



The Newsletter of the
**Middlesex Genealogical
Society**

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

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MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2015-2016

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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/>

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message pg.1
- Immigration Restriction pg. 2
- Why Was the Information Removed pg. 2
- Tips pg. 3
- The Slow Wheels of Government pg. 4
- Upcoming MGS meetings pg. 5
- New Books at the Darien Library pg. 5
- Upcoming Regional Events pg. 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why become a member of MGS? Our presentations at the Darien Library are free and open to the public. The one-hour genealogy discussion periods before our presentations are available to all. Our MGS volunteers will help you get started on genealogy whether you are a member or not. Our MGS Newsletters are available to all on our website. You need no password to view the many helpful pages on our website.

So, why become a member of MGS? There are some member-only features; however, the main reason is that MGS is a good cause.

Firstly, we cannot do what we do at MGS without member dues and charitable contributions. The major use of these funds is to attract speakers for our public meetings.

Secondly, there are some member-only advantages of membership: Member Pages, ac-

cess to town records, and our MGS DNA Project. You can share your family information on our website's Member Pages and maybe learn from someone who finds your page on the Internet. MGS members receive a membership card which gives them access to town hall records in the State of Connecticut. You can join our MGS DNA Project at Family Tree DNA and get help on selecting DNA tests and interpreting the results.

Thirdly, as a member, you can get involved in helping us. You can get involved in the administration of MGS by serving as an officer: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Board Member. New blood is always needed. You can serve as a volunteer to help people get started on genealogy. You can edit and write for our Newsletter. You can promote MGS through emails to members and prospects concerning MGS activities and current topics. You can design and maintain our website. You can plan and arrange presentations and find speakers. You can promote MGS in the community. We already have MGS members serving in these capacities, but they can always use help. And you can start something new if you see a need that is not being fulfilled.

One way to get start getting involved is to come to a Board meeting. We always have members there who are not Board members. Our next meeting is October 24 at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room on the mezzanine floor of the Darien Library.

Peter Biggins

Immigration Restriction

Courtesy of Digital History

Mintz, S., & McNeil, S. (2016). Immigration Restriction. *Digital History*. Retrieved on July 18/2016 from http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disg_textbook.cfm?smtID=2&psid=3388

Before World War I, American industry, steamship companies, and railroads promoted immigration and financed groups opposed to immigration restriction. The United States did institute registration and literacy requirements for immigrants; yet, opponents of restriction succeeded in blocking efforts to establish immigration quotas.

World War I revealed that the economy could

function effectively without foreign immigration; opposition to immigration restriction withered away. Not only had World War I demonstrated that immigrants had become "Americanized," but with the establishment of new European nation states, interest in European politics faded away. While some opponents of immigration argued that it threatened the nation's culture, most of the arguments advanced against immigration were economic. Among the chief proponents of immigration restriction were the unions of the American Federation of Labor. Organized labor feared that American workers' wages would decline if unskilled immigrant workers flooded the labor market. Meanwhile, many businessmen feared dangerous foreign radicals.

During the 1920s, most ethnic groups agreed that the overall volume of immigration should be reduced. The issue remained: how to distribute the immigration quotas. A compromise was easily reached: make the quotas proportionate to the current population, so that future immigration would not change the balance of ethnic groups.

In 1924, Congress reduced the number of immigrants allowed into the United States each year to two percent of each nationality group counted in the 1890 census. It also barred Asians entirely.

Why Was the Information Removed from Online?

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2015 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>.

NOTE: *This is a slightly updated version of an article I published about a year ago. A couple of newsletter readers have sent messages to me in the past few days expressing dissatisfaction with records that were available online but recently have disappeared. I am offering this re-published article as an explanation about why we should not be surprised when that happens. I will also offer a suggestion as to making sure*

you keep your own copies of online records that are valuable to you.

Two newsletter readers sent email messages to me recently expressing dissatisfaction that a set of images of vital records has been removed from a popular genealogy site. Indeed, removal of any online records of genealogical value is sad, but not unusual. Changes such as these are quite common on FamilySearch, MyHeritage, Ancestry.com, Fold3, FindMyPast, and many other genealogy sites that provide old records online. Removal of datasets has occurred dozens of times in the past, and I suspect such things will continue to happen in the future. I thought I would write a brief explanation.

In most cases, information of genealogical value obtained from government agencies, religious groups, museums, genealogy societies, and other organizations is provided under contractual agreements. The contracts specify what information is to be provided, how it is to be made available, and what price the web site has to pay to the provider for the records. All contracts also have a defined expiration date, typically 2 years or 3 years or perhaps 5 years after the contract is signed.

When a contract nears expiration, the two parties usually attempt to renegotiate the contract. Sometimes renewal is automatic, but more often it is not. Maybe the information provider (typically an archive) decides they want more money, or maybe they decide they no longer want to supply the data to the online genealogy service. For instance, in the time the information has been available online, the information provider may have learned just how valuable the information really is. The information provider may decide to ask for more money or may even refuse to provide the information any more since the provider may have a **NEW plan to create their own web site and offer the same information online on their new site for a**

fee.

Sure, that stinks for those of us who would like to have the information everywhere; but, it makes sense to most everyone else. I am sure the budget officer at most any state or local government archive thinks it makes sense.

Every contract renegotiation is different, but it is not unusual to agree to disagree. The contract ends, and the web site provider legally **MUST** remove the information from their web site. The

Continued on pg. 6 See: *Information*

Tips

List all “facts” on your family tree program separately. It may seem redundant, but you will see the whole family at a glance. You may notice gaps in the birth of children, indicating possible missed siblings. A person listed as a widow /widower may indicate when a spouse died. See how a family moved from place to place, when they changed jobs, or retired etc.

When searching an indexed data base, expect errors on the part of the indexer. It is easy to confuse handwriting. "er" for "u" or "ie" -- Buny - Berney - Bieny may all look very similar. Therefore, if you can't find your Buny, search for the other possibilities. Also search all available indices. Different indexers may see different words.

You can save various files as Adobe Acrobat .pdf files by emailing them to pdfconvert@pdfconvert.me. They are sent back to you converted to .pdf files. This works for picture files such as .jpps .tifs and .pngs. In the case of Word and Excel files it is easier to copy and paste them directly into an email. Send the email to the site and it will be converted for you.(Donations are accepted).

The Slow Wheels of Government

By John Driscoll



All family historians want to pass along as much information as we can to future generations. With this in mind, I want to get every detail available about my parents. My Dad lost his right leg in an auto accident as a young man, keeping him out of the military during World War II. Before and during the war, he worked in the defense industries. In April of 1940 he traveled to Trinidad to join the Walsh Construction Co. and the George F. Driscoll Co., as an estimator, to help build the US Army base there on areas leased to the U.S. by Great Britain. The base was part of the "Atlantic Wall" being constructed to defend the Caribbean and the Canal Zone against Hitler. After the war, he took a job in Caracas, Venezuela. From the airline manifest, I found his passport no. issued in 1945. This is where I began my search.

DESCRIPTION AND PHOTOGRAPH OF APPLICANT

Height 5 feet, 8 1/2 inches.

Hair Brown

Eyes Brown

Distinguishing marks or features
(Note any marks or sores on hands or face)
ARTIFICIAL LEG. - (RIGHT)
by which applicant may be identified)

Place of birth BROOKLYN N.Y.
(City and State)

Date of birth MAY 13 1910
(Month, day, and year)

Occupation ESTIMATOR

I solemnly swear that the statements made on both sides of this application are true and that the photograph attached

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is a great tool for genealogists. Since I had the number and date of the passport, I requested

the passport application for #9666 issued 8/28/1945. Along with the notarized request, I sent Dad's death certificate. I was not sure of the cost involved, so I started slow. I could always look for the earlier one when I received the first. Little did I know how long it would take!

Thus began a one and a half year process. Within less than two weeks I received a response from the FOIA, assigning a case number and a notice that I may have to pay up to \$25 and possibly more. It required me to agree to the fee and asked how much I would willing to pay. A month later I received a call from a representative of the FOIA who said they found the 1945 application and also the earlier one from 1941. I was really excited that I would not have to go through the process again and requested both. I was very happy as to the efficiency of our government offices.

Now began the wait. Three months later, In December 2013, after I spent over a half hour on hold with the representative who called me in September, I gave up. On January 3, 2014 I requested a status update by email and was informed the estimated completion date was April

2014. On May 4th I again requested an update and was asked for the case number (which I had provided in the request). I was then informed the estimated completion date was August 4th. On

August 6th I was told that August 31st was the new date for completion. On November 14th I was able to speak to a representative, who

Continued on pg. 7 See: *Wheels*

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 2:00 pm.
"Digitizing and Managing Your Photo Collection." Presented by Phil Hayes.

Phil Hayes will be returning to present the following:

Scanning Your Photographs

- o What are the basic strategies of scanning photos, slides and oversized photos?
- o Should I consider outsourcing the digitization of my photographs to Costco or other service provider?
- o How do I digitize daguerreotype photos?
- o What scanner should I use? Aren't they all the same?
- o What resolution should photos be scanned at?
- o What format should photos be stored in?

Managing Your Photograph Collections

- o What is Adobe Photoshop Essentials and Adobe Lightroom and how can I use them?
- o How can I fix the brightness or color balance of a photo?
- o How can I repair a damaged photograph

Home Movie Conversions

Phil is the CEO of Sirius Innovations, a technology consulting company with its main office in Monroe, CT. He is an avid genealogist and an expert in using technology and the internet in pursuit of family's history.

Phil has more than 20 years experience in lecturing and teaching adults His knowledge in subjects varies greatly and includes genealogy, paramedicine, firefighting and computers. Although he generally speaks in the New England area, he is will to travel if expenses are covered

Saturday, November 12, 2016, 2:00 pm.
"Planning a Future for your Family's Past."
 Presented by Marian Wood.

Ancestors' photos, stories, documents, and heirlooms deserve to survive for many years to come. As part of your family's past, they belong to your family's future. This presentation will demonstrate how to organize, inventory, index,

and analyze your genealogy materials; find good homes for duplicate or unneeded photos, collectibles, and memorabilia; and pass what you know to the next generation.)

Marian is a marketing expert turned college textbook author who has been tracing her family tree since 1998. She is a frequent speaker at genealogy clubs around Western Connecticut and in Westchester, making presentations on topics such as online genealogy, organizing genealogy materials, and Facebook for genealogy. Born in the Bronx, she's been searching for ancestors from England, Canada, Lithuania, Latvia, and Hungary and also researching her husband's family from Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, New England, and the United Kingdom.

TWO NEW BOOKS AT THE DARIEN LIBRARY

The Oral History Workshop: Collect and Celebrate the Life Stories of Your Family and Friends Cynthia Hart

Cynthia Hart, author of *Cynthia Hart's Scrapbook Workshop*, shows exactly how to collect, record, share, and preserve a family member's or a friend's oral history in this practical and inspirational guide.

Doing Oral History Donald A Ritchie

This basic manual offers detailed advice on setting up an oral history project, conducting interviews, making video recordings, preserving oral history collections in archives and libraries, and teaching and presenting oral history.

Related book

Oral History for the Local Historical Society Willa K Baum

A practical step-by-step guide for gathering history from the people who've experienced it. Oral History for the Local Historical Society, a classic in the field for three decades, tells you how to start an oral history program in your community.

Information, continued from page 3

same thing frequently happens to all the other online sites that provide old records online.

Moral of this story: If you find a record online that is valuable to you, **SAVE IT NOW!** Save it to your hard drive and make a backup copy someplace else as well. If there is no option to save, make a screen shot and save it on your hard drive or some other place where it will last for many years. Just because you can see the record online today does not mean that it will be available tomorrow.

Upcoming Regional Events

Saturday September 10, 2016 - Exploring Connecticut Newspapers for Genealogy – Stamford, Connecticut

The Connecticut Ancestry Society and Stamford Historical Society presents a lecture on Exploring Connecticut Newspapers for Genealogy online, by Janine Bjork, on Sat. Sept. 10, 2016, at the Stamford Historical Society, 1508 High Ridge Road, Stamford, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Program is free and open to the public. <http://www.connecticutancestry.org>

Saturday October 1, 2016 – DNADOX: DNA Bootcamp – New York, New York

One Day Boot Camp geared on breaking down DNA results into easy to understand info. Set in the collaborative space of the Centre for Social Innovation, DNADOX will offer short, energetic talks, challenges and consults, to provide participants with the tools to interpret their DNA results. An afternoon “Haplo Party” will connect participants with one another over interactive learning activities, a Q&A forum as well as the opportunity to share their DNA stories and experiences.

For more information and to purchase tickets please visit: <http://dnadox.com>

Saturday October 15, 2016 - A Day with Dick Eastman – Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Inc. Annual Family History Seminar – Meriden, Connecticut

Come spend a day with Dick Eastman at the four Points Sheraton, 275 Research Parkway, Meriden, CT 06450

Open to the public – See the flyer for more information on the session topics, cost and registration form.

Please contact the CSG Office with questions or to register by phone at 860-569-0002.

Saturday October 22, 2016 - Forensic Genealogy and the Latest Innovations in DNA Analysis. - New Britain, Connecticut

Presented by The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and The Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies Central Connecticut State University

Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD, is an internationally recognized forensic genealogist, the founder of Identifinders International. As a world traveler and multi-lingual, Colleen specializes in international cases. She has researched in over 50 countries, assists nonprofits, military organizations, attorneys, and law enforcement with cold case work, forensic identification, and with locating hard-to-find individuals. Colleen has appeared in hundreds of domestic and international newspapers and magazines and on international radio and television programs.

Place: Institute of Technology. Business and Development, Central Connecticut State University, 100 Main St. - 3rd Fl, New Britain, CT – (please note this event is taking place at CCSU’s downtown campus, not the main campus) **Fee:** \$20 – Refreshments will be served.

Friday & Saturday November 4-5, 2016 – Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st Century Technology – 3rd Annual

Ukrainian Genealogy Conference. – Somerset, New Jersey

The 3rd Annual “Nashi Predky - Our Ancestors” Fall Conference — Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st century Technology — hosted by the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey in Somerset, NJ, will be held on Friday evening, November 4th and Saturday, November 5, 2016. This year’s conference will feature nationally known speakers Jonathan Shea, AG; Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz; Carl Kotlarchik; Shellee Morehead, CG; and Michelle Chubenko.

Place: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ

Date: Friday Nov. 4th **Time:** 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. - Saturday Nov. 5th **Time:** 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Questions?

E-mail: genealogy@ukrhec.org

Phone: 732-356-0132

UkrHEC Family History Group: [http://](http://www.nashipredky.org)

www.nashipredky.org

Saturday November 19, 2016 - Cemeteries – A Microcosm of a Community...and an Interesting Read with Tombstones – Endangered and How to Salvage – East Hartford, Connecticut

Please join us and Diana Ross McCain, genealogist/historical research consultant from Come Home to Connecticut and Ruth Shapleigh Brown, director of the Connecticut Gravestone Network at 1:30p.m to 3p.m.

Cost: FREE but please pre-register by emailing or calling the CSG Office at csginc@csginc.org or 860-569-0002 - **Location** of Event: CSG Library, 175 Maple Street, East Hartford, CT 06118

Wheels, Continued from pg 4

blamed the backlog for the delay and she would email me when and if. Finally, on March 15, 2015, one year and seven months later, I received both passport applications. There was no

fee.

The result was well worth the wait. Along with a photo of my young father was a trove of information. Vital statistics, a letter from his employer, his signature, fingerprints, and a confirmation from the City of New York that his birth certificate could not be found. (which I had previously obtained on my own and always doubted).

I now knew what to expect when I sent for my Mom's passport application. With this one I was much more patient, leaving the system to slowly grind on at its own pace. I mailed the request on March 11, 2015 and sat down to wait. I knew she had her passport issued at the U.S. embassy in Caracas in 1950 and renewed in 1953, but had no other hard data. Knowing she lived there with Dad, I also requested an earlier application if found.

True to form, almost a year later on March 1, 2016, I received a call from a representative of the FOIA. She said they could not locate the 1950 application, but did find one for 1945. On March 16th I received it.

Again, a lot of information! Most of it confirming what I already knew, but still, an unseen photo of my mother and sister. I was born the following year and was added in 1947 to the amended passport.

Next step, the U.S. Embassy in Venezuela.



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
OCTOBER 1,
NEXT MEETING**

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