

The Newsletter of the
**Middlesex Genealogical
Society**

Vol. XXXII, No.1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

March, 2016

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2015-2016

OFFICERS

Peter Biggins	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
Keeley Kriskey	Treasurer Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Virginia Banerjee
Tara Finn Forschino
Mary Lavins

Steven Anderson	Past President
Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
John Driscoll	Newsletter Editor
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Past 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/>

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message pg1
- Family Tree Maker pg2
- Tips pg3
- German Research pg4
- Upcoming MGS events pg5
- The Easter Rising pg6
- History hub pg7
- Genealogy by Appointment pg8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I spend a lot of time on the computer with genealogy. My wife says too much time. I have a genealogy website, and I manage quite a few projects on the Internet. But there is one thing that has passed me by--Facebook. I am on Facebook, but I have no idea how to use it. I am hoping that Marian Wood will bring me into the modern age. On Saturday, March 12, Marian Wood will discuss "Using Facebook for Genealogy" in the Community Room at the Darien Library.

Marian says "Facebook is home to more than 5,700 genealogy groups researching specific areas (such as ancestors in New England, Indiana, and the British Isles) and specific groups (like Jewish genealogy and Irish genealogy). Using Facebook, we can not only connect with relatives and family friends, we can also connect with local historians and researchers, post genealogical queries, ask questions, get advice

quickly, and share information easily. This presentation will show, step by step, how to use Facebook for your family history research."

The meeting is from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The hour before Marian's presentation will be an informal discussion session/round table where all are invited to participate. We call it "Come Talk About Your Work." 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. The goal is to share your experiences and to help your fellow genealogists and hopefully gain new insights.

If you still have not paid your dues for 2016 or you would like to make a donation to MGS, our Treasurer Keeley Kriskey will be glad to take your money at the March 12 meeting.

Peter Biggins

Family Tree Maker Out of Business - Now What?

By Len Christie

The recent Ancestry.com announcement that Family Tree Maker, the most popular genealogy software management program, was being discontinued may have left you feeling "So what do I do now and what options do I have?" The fact is that this is just another program that has gone out of business in the past few years, so the problem is not new. Also, very few new genealogy programs have been produced in this same period, Is it a trend? It's hard to say, but begs the question of "How am I going to pass on the data to the next generation, if this keeps happening?" Each genealogy software company has its own database format and standards, making the transfer of this data not easily done.

In this article, we will explore what your options are



and their pros and cons.

Keep using your current genealogy program.

This is the simplest. It is private, you control the data and it cannot be altered or stolen as in some online applications. The program will continue to run on your computer as it always has, until you either decide to upgrade to an available newer version of the same software, move to a newer operating system or change computers. If your application is on a Microsoft Operating System it will probably be alright, since they are backward compatible. This means their new OS will support programs designed to run in older versions.

Change to a different genealogy program.

This is potentially the most difficult option because there are no complete transfers of data between genealogy programs at present. This includes the use of the GEDCOM option in your current genealogy program. They hold some risk for data loss unless multiple steps are taken to identify, recover, correct, or reenter the bypassed, mistranslated, or transferred data.

However, there is hope for FTM users with the very recent announcement by Ancestry.com has made with software firm:

Mackiev. It is the publisher for both Mac and Windows versions of FTM and is acquiring the Family Tree Maker software line for both versions. Under this agreement, you will receive software updates and new versions from Software Mackiev, and can purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker as they are released. You will have continued access to Ancestry Hints, Ancestry searches, and be able to save your tree on Ancestry with Family Tree Maker in the future. Check their website to keep up with the changes in the coming months.

If you are considering others, contact the manufacturer of the genealogy program you are looking at. They should be helpful because some may have made this conversion easier, and provide a procedure or guidelines that tell you what you may have to adjust or reenter. They want your business. Shop around for what best meets your needs. In the case

of Family Tree Maker, several articles have been recently published, telling you how to go about it by Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and Genealogy Tools websites. Even if you are able to successfully convert to a new program, the risk that it could happen again is very real. Remember too that with any new program, there is a learning curve to using it.

Transition to a cloud-based genealogy service.

There are two versions of cloud-based genealogy applications available: the first is one where you share a database with thousands of other users and the other method is one where you maintain your own private database in a cloud service where no one else can access it without your permission.

Family Tree Maker users are already familiar with Ancestry.com's web interface which they may choose to use. Instructions are available on Ancestry to do this. However, it does not have the reporting capabilities and some other features of FTM. But at what price? Subscription fees to use them? Ownership of the data? You could lose control of it and your information may become public, or you could be made hostage to your own data, since they control your access to it. In fact, if you do have your data there already, consider downloading it in a GEDCOM file to be used by a genealogy program you currently own or can purchase such as Roots Magic, load it and back it up for safe keeping and restoration.

There are other choices available: MyHeritage.com, The Next Generation of Genealogy Sitebuilding, webtrees.org, WeRelate.org, FamilySearch.org, WikiTrees.com, Heredis, and other excellent web-based products as well.

Summary

No matter which option you decide upon, you should be running a backup of your genealogy data using your program's backup function on a regular basis for recovery of lost data. Also locate and safely store your installation disk for your program and registration number for future re-installation. Consider doing a full image backup periodically of your

entire computer and immediately before any conversion so that you can recover from a computer, system, installation or conversion failure. You may consider storing your backups on an external drive or using a cloud based backup such as Blaze or Dropbox. The choice is yours. Remember you are responsible for your data not FTM or Ancestry.

Tips

When looking at city directories and you are not sure a listing is a relative, try to find other family members at the same address, or close by. Adult sons can often be found living with parents, and this could confirm a surname as the one you want. concentrate on occupations and addresses instead of the name.

Beware of Assumptions! My great grandmother Maryanne Healy was listed as a widow in 1920. I could not find my great grandfather Patrick in 1920. Their son Thomas, in the 1917 draft records, claimed sole support for his wife, three children, mother and brother. Armed with this knowledge, I spent a long time looking for my great-grandfather's death between 1910 (when both were listed as married) and 1917. I finally found him..... alive and well in Brooklyn in 1925. He died in 1930 and was buried with four of his fourteen children.

Don't get sidetracked. I have noticed I pick all the low hanging fruit. That leads me away from my direct family and into looking for cousins, in-laws and others who are not directly related. Maybe I have A.D.D.. Too much to search! Stick to the mission at hand. Make notes if you want and go back when you have time.

German Genealogy Research

contributed by an MGS member

Many of us have German-speaking grandparents who emigrated from "Prussia," an old geographic term which today includes parts of Germany, Poland, Russia, Lithuania, Denmark, Belgium and Czech Republic. They also may have come from Alsace Lorraine, which today is in France, or Switzerland, Austria, etc. For many years, European kingdom or country borders changed back and forth. A town formerly in Hesse may have later been folded into Saxony but today it's in Thuringia. It's still the same town but the records of the people of that town over the centuries may be in different archives today.

Finding the hometown of German-speaking grandparents can be a time-consuming but not impossible project. Early census records in the US, for example, recorded German kingdom names like Baden, Saxony, or Prussia as the place of birth. What do you do if Prussia is your only clue? You'll have to follow that family across later censuses to find more

recording the birthplaces of their congregation in the church baptism, marriage and burial ledger books. If you're lucky enough to find your ances-



Typical German Church

tor's

church records, transcription and translation from old German script will be the next task. Those wonderful old documents may be faded, indecipherable at first glance. Is that a J or S? G or H? Once the hometown name is revealed, where do you find that place on a map today? Are there other towns with the same name? More than likely there are.

On the other hand, you may already know the full names of your German great grandparents and their

Todten-Register.			
<i>Zeit u. Ort des Todes.</i>	<i>Zeit u. Ort der Beerdigung.</i>	<i>Todesursache.</i>	<i>Funktion des Predigers.</i>
<i>20 Octob. 1874</i>	<i>25 Octob. 1874</i>	<i>Herz-Kreislauferkrankung</i>	<i>Pred. in der Kirche</i>
<i>frei</i>	<i>Andolf-Wilf. Kirhoff</i>		<i>Joh. 11^{ter} v. Linnel.</i>
	<small>Deutschen Luth. Kirchhof</small>		

Death Record in German Script

clues. There are also naturalization documents to uncover, military documents, church records, many of which may or may not be on ancestry.com.

Church records are especially important resources for German genealogy research. Many German-speaking clergy in the US in the 19th century or earlier were interested in preserving German culture by

hometowns. How do you find records further back in time? Becoming familiar with the free LDS family search website, familysearch.org, is essential. On their webpage today are 58 German collections. Records from Baden, Bavaria, Brandenburg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Pomerania, Rheinland-Palatinate, Saxony, Westfalia, Wurttemberg are ei-

ther indexed or browsable. Or you can search their master list collections of German Births and Baptisms (37 million records), German Deaths and Burials (3 million records), German Marriages (8 million records), or the Germans To America index (4 million records).

If you want to see the handwritten records for more detail (in German), you can order the actual church or civil microfilm from the LDS webpage to view it at the Darien library. When the microfilm of the village comes in, search it for the names of your grandparents and their parents and siblings. Take digital photos of records of anyone with the surnames you're searching for, or download the microfilm pages onto a flash drive. Transcription can come later.

There are also many excellent genealogy websites based in Europe which are searchable today. But how do you navigate those websites if you don't understand German?

Contact mgsvolunteer@gmail.com to connect with an MGS volunteer who has been doing her own German (and French) genealogy research for 15 years. She is willing to help other members in their research, including help with translation.

Upcoming MGS Meetings Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 12, 2016, 2:00 pm. "Using



Facebook for Genealogy." Presented by Marian Wood. There are hundreds of active Facebook genealogy groups devoted to specific parts of the US and the world. There are pages for discussion at

these sites about specific family groups. Using Facebook, researchers can connect with relatives, local historians and researchers, and ask questions, get advice, and share information. Ms. Wood blogs about her genealogical research at climbingmyfamilytree.blogspot.com.

A New York City native, Ms Wood held vice-

presidential level marketing positions with Citibank, JP Morgan Chase, and the National Retail Federation before becoming a textbook author. Over the years, she has co-authored a number of college textbooks on marketing, advertising, and management. She has also assisted marketing experts Philip Kotler and Kevin Keller with their best-selling "Framework for Marketing Management" textbook. She earned an M.B.A. in marketing from Long Island University in New York and a B.A. from the City University of New York. Special interests in marketing include retailing, social media, and customer influence. When not writing or researching the latest developments in the world of marketing, she traces her ancestors and follows championship figure skating.

Saturday, May 14, 2016, 2:00 pm. "Finding



Italian Records—Italian Genealogy." Presented by Toni McKeen.

For the last 12 years, while not doing continuing research on her own family, Toni has been teaching several levels of genealogy in her home town of Ridgefield, CT. Toni is on a mission

to expose as many people as possible to the fun, excitement, and importance of tracing their own genealogy. She believes documenting your family history is important for yourself and for future generations, even if they are not interested or don't have the time now. Over the years she has taught over 2100 hours of genealogy courses at Founders Hall in Ridgefield, and Redding, CT as well as Bronxville and Mamaroneck, NY.

She has also been a popular lecturer at various genealogy societies in the New York, Connecticut, New Jersey, Boston, and Long Island areas.

Toni was born in Miami, Florida. She earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Biology from C.W. Post College on L.I. Toni has been married for over 40 years, and has two children and two grandchildren (both gorgeous and brilliant, naturally). Her training from her research background while earning her degrees in biology helped her to establish organized systems and charts for recording family information for herself and her students...a problem for most researchers.

100 Years Ago - The Easter Rising

by John Driscoll



April 24 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. It was an event that changed the course of Irish history. It was the most significant uprising in Ireland since the rebellion of 1798. Ireland had been part of Great Britain since the Acts of Union in 1800. The third "Home Rule" bill for Ireland was introduced in 1912. This brought about conflict between the Unionists, who wanted to keep Ireland united as part of Great Britain and the Republicans, who wanted total separation. The Unionists formed the Ulster Volunteer Force, the first paramilitary group of 20th century Ireland, and the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) formed the Irish Volunteers. Many political groups were being formed with widely different aims including the militant group, the Irish Citizen Army, formed by trade unionists as a result of the Dublin Lock-out of 1913.

Implementation of the Home Rule Act was suspended due to the outbreak of World War I. Many Irishmen had volunteered for Irish regiments and divisions of the British Army. Nevertheless, the Government of Ireland Act 1914, linked Irish conscription to the passing of the Home Rule Act. This infuriated parties sympathetic to secession from England and many walked out of Parliament in protest.

A plan for an armed revolt against English rule was developed to occur before the end of the war. In April of 1915, Joseph Plunkett of the IRB travelled to Germany along with Roger Casement who arrived from the United States to secure Germany's support for Irish independence. James Connolly, head of the militant Irish Citizen Army, at this time was unaware of the IRB's plans. He was convinced in January of

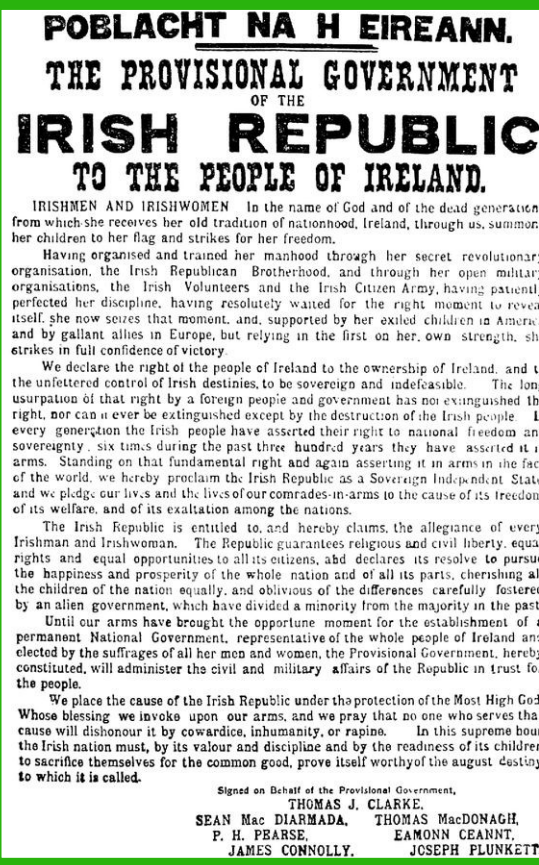
1915 to join forces. He was the sixth of what would eventually become the seven leaders of the Rising. The others were Patrick Pearse, Thomas Clarke, Sean MacDermott, Joseph Plunkett, Eamonn Ceannt and Thomas MacDonagh. The plans for the Rising which was to happen on Easter Sunday, were not revealed to the Irish Volunteers at large.

Roger Casement was captured when he returned to Ireland on a U boat. British Naval Intelligence was aware that the German ship *Aud*, was transporting arms and ammunition to the rebels. The ship had tried to deliver its shipment, but the local Volunteers failed to gather at the appointed time. The Royal Navy intercepted the *Aud* and rather than having the shipment confiscated, the captain scuttled the ship.

When the plans for the Rising were revealed to Eoin MacNeill, leader of the Volunteers, he tried to call off the rebellion by issuing a "countermanding order"; this just postponed the outbreak from Easter Sunday to the next day, Monday.

The Rising, was supposed to occur countrywide, but actually only happened in Dublin and a few other places. Early on Monday morning, about 1,200 Volunteers and Citizen Army members took over strongpoints in Dublin city center. Another 400 gathered at Liberty Hall under the command of James Connolly. They seized the city's general post office and other strategic locations, but failed to take Dublin Castle, Trinity College the trains stations and port. In front of the post office, Patrick Pearse read a proclamation declaring Ireland an independent republic and stating that a provisional government had been appointed.

Many incidents took place that first day, The public did not support the revolt and there were cases of civilians shot dead or wounded while trying to dismantle barricades set up by the rebels.



Proclamation read by Patrick Pearse on the steps of the GPO

On Tuesday, martial law was declared over Ireland and the British brought in 16,000 troops and the gunboat *Helga*, which they sailed up the River Liffey. The overwhelming firepower and seemingly indiscriminate shelling leveled much of the center of Dublin. Civilians were killed by crossfire and in one case, shot execution-style by the British. In the week's fighting, about 450 people were killed and over 2,000 wounded.

In less than a week it was over, the rebels surrendered unconditionally. Within two weeks, the British executed 15 leaders of the uprising by firing squad, arrested another 3000 and imprisoned another 1800 without trial. A sixteenth execution was performed in August. These actions by the British changed the attitude of the Irish and helped build support for the fight for Irish independence.

U.S. National Archives has Recently Launched a History Hub

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2016 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>.

The National Archives and Records Administration has recently launched a **FREE** History Hub, an online research support community, where members of the public can ask questions about research at NARA. The new site is a pilot for the next 6 months, and hopefully will be fully funded after that time. However, there is no guarantee of that.

There's a dedicated Genealogy section in the History Hub. To access it, go to <https://historyhub.archives.gov/welcome> and register for an account, and then you can contribute in any way that you'd like!

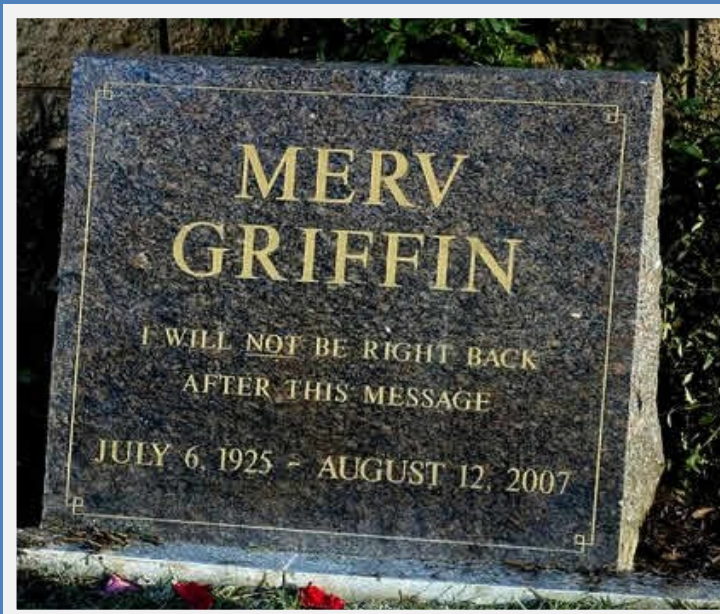
Genealogy By Appointment: How to get Started

Do you want to get started on your family history but don't know where to begin? Skilled genealogy volunteers from the Middlesex Genealogical Society can help! They will show you how to find important clues in your ancestors' paper trail using databases such as ancestry.com, familysearch.org, findagrave.com, and more.

Uncover those many clues which already exist online in census data, naturalization records, military records, birth, death and marriage indices. Or, discuss anything genealogical. It's your hour, let's discuss whatever you like.

Bring your family tree if you have one, and any details you have to make searching or future planning easier. Our first session is on Thursday, March 10th from 7:00-9:00 pm. Space is limited, RSVP required. Additional sessions to be held every month or two. Reserve your spot through the link on the Darien Library Community webpage: <http://bit.ly/21jEVCX>

LEAVE THEM SMILING



WHAT'S YOUR GENEALOGICAL AREA OF INTEREST?

Maybe you don't have time to offer help as a volunteer, but we'd still love to know what part of the world you're researching, and the time period, and if you have any special language skills, basic or better. Call it our "bench strength" survey. We'd love to have a sense of the diversity of research interests or skills our members represent. If you agree, we'll include it on our webpage, with or without your name. Your genealogical interest area or skill might be the very thing someone else in our membership is trying to understand. Drop us a line at mgsvolunteer@gmail.com, tell us about your area of interest or skill, or the area of interest or skill you're hoping someone here at MGS has.

**2016
MARCH 12,
NEXT MEETING**

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