



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXI, No. 1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

March 2015

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into spring (though you were probably unable to recognize it during the first week in March), we can look forward to a program by MGS regular Toni McKeen who will join us on Saturday, 14 March, at 2:00 p.m. She will speak about how to create a narrative from all of the data, documents, forms, notes and pictures that we have collected. After all that is why we do all of our research—to tell a story, to create our family history.

As always you are invited to join us at 1 p.m. on the 14<sup>th</sup>—just prior to the presentation—to share your “brick wall” or successes.

In the next few weeks you will be seeing a short questionnaire in your email. Please take a few minutes to answer it so that we can know your interests as we go about planning our programs for the fall.

If you haven't had a chance, we would appreciate your renewing your membership for the current year. Save a stamp by bringing your check to the presentation on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Steven A. Anderson



## JOAN RINALDI



It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the death of Joan Rinaldi on 2 March 2015 in Danvers, Mass. Joan served MGS admirably as a board member and secretary from April 2006 through December 2012. She was quietly efficient in all that she did and always ready to take on additional, difficult tasks until health considerations prompted her to resign. We have missed her wise counsel and sound advice.

Joan is survived by a sister, Marilyn Fitzgerald of Salem, Mass., two nieces, Marilyn and Mary Lee Fitzgerald of Salem, and a nephew, John Fitzgerald of Gloucester, Mass.

### 2015 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Remember that your membership renewal was due 1 January 2015. If you have not already done so, please bring your check to our next meeting 14 March 2015, or drop it in the mail addressed to Middlesex Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820. Annual dues are \$25 per individual, \$30 per couple or family.

**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

**2014-2015  
OFFICERS**

Steven Anderson	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
Keeley Kriskey	Treasurer Secretary

**BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Virginia Banerjee  
Peter Biggins  
John Driscoll  
Tara Finn Forschino  
Timothy Gordon  
Peter Riordan

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President
Charles Scribner	Librarian
Dorothy Shillinglaw	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>**

**UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS  
MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY, 1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.**

**REMEMBER: PROGRAM MEETINGS ARE PRECEDED AT 1 PM BY AN INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION OF GENEALOGICAL CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS. ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**14 MARCH 2015: PUTTING FLESH ON THE BONES OF YOUR ANCESTORS—WRITING A FAMILY HISTORY** will be presented by **TONI McKEEN**. In this program Toni will show you how to write your family history. She will divide the project up into small steps, give guidelines and ideas for various topics and chapters. She will then show you how to put the work into a book format with designed papers, input photos, charts and include other hints to produce a wonderful book for future generations. Toni believes documenting your family history is important for both you and future generations who will love reading it and will cherish it.

Toni has been doing genealogy research on her own extensive Italian family, her husband's Irish family and her son-in-law's German family for the last 29 years. She is a popular lecturer at many genealogy societies in the New York, New England and New Jersey areas.

**16 MAY 2015: "CIVIL WAR RESEARCH"** will be presented by **LAURA W. CONGLETON**, who has been doing family history research for more than twenty-five years. She is a member of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the DAR, and several genealogical societies. She has access to a number of excellent repositories, and is currently compiling a book about Civil War veterans from Owego, Tioga County, New York. She specializes in Civil War research and preparation of lineage society papers.

**UPCOMING SEMINARS**

*(Continued from page 8)*

sions to Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, Stonehenge, and Salisbury Cathedral are also available. For more information visit: <http://insightrcruises.com/events/ft01/>.

**Deadline for next newsletter**

**25 May 2015**

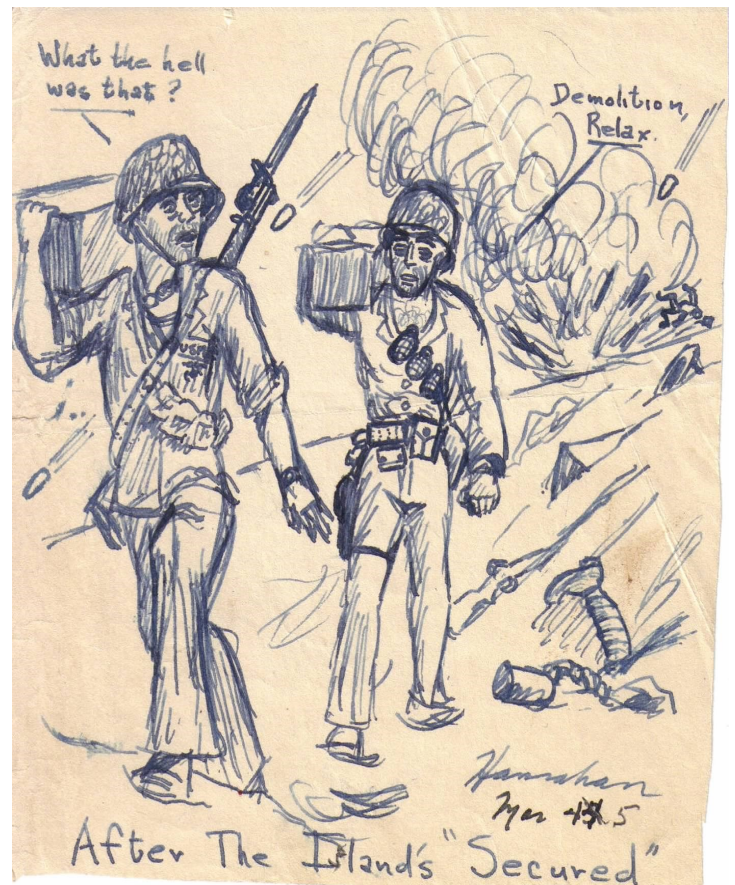
## DONALD HANRAHAN ON IWO JIMA\*

By Dorothy Shillinglaw

We remember in February and March 2015 the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle for Iwo Jima. My eldest brother, Donald Hanrahan, was there with the 4th Marine Division. He celebrated his 20th birthday on the island.

When our mother's apartment was cleared out 26 years ago he learned that the letters he had written home during his World War II service still existed, along with their accompanying drawings. (Few of Donald's letters home arrived without one or more of his drawings.) That discovery gave him the nudge he needed to begin writing a memoir for his children and grandchildren about his military service, both in the Marine Corps during W.W. II as an enlisted man and in the Naval Reserve from the Korean conflict on through many years as an officer. He distributed this memoir with copies of his artwork to family members some time ago. The document then resided for many years in his computer, until one of his granddaughters had it printed shortly before Christmas 2014 as a book, illustrated with his drawings. Four days after Christmas Donald passed away.

In this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary period it seems appropriate to share some of Donald's drawings with you



Once an island was declared "Secured," any explosion was labeled "Demolition," and, of course, had nothing to do with enemy action.

\* Drawings are © Estate of Donald Joseph Hanrahan 2015.



To  
Mr. & Mrs. Edw. F. Hanrahan  
2775 Bainbridge Ave  
Bronx, 58, N.Y.C.

FROM  
P.F.C. D.J. Hanrahan  
(Sender's name)  
415 Btry 14 Mar. 41st  
(Sender's address)  
26 Fitz. St. San Francisco  
IWO, Feb. 28, '45  
(Date)



Souvenigh  
Hanrahan

V - MAIL



## DAR MAKES CONTRIBUTED SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS ONLINE

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) (<http://www.dar.org/>) has announced a new feature of its Genealogical Research System (GRS) ([http://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search/?tab\\_id=0](http://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/?tab_id=0)). This new Supporting Documents ([http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR\\_Research/record\\_copy/?action=overview](http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/record_copy/?action=overview)) feature allows users to purchase documents that were submitted with previously verified DAR membership and supplemental applications. These documents may include family bible records, deeds, wills and other various materials used to prove lineage to a patriot of the American Revolution.

The GRS is a free resource provided by the DAR to aid general genealogical research and to assist with the DAR membership process. It is a collection of databases that provide access to the many materials amassed by the DAR since its founding in 1890.

GRS users have long been able to purchase Record Copies (previously verified DAR membership and supplemental applications), which show the lineage going back to the ancestor who contributed to the American Revolution, but before now the documents which were submitted to support the Record Copy were not available for purchase online. Now these supporting documents are available on demand for the user to purchase either in conjunction with a Record Copy or separate from the application with which it is associated.

Record Copies and Supporting Documents are now part of the DAR Online Library Documents Service. This service allows researchers to select an application or Supporting Documents (if they are available), pay by credit card, and instantly download the document as an Adobe PDF document. It is important to note that any applications or vital records (birth, death, marriage, divorce or other sensitive documentation) that are less than 100 years old will not be available in an effort to keep personal information confidential.

### How does the DAR Online Library Documents Service work?

1. Search the DAR Genealogical Research System.

2. Where you see a green "Purchase" or "\$" button, click on it to add the record to your shopping cart. You may purchase more than one record copy at a time. If a record doesn't have a green button, it is unavailable, pending review.
3. If supporting documents are also available, an option will appear to add those to your order after you click on the "Purchase" button.
4. Pay online using Visa or MasterCard via our secure payment system.
5. Use the link(s) provided on the payment confirmation screen to access and download your document(s). You will also receive an email receipt with the same information.
6. Download the purchased document(s) to your computer. All files are in an Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format (PDF) and you will need Adobe Reader to view them.
7. Purchased documents can be downloaded for a period of one week after purchase.
8. Please note, all record copy and supporting documents fees are non-refundable, and no substitutions will be made.

Researchers now have the ability to purchase Record Copies for \$10, Supporting Documents for \$20 or both for \$30. Before purchasing a Record Copy the user has the ability to preview the document, unfortunately, this feature will not be available for the Supporting Documents. The user will be able to see how many pages are included for the Supporting Documents, but not the exact types of documents it contains. Access to these Supporting Documents may serve as a useful genealogical research tool and may be used as documentation for a new application or for general genealogy purposes.

Additional information for members and the public to help them learn about this new feature of the DAR Genealogical Research System, can be found at ([http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR\\_Research/record\\_copy/?action=overview](http://services.dar.org/Public/DAR_Research/record_copy/?action=overview)).

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

**National Genealogical Society**, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204; toll-free phone 800-473-0060; fax 703-525-0052; e-mail [conference@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:conference@ngsgenealogy.org); Website [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

The National Genealogical Society 2015 Family History Conference, **Crossroads of America**, will be held 13–16 May 2015 in the St. Charles Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza, St. Charles, Mo. For more information visit their Website (see above).

**New York Genealogical & Biographical Society**, 36 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Street, 7<sup>th</sup> fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; fax 212-754-4218.

- **NYG&B's New York State Family History Conference**, Thurs., 17 Sept., 9:00 a.m., to Sat., 19 Sept. 2015, 5:00 p.m. at the Syracuse/Liverpool Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, N.Y. NYG&B will also be scheduling a pre-conference research day.
- **NYG&B's annual research trip to Albany** is Thurs. to Sat., 29 to 31 Oct. If you need additional information please email [education@nygbs.org](mailto:education@nygbs.org) or call 212-755-8532, x211.

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116-3007, toll-free telephone 888-286-3447, Website [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org).

- **"Scotland Sublime: Great Houses and Gardens of the Scottish Borders,"** in Scotland, Thurs., 4 June, to Wed., 10 June, led by renowned country house expert Curt DiCamillo, A half dozen great houses will be visited.
- **Belfast, Northern Ireland**, Sun. to Sun., 21 to 28 June, NEHGS's second trip to Belfast. Visit the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and other repositories. Individual consultations, educational opportunities, and expert assistance available.
- **Salt Lake City, Utah**, Sun. to Sun., 25 Oct. to 1 Nov. NEHGS's 37th annual research tour to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library.
- **Come Home to New England**, Tues. to Sat., 4 to 8 Aug. at NEHGS Headquarters .
- **Research Getaway**, Thurs. to Sat., 15 to 17 Oct. Three days of research, consultations, lectures, and social events, while using the NEHGS Library.

**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, N.Y. (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is requested of nonmembers. Visit the society's website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>.

- "The Immigrant Experience," 11 April, will be presented by Toni McKeen.
- "Researching and Preserving the Fishkill Supply Depot," 9 May, will be presented by Lance Ashworth.
- "Getting the Most Out of Digital Newspapers Search," 13 June, will be presented by Philip Hayes.

**Ulster Historical Foundation** is offering a weeklong program in Ireland entitled **"Tracing Your Irish Ancestors,"** Sun. to Sat., 6 to 12 Sept. Expert genealogists will guide you at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the archives in Dublin, including the National Archives, the Registry of Deeds and the RCB Library. Queries should be addressed via e-mail to: [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk).

**Fairfield Gaelic American Club**, 74 Beach Rd., Fairfield, Conn., 203-293-8090, Sun., 22 March, 1–5 p.m. **"Researching Irish Ancestry,"** presented by Fintan Mullan, Executive Director, and Gillian Hunt, Research Officer, of the Ulster Historical Foundation. Reservations required. Cost \$25 payable to Feile, Inc. (mail to Mary Adams-Arroyo, 221 McGrath Court, Stratford, CT 06615).

**New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.** 2015 conference, Wed.-Sat., 15-18 April in Providence, R.I. This year's theme is "Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future." Tickets can be purchased online. Learn more at <http://www.nergc.org>.

### Genealogy Cruises

**Federation of Genealogical Societies 2015 Alaskan Cruise** will set sail from Seattle, Wash., aboard Royal Caribbean's *Jewel of the Seas*, Fri., 28 Aug., to Fri., 4 Sept. Among the speakers will be Elizabeth Shown Mills, David E. Rencher, Judy G. Russell, and D. Joshua Taylor. Ports visited include Juneau and Skagway in Alaska, and Victoria in British Columbia. Conference registration opens 1 April 2015. (Please note: cruise ship reservations are also required.) For more information, visit: <https://www.fgsconference.org/cruise/>

**Unlock the Past cruises'** website is at:

[www.unlockthepastcruises.com](http://www.unlockthepastcruises.com). Download their 16-page catalogue giving details of each of their 2015-2016 cruises at: [www.unlockthepastcruises.com/catalogue](http://www.unlockthepastcruises.com/catalogue).

- **Transatlantic cruise** (9th Unlock the Past Cruise), on the Celebrity *Eclipse*, Sun., 1 Nov., to Mon., 16 Nov. 2015—one way from Southampton to Miami visiting Boston, New York, Bermuda and Port Canaveral. Learn from Dick Eastman (USA), Else Churchill, Alec Tritton and Kirsty Gray (UK), Shauna Hicks (Australia), and others.
- **New Zealand to Australia** (11th Unlock the Past Cruise), on the Celebrity *Solstice*, Sat., 14 Feb., to Tues., 3 March 2016. The cruise commences in Auckland (New Zealand) and finishes in Fremantle (Perth, Western Australia), visiting many New Zealand and Australian ports. The cruise will have an international team of presenters with Judy G Russell (USA), the Legal Genealogist, as the lead presenter.
- **Great Barrier Reef, Queensland** (12th Unlock the Past Cruise), a seven-night cruise, 6 to 13 March 2016 departing Brisbane on the *Legend of*

*the Seas*. Carol Baxter (Australia) will present her highly acclaimed eight-lecture series on researching and writing history and genealogy; other presenters include Helen Smith, Judy Webster, and Eric and Rosemary Kopittke.

- **European river cruise** (13th Unlock the Past Cruise)—a seven-night cruise on the Rhine from Amsterdam to Basel, Fri., 31 July, to Fri., 7 Aug. 2016, on *Tranquility II*.

For more information on any of these cruises, visit their Website at [www.unlockthepast.com.au](http://www.unlockthepast.com.au).

*family tree magazine*, along with **Insight Cruises**, is sponsoring an eight-day genealogy cruise to Norway, Sat., 16 May to Sat., 23 May 2015, aboard Holland America's *Ryndam*. Speakers include Lisa Louise Cooke, Diana Crisman Smith, Gary M. Smith, and D. Joshua Taylor. After departing London (Harwich) on Sat., 16 May, the ship will spend a full day at sea, then visit Oslo, Kristiansand, Stavanger, and Ulvik, and spend another full day at sea before returning to London (Harwich) on Sat., 23 May. Pre-cruise excur-

*(Continued on page 2)*

DARIEN LIBRARY  
14 MARCH 2015  
MEETING

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