johann Drücke (1743-1798). He lived in Ostentrop, a community in the municipality of Finnentrop, between Münster and Frankfurt in the Sauerland Mountains of Westphalia. He was a trader in hams and mineral water, transporting his goods between those two cities. One of the towns on his route was Selters, where he got his mineral water. Seltzer water is named after that town.

The article entitled "Johann Drücke – ein Händler (trader) und Fuhrunternehmer

(transporter) aus Ostentrop," appeared in the magazine of the local historical society, "An Bigge, Lenne und Fretter - Heimatkundliche Beiträge (local history magazine) aus der Gemeinde (from the municipality) Finnentrop." The magazine is published twice a year in June and December. Appearing in the December 2013 edition, it was 20 pages long and written by the magazine's editorial director, Volker Kenne-mann.

So, what precipitated the call? The person who dropped this in my lap was Mark Riggles-man. He had just gotten results from his Y-chromosome DNA test at Family Tree DNA showing that he matched the Saxon DNA of my cousin Paul Druke. Seeing that Paul's most distant paternal ancestor was Johann Drücke, he Googled that name and found my family history for Johann Drücke at:

<http://www.peterspioneers.com/JEBD.htm>

Mark, who majored in German in college, found the article in the magazine of the Finnentrop historical society by searching for Johann Drücke using German Google. His search yielded an item in a newspaper called the Sauerland Kurier that mentions the Finnentrop article. Mark translated the newspaper item and promises to translate the 20-page article. It doesn't get any better!

So, what precipitated the article? My wife Marilyn and I took a two-week trip to Germany and Italy in March and April 2007. The first week was mostly spent visiting small towns where my ancestors lived. We flew Lufthansa from New York to Stuttgart, where we rented a small Opel. In the first few towns, we were able to see the town and the Catholic Church, but not much else.

Our fifth day was a Friday. Around four o'clock in the afternoon, we found ourselves at Mariä Himmelfahrt Church in Schönholthausen, which is in a hilly section of Westphalia called the Sauerland. We had just been to the Church and seen the cemetery. The location of the rectory was not apparent. A woman in the restaurant across from the church pointed it out, and we went over and knocked on the door. The Pastor, Franz Rinschen, answered the door. I told him we were from America and looking for information about my ancestors named Druke. "Drüecken!" he said, "I think I have something

you're going to like." But he could not talk because he was in the middle of preparing the parish bulletin for the coming weekend. We agreed to come back the next morning.

Things were definitely looking up. At 10 o'clock the next morning, we rang the bell again and this time Pastor Rinschen invited us into his study, asked us to sit down, and began to tell us about the history he had written of houses in Ostentrop, a town in his parish just a mile from the church. He directed our attention to the Drücke house which was owned by my great great great grandparents, Johann and Elisabeth Bitter Drücke. The house, designated by Pastor Rinschen as HAUS 08, appears on pages 39-43 of his unpublished history of approximately 30 houses in Ostentrop, Germany.

Pastor Rinschen also showed us a copy of 92-page handwritten book of accounts of Johann Drücke referred to in his history. The book of accounts indicates that Johann was a trader. He bought cured hams from processors in the Ostentrop area and transported them by horse and wagon to Münster, 66 miles to the north, and to Frankfurt, 107 miles to the south. He also dealt in mineral water from the town of Selters. Selters is on the route between Ostentrop and Frankfurt, 68 miles from Ostentrop.

After meeting an hour and a half in Pastor Rinschen's study, he took us to the house in Ostentrop. He drove and we followed in our car. There were two houses opposite each other. One house, built around 1740, was HAUS 08, the home of Johann and Elisabeth Bitter Drücke from 1790 to 1798, and their descendants thereafter. The other house, built in 1786, was a half-timbered structure built by Johann Drücke prior to his marriage to Elisabeth Bitter. The structures are now owned by two brothers, Andre and Markus Eckert, who are renovating them for use as their own homes. The two brothers just happened to be there when we arrived and gave us a tour. Needless to say, this was the high point of the genealogical portion of our trip!

Pastor Rinschen's history of HAUS 08 enabled me upon return home to research and write a family history of Johann and Elisabeth Bitter Drücke. It also led to the discovery of distant cousins who had immigrated to Chanhassen, Minnesota, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in the

United States. It also led to an explanation of the connection between my family in Grand Rapids and another one there that we knew must be related but did not know how.

I also wrote a separate article about the trip and finding the house: <http://www.peterspioneers.com/ostentrophouse.htm>

In January 2013, I emailed the Fennentrop historical society asking if they could make a copy of the 92-page book of accounts maintained by Johann Drücke. Volker Kennemann replied saying they could not make a copy because of the condition of the pages. That was sad to hear--but perhaps it led to the 20-page magazine article!

The moral of the story: DNA testing and European travel can produce surprising results.

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

Saturday, March 11 and Saturday, May 13, 2017, 1:00 pm. Social Hour: Come Talk About Your Work.

This is an informal social hour with others who are interested in genealogy. The goal is to share experiences with fellow genealogists and hopefully gain new insights. Think of the most important question or issue that you have about your genealogy. It may be a brick wall that you are facing with one of your ancestors, a question of wanting to know where to find a particular resource, or a success that you are dying to share with the rest of us.

Saturday, March 11, 2017, 2:00 pm. "Irish Genealogy." Presented by Jonathan Shea.

Jonathan, a native of New Britain Connecticut, is a professor of foreign languages in the Connecticut Higher Education System. His academic preparation in the field of languages and linguistics has been enriched by living experience in Europe and study at the Universidad de Madrid in Spain, St. Petersburg State University in Russia and the Uniwersytet Jagiellonski in Poland.

In addition to being a foreign language educator,



Shea is a trained archivist and professional genealogist with specialization in Eastern Europe and Ireland and frequently lectures and presents workshops internationally on the topics of document translation and other linguistic issues, immigration history and European archival resources. The founding President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc., he now serves as its Reference Archivist and as the long-time editor of its journal, *Pathways & Passages*.

Saturday, May 13, 2017, 2:00 pm.

"Introduction to French-Canadian Genealogical Research." Presented by Maryanne Roy LeGrow.

This presentation is a basic introduction to French-Canadian genealogy. The types of genealogical records used in French-Canadian research differ from typical American records, so to be most productive, family history research in French Canada requires a slightly different approach. I'll begin with an overview of the kinds of records that exist and will describe how best to use



them. Then we will take a look at the ways in which name variants and other problems specific to genealogical research in Québec can create confusion for researchers. We will access some specialized internet sites such as *Nos Origines*, the *Archives Nationales du Québec*, and *FichierOrigine*, and examine their online resources. I will explain the organization of standard French-Canadian print source materials, describe some of the resources available in the library of the FCGSC in Tolland, Connecticut, and end with a discussion of how to "read" original birth/baptism, marriage, and death/burial records in French Canada without actually needing to know more than a few words of French.

Maryanne Roy LeGrow is President of the French-Canadian Genealogical Society of Connecticut and editor of the Society's biannual journal *The Connecticut Maple Leaf*. She is a retired higher education administrator and a long-time genealogical researcher, with special

interests in French-Canadian and Irish ancestry, and Colonial-era German settlers of eastern Pennsylvania. Maryanne holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education, M.A. degrees in English Literature and Adult Education, and a B.S. in Humanities and Technology. She has taught English, logic, writing and research techniques at several universities, and has spoken on genealogical topics at conferences in the U.S. and Europe.

Some Genealogical Repositories In Connecticut from FamilySearch Wiki

Connecticut Historical Society

Town records, biographies, manuscripts, families, early settlers, church records, photos, and maps.

1 Elizabeth Street

Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Telephone: 860-236-5621

Fax: 860-236-2664

E-mail: ask_us@chs.org

Internet: <https://chs.org/research/family-history/>

Connecticut State Library

Has the Barbour Collection, Bibles, census, church, Hale Collection, newspaper marriages and deaths, cemeteries, probates, vital records, directories, land, local histories, military, naturalization, passenger arrivals, a large genealogy collection of newspapers, books manuscripts, town histories, maps and lots of genealogies. Holdings include the collection, "Connecticut Archives, 1629-1820"

231 Capitol Avenue

Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Telephone: 860-757-6500 or toll free: 866-886-4478

E-mail: <http://ctstatelibrary.org/contact-us/email-us/>

Internet: <http://libguides.ctstatelibrary.org/hg/home>

Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library

The library's holdings are not limited to Connecticut and include census records, tax lists, family histories, church records, local histories, and much more

175 Maple Street

East Hartford, Connecticut 06118-2634

Telephone: 860-569-0002

E-mail http://www.csginc.org/contact_us_connecticut_genealogy.php

Internet: <http://www.csginc.org/>

Godfrey Memorial Library

The collection focuses primarily on New England but is national in scope. They compiled the American Genealogical and Biographical Index (AGBI). This library is an excellent genealogical facility including many New England town records, guidebooks, indexes, biographies, and genealogies.

134 Newfield St.

Middletown, Connecticut 06457

Telephone: 860-346-4375

E-mail: refdesk@godfrey.org Reference Librarian

Internet: <http://www.godfrey.org/>

New Haven Museum Whitney Research Library

This is the best collection of the earliest southern Connecticut town records. They also have passenger arrival lists, Federal censuses, and a complete set of New Haven city directories since 1840.

114 Whitney Avenue

New Haven CT 06510

Telephone: 203-562-4183 x15

E-mail: library@newhavenmuseum.org

Internet: <http://newhavenmuseum.org/visit/the-whitney-library/>

Yale University Sterling Memorial Library

Their genealogical strength is their religious collection and Puritan and Congregational Church records. They are also strong on Connecticut, New Haven, and New England history, manuscripts, diaries, and journals

120 High Street

New Haven, CT 06511-1918

Telephone: 203-432-1775

E-mail: askyale@gmail.com

Internet: <http://web.library.yale.edu/building/sterling-library>

Welcome New Members!

Rita Phillips

James Príhoda

Barbara Van Denmark

Upcoming Regional Events

Saturday, March 4, 2017, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Connecticut Ancestry Society and Danbury Library, 170 Main St. Danbury CT - "Genealogy Writing Workshop: Writing for Publication," by Nora Galvin GC.

What is the next step in your genealogy research? Many genealogists would like to pass the information on to family members but don't know what format to use. Writing narratives can be an excellent method of communicating what you know - At this workshop learn about some of the formats to use: journal articles, magazine articles, books, blogs. Professional genealogists will be available to guide your writing and answer questions. Free and open to the public. <http://connecticutancestry.org>.

Saturday, March 18, 2017, 1:30 to 3 p.m., Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118 "What's New in Irish Research Finds on the Internet" with Nora Galvin.

Cost: FREE but please pre-register by emailing or calling the CSG Office at csqinc@csqinc.org or 860-569-0002 so we may plan appropriately.

**Wednesday, April 26 to Saturday April 29, 2017—14th New England Regional Genealogical Conference
NERGC 2017**

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) invites you to join us at our fourteenth conference 26-29 April at the MassMutual Convention Center in the heart of historic Springfield, Massachusetts. Download the conference brochure at <http://www.nergc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Program-Brochure-11-4-1.pdf> Online registration is now open at <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1842529>

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 NERGC - Special Tracks and Workshops preceding the biennial

Tips

- When searching Family Search.org for BDM records, use the name of the **parents only** to find missing or unknown children. Use only one parent if widowed. Many certificates are listed this way. With this information you can obtain the original certificates.
- US Federal Census records for 1900 and 1910 show how many children were born to a mother and how many are still living. With this info you can list the missing children as “?” Smith and find them later. List them all separately so you can add their names from “?” to John or Mary when found.
- Copy **all** documents found and save them to your computer. File them so you can recall them easily. Make copies of people who may be **possible** relatives also and keep them in a separate file.

Have tips to offer?

Please send them to us at

driscoll@optonline.net and we will print them in future editions of the newsletter with your name. Use subject MGS TIPS

biennial conference MassMutual Center, Springfield, MA

All of the following start at 8:45 am. Each includes a lunch break. Each offers four presentations. Single focus with time for networking. Stand-alone events, no conference registration required

Librarian's Day - Professional Genealogist Day - Beginning DNA Day. - Technology Day x2 - Society Management Day

Also included on Wednesday are four two-hour stand-alone Workshops:
 Getting Started on Your Family History Research 9:30-11:30
 Designing Family History Books Entirely by Yourself 1:00-3:00
 Using Military Records to Track Ancestors from War through Peace 3:30-5:30
 Using Deeds to Solve Genealogy Problems 3:30-5:30
 See <http://www.nergc.org/> for more details.



Membership dues for 2017 were due in January.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2017 yet, please bring your check to our next speaker meeting on Saturday March 11. If you can't make this meeting, please mail it in now.

Please consider an additional contribution to help fund MGS programs.

**2017
MARCH 11
NEXT MEETING**

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