

The Newsletter of Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September, 2017

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2017

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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/>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm a Canaanite. That's what I found out recently when I had my autosomal DNA tested. I always thought I was 50% Irish and 50% German.

In July of this year, Kristin Romey wrote about Canaanite DNA in "National Geographic." She points out that "Biblical accounts generally portray Canaanites as the arch-enemies of early Israelites, who eventually conquered Canaanite territory and either exterminated or subjugated its people." She goes on to say, however, that "Canaanite presence persisted in the region, most notably in powerful port cities along the coast, where they were known to the Greeks as Phoenicians."

She says that researchers recently were able to sequence the DNA from the remains of five

individuals buried in the ancient port city of Sidon (modern Saïda, Lebanon) around 3,700 years ago. "According to the results, researchers were surprised at the level of genetic continuity between ancient Canaanites and modern Lebanese."

Full disclosure: I am only 1.2% Canaanite. But this gives my son some bragging rights with his in-laws: his wife is 50% Irish and 50% Lebanese.

Peter Biggins

MGS Library Inventory Changes

MGS has been in the process of removing many of our books from the genealogy collection at the request of the Darien Library to make the collection more relevant in an age when many of the books are available either online and/or in other Connecticut research libraries. This also allows the library to add new genealogy books to the collection to replace many that were rarely referenced, did not fit their geographical guidelines, or were in poor condition. In the interim, MGS would like to share this [Library Inventory](#) for your review. The books highlighted in yellow represent those that the Darien Library has requested to retain and manage within their genealogy collection, while all others will be removed and placed in storage for MGS. Please contact us if there are any books on this listing that you are interested in as MGS can assist you by identifying if the book is located in another Connecticut library or possibly available online in a digitized format. When we return from our summer break in September, a decision will be made on what to do with the books that have been placed in temporary storage at the library. Some possibilities include a future book sale and/or donations to other repositories; however, we welcome any additional suggestions. Please send all inquiries and questions regarding this update to mgsvolunteer@gmail.com

F.H.L. Microfilm Discontinuation

On September 1, 2017, FamilySearch will discontinue its microfilm distribution services. (The last day to order microfilm will be on August 31, 2017.)

The change is the result of significant progress made in Family Search's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

- Online access to digital images of records allows FamilySearch to reach many more people, faster and more efficiently.
- FamilySearch is a global leader in historic records preservation and access, with billions of the world's genealogical records in its collections.
- Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide.
- The remaining microfilms should be digitized by the end of 2020, and all new records from its ongoing global efforts are already using digital camera equipment.
- Family history centers will continue to provide access to relevant technology, premium subscription services, and digital records, including restricted content not available at home.

Digital images of historical records can be accessed today in three places on FamilySearch.org under **Search**.

- **Records** include historical records indexed by name or organized with an image browse.
- **Books** include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries.
- **Catalog** includes a description of genealogical materials (including books, online materials, microfilm, microfiche, etc.) in the FamilySearch collection.

When approved by priesthood leaders, centers may continue to maintain microfilm collections already on loan from FamilySearch after microfilm ordering ends. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.

Overview of INS History

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

Part Three

Continued from June 2017 M.G.S newsletter

Era of Restriction

Mass immigration resumed after the First World War. Congress responded with a new immigration policy, the national origins quota system.

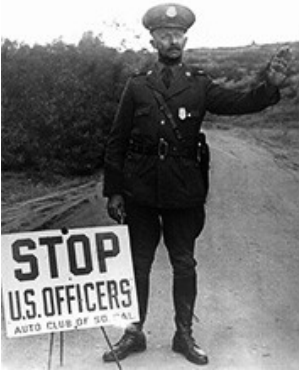
Established by Immigration Acts of 1921 and 1924, the national origins system numerically limited immigration for the first time in United States history. Each nationality received a quota based on its representation in past United States census figures. The State Department distributed a limited number of visas each year through U.S. Embassies

abroad and the Immigration Service only admitted immigrants who arrived with a valid visa.

Birth of the Border Patrol and Board of Review

Severely restricted immigration often results in increased illegal immigration. In response to rising numbers of illegal entries and alien smuggling, especially along land borders, in 1924 Congress created the U.S. Border Patrol within the Immigration Service.

The strict new immigration policy coupled with Border Patrol successes shifted more agency staff and resources to deportation activity. Rigorous enforcement of immigration law at ports of entry also increased appeals under the law. This led to creation of the Immigration Board of Review within the Immigration Bureau in the mid-1920s. (The Board of Review became the Board of Immigration Appeals after moving to the Justice Department in the 1940s, and since 1983 has been known as the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR).)



Border office So. Cal. 1920s

United Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS)

Executive Order 6166 of June 10, 1933, reunited the Bureau of Immigration and Bureau of Naturalization into one agency, the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Consolidation resulted in significant reduction of the agency's workforce achieved through merit testing and application of Civil Service examination procedures.

The agency's focus shifted towards law enforcement as immigration volume dropped significantly during the Great Depression. Through the 1930s, INS dedicated more resources to investigation, exclusion, prevention of illegal entries, deportation of criminal and subversive aliens, and cooperating closely with the Department of Justice's United States Attorneys and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in prosecuting violations of immigration and nationality laws.

World War II

The threat of war in Europe, and a growing view of immigration as a national security rather than an economic issue, reshaped the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) mission. In 1940, Presidential Reorganization Plan Number V moved the INS from the Department of Labor to the Department of Justice.



Actress Anna Lee, Alien Registration 1940

The United States' entry into World War II brought additional change as many Service personnel enlisted in the Armed Forces. This left INS short of experienced staff. At the same time, INS Headquarters temporarily moved to Philadelphia for the course of the war.

Aiding the War Effort

New national security duties led to the INS' rapid growth through World War II. The agency's

workforce doubled from approximately 4,000 to 8,000 employees as INS instituted the following programs in support of the war effort:

Recording and fingerprinting every alien in the United States through the Alien Registration Program;
 Organizing and operating internment camps and detention facilities for enemy aliens;
 Overseeing the expedited naturalization of more than 100,000 members of the U.S. armed forces, including 13,587 soldiers naturalized abroad in nation's first overseas naturalization ceremonies.
 Increased Border Patrol operations;
 Record checks related to security clearances for immigrant defense workers; and
 Administration of a program to import agricultural laborers to harvest the crops left behind by American workers who went to war.
 During the war the INS was relieved the responsibility of enforcing the Chinese Exclusion Act, which Congress repealed in 1943. Other war-time developments included conversion to a new record-keeping system and implementation of the Nationality Act of 1940.

Part 4 in the December M.G.S newsletter

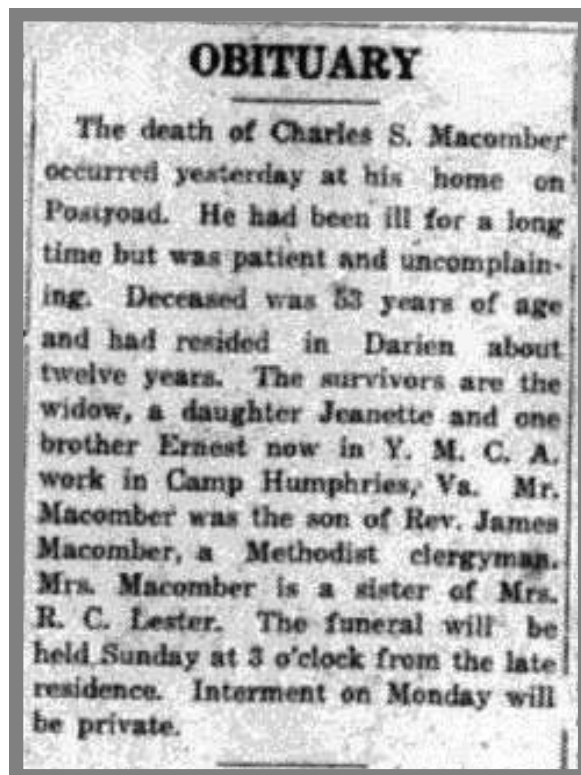
Darien Library News

The **Darien Obituaries Index Project** has been underway for about a year and a half now, we anticipate it will take at least two years to complete. Here's what we are doing:

1. Examining every issue of the four Darien newspapers, Darien Review, Darien News, Darien News-Review and Darien Times, from 1902 to current date, for obituaries. We are cataloging every single one, not just those who lived in Darien at time of death.
2. Every entry will include the individuals full name, death date, birth date (if available), date and page number for the newspaper it is located in.
3. The database will be searchable by first name, last name, and date.
The link to the database will be on the Darien

Library website. <https://www.darienlibrary.org/>

It's important to note that the link will not take you to the actual obituary, for that you still need to come to the Library and use the microfilm to either print a hard copy, scan to a thumb drive, or scan to email. We made an investment in a state-of-the-art microfilm reader/printer/scanner to ensure the best possible reproduction and means of transmitting it. It's fairly easy to use and always an option for people who would like to do the work themselves. We also do not limit



Obit from the Darien Review 11/08/1918. Used with permission of the Darien Library

use to Darien Library microfilm—patrons are welcome to bring in their own film or fiche to print or digitize.

This index project will make it easier for people to do research from afar and we will happily fill requests received by email or snail mail.

We are currently still entering names into the database and will be doing the quality control check in the fall. We don't want to launch until we are confident the product is both accurate and easy to use, but our goal is for either the end of this year or early 2018.

M.G.S Social 2017

Thanks to the efforts of board member, Tara Finn Forschino, the Middlesex Genealogical Society held its first social gathering at the Oak Hills restaurant in Norwalk



Connecticut on Wednesday, May 31st. The evening was breezy and warm, with clear weather clouds dotting the sky. The event was held on the beautiful covered porch of the Oak Hill Restaurant in Norwalk Connecticut, overlooking the green



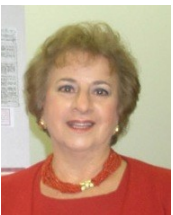
expanse of the golf course and surrounding shrubs. It was attended by about 20 people. Drinks and light fare were available and the animated conversation was mostly about genealogy. There was a door prize of a Family Tree Maker program by Mac Kiev, which was won by Marie Haywood.

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Upcoming MGS Presentations

Saturday, October 14, 2017, 2:00 pm.

"Using Ancestry.com Like a Pro." Presented by Toni McKeen.



In this lecture Toni McKeen shows how to research efficiently and successfully using this powerful site. Toni shares helpful tips on finding those elusive relatives,

which parameters to use, and how to prevent looking at thousands of names in search of the one person you are trying to find. Also included are often overlooked options and the newest cool features that have just been added.

Toni has been doing genealogy research on her own extensive Italian family, her husband's Irish family, and son in law's German family for the last 30 years. She is a popular lecturer at many genealogy societies in the New York, New England, and New Jersey areas.

Saturday, November 18, 2017, 2:00 pm.

"Understanding DNA in Genealogy." Presented by Peter Biggins.



This presentation seeks to explain the ways that your DNA or that of a relative, when compared with others, can help you in your genealogical research and expand your horizons. Included will be information on types of DNA and tests: autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y chromosome. Various testing organizations will be discussed, including the types of tests they offer and importance of their databases. How to select a testing organization based on your objectives and how you interact with the testing organization. DNA is no substitute for genealogical research, but the presentation will show how it can be helpful. How DNA can confirm or deny your genealogical research. How it can be helpful to those who have adoptions in their histories. How it may be able to break down a brick wall. How it can identify distant cousins. How it can suggest ethnic make-up. How it can explain a surname. How it can give you your genetic pedigree back thousands of years and how it may allow you to connect a modern pedigree with an ancient pedigree. [Handout.](#)



Peter Biggins started tracing his and his wife's family histories after he retired as an employee benefits consultant at Hewitt Associates in 2002. In 2004, he took a course in Website Development at Norwalk Community College and started a website called PetersPioneers.com. In 2010, he made a presentation at the October MGS meeting in Darien on "How to Test Your DNA and Why." In 2011, he made a presentation at Family Tree DNA's 7th Annual International Conference on Genetic Genealogy in Houston, Texas. Peter administers seven projects at FTDNA, including one for MGS members to share DNA information with other members, help members understand their testing results, and suggest avenues for further testing. Peter is MGS President and Webmaster.

Welcome New Member!

Janeen Bjork

Nancy Ellen Carpenter

Upcoming Regional Events

Saturday, September 16, 2017, 10:30 a.m. - noon at the Stamford History Center 1508 High Ridge Road Stamford, Connecticut 06903 presented by the Connecticut Ancestry Society

Free or Fee Genealogy: Finding Free Records, Deciding When to Pay. Textbook author, marketer and Genealogist, Marian Burk Wood, whose book, *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past*, was released in late 2016, will share tips for making the most of your genealogy dollars. The program is co-sponsored by the Connecticut Ancestry Society and the Stamford Historical Society. It's free and all are welcome.

Friday, October 13, 2017 and Saturday, October 14, 2017 at the Institute of Technology, Business and Development, Downtown campus of Central Connecticut State University, 185 Main Street, New Britain, CT.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and The S. A. Blejwas Endowed Chair of Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies, Central Connecticut State University cordially invite you to attend the 2017 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE. The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their fami-

ly history. Speakers have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

Featured speakers will be Matthew Bielawa, (Vice-President, PGSCTNE), Dr. Mieczyslaw B. Biskupski, (Endowed Chair, Polish and Polish-American Studies, CCSU), Michelle Chubenko, (New Jersey), David Ouimette, (Utah), Tadeusz H. Pilat (Tarnobrzeg, Poland), Thomas Sadauskas (Virginia), Jonathan Shea, A.G., President, PGSCTNE).and Julie Szczepankiewicz (Massachusetts).

For more information, please see our website at <http://www.pgscetne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx> or email Diane Szepanski at Szepanski3@cox.net.

Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the Four Points Sheraton, 475 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450. The Annual Family History Seminar, presented by The Connecticut Society of Genealogists.

We will welcome:

Mel Smith of the Connecticut State Library who will present "Finding Your Family in Connecticut Court Records"

Michael Leclerc who will present "Discovering your World War I Ancestors" and "New England Migrations"

Dave Robison who will present "Deep Dive into Your Research; What Did You Miss?"

Register before September 30th and save \$10! Registration Deadline is October 13, 2017.

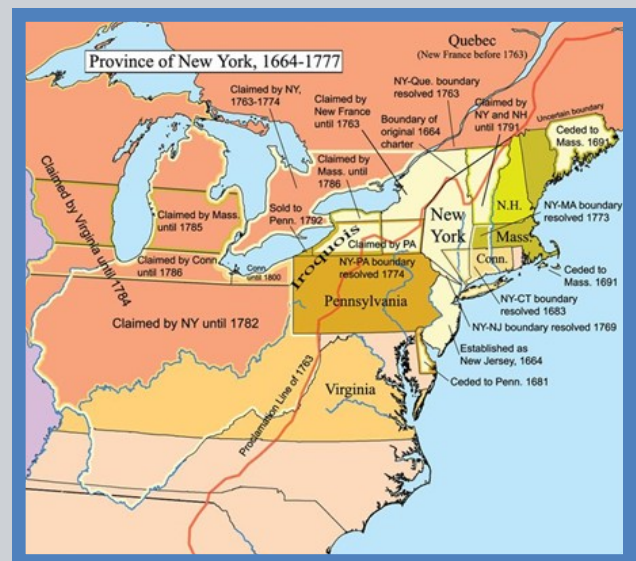
For questions or to pre-register call 860-569-0002 or email csginc@csginc.org between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Saturday, November 4, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – noon at Patchogue-Medford Public Library, 54-60 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 - Presented by the DNA Genealogy Group of Long Island (DGGLI)

please see Events on page 8

Tips

- Often you will have to look at a number of certificates before you find the one that is *your* relative. Start a "Searched and Found" file on Microsoft Excel or equivalent. In the first column list your ancestors names. In subsequent columns list Birth - Death - Burials - Marriage - Draft - Ship Manifests - 1850 Census - 1860 Census, etc. When you find a relative on a census, or when a certificate is found, list it in BOLD letters. When a certificate is looked at and it is not your relative, list it also so you will know that it has already been eliminated as a possibility. Add a column for notes. You can be as creative as you like. I color code my findings in yellow if found or green if more is needed. You will be able to tell, at a glance, which census or certificate you are missing.
- In colonial times many New England boundaries were not settled. Many bordering lands were claimed by different colonies. Early records therefore may be found in the adjoining colony from where you are looking.



Events continued from page 7

Navigating the Interfaces of 5 DNA Websites for Best Results. TV Researcher and Genealogy teacher Janeen Bjork will share her family's DNA experience with five different Genetic Genealogy sites (AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andMe, MyHeritage and GEDmatch). Beginners will be introduced to the interfaces and tools available from each company with examples of the DNA test results of the Bjork family. There will also be case studies for more experienced participants to consider and discuss. DGGLI's mission is to educate and inform about the use of DNA testing for genealogical purposes through its website and through meetings in the Long Island, New York, area. <https://dggli.wordpress.com/>

Saturday, November 11, 2017, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Trumbull Public Library 33 Quality Street Trumbull, CT 06611 presented by the Connecticut Ancestry Society

Writing Workshop - The program will begin with a presentation by Shannon Green of Greenwich Genealogy on how she wrote her article that was published in the June National Genealogical Society *Quarterly*. That will be followed by a workshop with Nora Galvin, CG, and others available to coach while attendees write.

LEAVE THEM SMILING



**2017
OCTOBER 14,
NEXT MEETING**

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