

The Newsletter of
**Middlesex Genealogical
Society**

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

December, 2018

Upcoming MGS Presentations

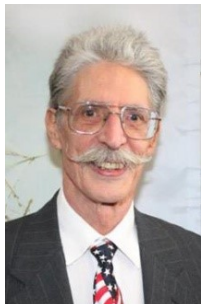
Saturday, January 26, and March 23, 2019
1:00 pm. Social Hour: Come Talk About Your Work.

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.

Book Exchange. This is also a good time to bring in genealogy books and periodicals that you are no longer using and make them available to people who can make use of them.

Saturday January 26, 2019 “More Than Metes the Eye: Using Land Records in Your Research” Presented by Edwin W. Strickland II

We will open with a discussion of land ownership from the right of the king through royal charters, grants and proprietor's records to individual ownership. After reviewing the differences between metes and bounds and rectilinear survey systems, we will examine several case studies show how



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the land records can answer some of your genealogical questions (scandals and all).

Edwin W. Strickland II, comes from true Yankees on one side (use it up, wear it out, make do or do without) who did not move from the same land for over 200 years and pack-rats with a wander-lust on the other. With both sides of the family being devoted to their history, he grew up surrounded by his past. He began his own research at the age of 24. Being self-taught, he tells his students that he knows every mistake they can make – because he has made it!

He is a past-president of Connecticut Society of Genealogists, charter member, past-president and genealogist for the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, and charter
Please turn to Metes on pg. 4

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**2018-2019****OFFICERS &****BOARD MEMBERS**

Tara Finn Forschino	Co-Pres., Social Director & Facebook Administrator
Pamela Shea	Co-President
Mary Lavins	Vice-Pres. Programs & Email Communications
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Ed.
Steve Haywood	Secretary
Rob Martinelli	Membership Director
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs

PAST DIRECTORS

Peter Biggins	Past President
Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs
Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President

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 publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494) and co-sponsors, with Darien Library, at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year. Annual membership dues vary from \$25 for 1 yr or \$45 for 2 yrs. per individual and \$30 for 1 yr. or \$55 for 2 yrs. per couple or family, as well as a lifetime option at \$300. 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/>

Presidents' Message

What an exciting time for genealogists! Ac-



Tara Forschino and Pamela Shea

According to one source, the top two hobbies in the US are gardening and genealogy. Interest-

ing how they are both about roots! There are several TV shows, lots of social media groups, millions of online resources with thousands more added weekly. In addition, there is the powerful world of DNA that continues to amaze us all. It may feel overwhelming at times and trying to keep organized is yet another challenge.

MGS was founded on December 10, 1982 for the purpose of assisting those interested in researching their family heritage. Thirty-six years later we are still committed to this primary purpose and are thrilled to have been asked to help guide MGS for the next few years. We are even more pleased with the terrific team of people we have to work with on our board and with all of you that share our relentless interest in genealogy!

We have some new things planned for 2019 so keep an eye out for our quarterly newsletter, email notifications, Facebook and Twitter accounts for announcements on ways we plan to further your knowledge and inspire you to dig deeper. We welcome any suggestions on ways MGS can expand our services and look forward to meeting you in the process.

Until next year, we wish you and your family a peaceful and joy filled holiday season!

Tara and Pamela

See the MGS display

During the month of January 2019

In the Darien Town Hall

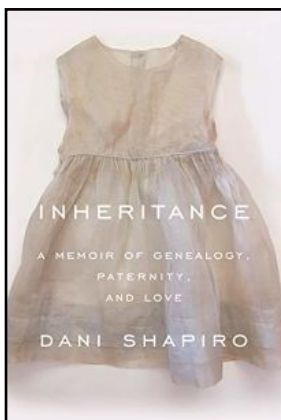
First Floor Display Cabinet

The Chaddertons, an Immigrant Darien Family

From childhood to burial

Save the Date

The Darien Library and Middlesex Genealogical Society are proud to co-sponsor Dani Shapiro on Thursday, February 28th at 7:00PM, who will speak about her new book, *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* Dani Shapiro. Knopf, \$25.95 (272p) ISBN 978-1-5247-3271-4 Books will be available for purchase. Refreshments will be served.



In this fascinating memoir, Shapiro (*Hourglass*) writes of how she questioned her identity when a DNA test revealed that she was not, as she believed she was, 100% Jewish. Shapiro grew up in an Orthodox family in suburban New Jersey; blonde-haired and blue-eyed, she often felt out of

place in a family of dark-haired Ashkenazi Jews, yet she had shrugged off the physical differences. But when she got the DNA test results, the then-54-year-old began researching her family history, and within months she unraveled a narrative leading back to the 1960s and the early days of artificial insemination. Her own parents had died, but now, with the support of her husband and son, she discovered her biological father, a doctor from Portland. Shapiro realized that her childhood, her ancestral lineage, and the foundation of her world were based on deception. "What potent combination of lawlessness, secrecy, desire, shame, greed, and confusion had led to my conception?" Shapiro writes. With thoughtful candor, she explores the ethical questions surrounding sperm donation, the consequences of DNA testing, and the emotional impact of having an uprooted religious and ethnic identity. This beautifully written, thought-provoking genealogical mystery will captivate readers from the very first pages.

I Am My Own Grandpa!

by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe,

Many many years ago
 When I was twenty three,
 I got married to a widow
 Who was pretty as could be.
 This widow had a grown-up daughter
 Who had hair of red.
 My father fell in love with her,
 And soon the two were wed.
 This made my dad my son-in-law
 And changed my very life.
 My daughter was my mother,
 For she was my father's wife.
 To complicate the matters worse,
 Although it brought me joy,
 I soon became the father
 Of a bouncing baby boy.
 My little baby then became
 A brother-in-law to dad.
 And so became my uncle,
 Though it made me very sad.
 For if he was my uncle,
 Then that also made him brother
 To the widow's grown-up daughter
 Who, of course, was my step-mother.
 Father's wife then had a son,
 Who kept them on the run.
 And he became my grandson,
 For he was my daughter's son.
 My wife is now my mother's mother
 And it makes me blue.
 Because, although she is my wife,
 She's my grandmother too.
 If my wife is my grandmother,
 Then I am her grandchild.
 And every time I think of it,
 It simply drives me wild.
 For now I have become
 The strangest case you ever saw.
 As the husband of my grandmother,
 I am my own grandpa!

Metes continued from pg. 1

member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council where he is a regular consultant for their Ancestors Road Shows. He has written for CSG's *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, the Foote Family Association of America (Volume III), and many books in DFAW's *Some Descendants of ...* series.

Since 2005, he has turned to lecturing and teaching and has appeared at the University of Hartford, Connecticut Society of Genealogists, New England Genealogical Regional Conference, and several libraries and societies in Connecticut.

Saturday, March 23, 2019, 2:00 pm. "Do the 'Write' Thing For Genealogy." Presented by Marian and Wally Wood.



Whether you know a lot about your family tree or you've just embarked on your genealogy journey, you can begin to write your family's story right now! Get practical, creative ideas for planning, organizing, and writing a personalized family history that focuses on one ancestor or family, one heirloom or photo, or one occasion. Learn how to look for the dramatic moments and descriptive details that reveal turning points and show the context of your ancestors' lives. You'll be inspired and encouraged to tell your family's story with a clear, engaging narrative and finishing touches like old photos, timelines, and maps.

The speakers are Marian Wood and Wally Wood. Together, they will demonstrate proven techniques for planning, organizing, and writing family history, with sample write-ups on display to serve as idea-starters.

Marian Wood is a textbook author, an avid family history researcher for 20 years, and a

frequent speaker at genealogy conferences and clubs. With a B.A. from City University of New York and an M.B.A. from Long Island University, she is also the author of the best-selling genealogy book, "Planning a Future for Your Family's Past."

Wally Wood followed up a career as a magazine editor by writing or coauthoring 23 business books on topics such as marketing and social media. Wally holds a B.A. from Columbia University and an M.A. from City College of New York, and he is currently working on his fourth novel.

MGS News

MGS Tour at Westchester County Archives

MGS will be hosting a tour to Westchester County Archives in Elmsford, NY on Thursday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m. The tour will last about an hour and is open to MGS members. Carpooling can be organized and if the group is interested we can arrange for lunch afterwards. RSVP to taragenealogy@gmail.com by January 3rd.

MGS is also looking to schedule other tours in the future at repositories in CT & NY. Some possibilities include, Municipal Archives in NYC, Godfrey Library in Middletown, CT, The CT State Library in Hartford, to name a few. Let us know if you have a preference or any other group tour ideas.

Beginner DNA Workshops

This holiday season you may be the lucky recipient of a gifted autosomal DNA test. If this is all new to you and you need some guidance in deciphering the results, keep a look out for upcoming Beginner DNA workshops.

Search Ellis Island Records for Free

A trio of new collections representing the complete archive of Ellis Island passenger records is now available on the free genealogy website, [FamilySearch](#). Search these to discover your immigrant ancestors during 3 distinct time periods:

[New York Passenger Lists \(Castle Garden\) 1820–1891](#)

These passenger lists document over 13 million immigrants and international travelers who arrived in New York City beginning in 1820, when the federal government first required ship captains to submit lists of passengers to customs officials. Among these records are customs passenger lists for those who arrived at Castle Garden, the State of New York's official immigrant reception facility, during its years of operation (1855–1890). You can search the name index for your ancestors or browse the record images.

[New York Passenger Arrival Lists \(Ellis Island\) 1892–1924](#)

This is a searchable index of 25 million names of immigrants and international passengers who arrived at Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924. Once you find a name of interest, you can click through to view individual record images at FamilySearch. If you're interested in seeing a photo of the actual ship your ancestor travelled on, or learning more about Ellis Island as a historic port of entry into the US, check out the free [Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island website](#).

[New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists 1925–1957](#)

Search nearly 29 million indexed names (and over 5 million record images) for these lists of post-Ellis Island-era international arrivals in New York Harbor and at New York airports.

Share your story! We'd love to hear about your search.
#familysearch

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



OBITUARIES INDEX PROJECT

There is a unique behind-the-scenes volunteer opportunity at the Darien Library! One of the most received inquiries at the Library is obituary information by patrons interested in their historical family roots and their search for genealogical information. The Library has long been the sole repository of our town's death announcements. To create an Obituary Index from Darien newspapers, we are looking for skillful volunteers to help capture all recorded obituaries since 1900.

IDEAL SKILLS

- Attention to detail
- Ability to read large amounts of online print
- Self motivation and comfortable working independently
- An interest in the town's history
- Interpersonal skills to collaborate with library administrators and librarians

CONTACT

This opportunity is perfect for someone who would like to participate in a truly community-wide legacy service effort!

Volunteers will be able to set their own hours.

To apply please contact Colleen Wood at cwood@darienlibrary.org



DarienLibrary

REMINDER

DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1, 2019

OUR PRESENTATIONS ARE SUPPORTED BY DUES AND
ADDITIONAL DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME.

Effective with our 2019 memberships, we have added discounted two year and lifetime options. If you are a prospective member, you can download the new membership application from our website, <http://mgs.darien.org/application.pdf>

Renewing members do not need to complete an application unless their information has changed. Payment can be made in person at the next speaker presentation, mailed to MGS or paid via our PayPal link on our website. The updated 2019 membership fees are as follows:

Membership Categories - One Year - Two Years

Individual	\$25	\$45
Family	\$30	\$55
Lifetime Membership—One payment of \$300		

To cover the cost of printing and postage, we must raise the price for a paper copy of the newsletter. Please add \$10 per year (and note) if you wish to receive a paper copy of the quarterly newsletter.

Upcoming Regional Events

Saturday, January 12, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Middlesex Chapter Wayland Public Library, 5 Concord Road, Wayland MA

“Women’s Work: Grandma Ran a Boarding House and Momma Brewed Beer”

Presented by genealogist, Charlene Key Sokal.

The focus of this talk is women who ran their own businesses, mostly in the 19th century. There were at least three wars of some length and a number of shorter-term wars where women were left to keep themselves and their fami-

lies with little or no help from menfolk. How does one know who they were, what they did and for what period of time this continued? We will use differing sources to locate these women. Free and open to the public.

<https://msoginc.org/>

Saturday, February 2, 2019. 10:30 a.m.- noon. Co-sponsored by the Connecticut Ancestry Society and the Friends of the Cos Cob Library, Cos Cob Library Community Room, 5 Sinawoy Road Cos Cob, CT 06807 “DNA for Genealogy Roundtable”

Open discussion of interest to those who have tested with, or who are thinking of testing with ancestryDNA, 23andMe, Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage, and Living DNA. Open source DNA

site GEDmatch will be part of the discussion. All CAS programs are free and open to the public. Genetic Genealogists of all levels are welcome. For more information about CT Ancestry Society: <http://www.connecticutancestry.org>. Light refreshments will be served. Snow date, February 9th, 2019.

Saturday, February 9, 2019, 1:30 p.m. Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Middlesex Chapter Location TBD "Digging Deeper with Military, Pension and Probate Records" Presented by genealogist Diane MacLean Boumenot.

Digging deeper with record sets that are hard to access and challenging to analyze can add so much to our family's story. Digitization is gradually improving our chances of finding legal records that list family members and associates, the contents of our ancestor's homes, and details of our ancestor's livelihood and lifestyle. Learn more about less commonly used resources, the surprising secrets they can reveal, and how to access them online or order copies of them.

Diane MacLean Boumenot specializes in southern New England genealogy research, including work on her own ancestors, who were among the original settlers of Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Free and open to the public. <https://msoginc.org/>

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Ulster County Italian American Foundation Dinner Meeting The Chateau, 240 Boulevard, Kingston, NY 12401 "Researching Your Italian American Family: A Crash Course"

Genealogy teacher Janeen Bjork will share best practices for doing Genealogy research. She will give examples from her family and her students' families to demonstrate the payoffs

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Tips

- To find variations of names on Google, like John Smith, John J. Smith and John James Smith, you can use an asterisk. Type in "John * Smith" and you can search for all three versions along with others at the same time. On Ancestry.com use an asterisk to represent between zero and five unknown letters. A search for Rob*son will find people named Robson, Robertson or Robinson. Similarly, a search for Fran* will show results for Fran, Franny and Frank.
- When researching baptisms, marriages or any events where witnesses were present, make a note of who those witnesses were. They were more than likely relatives, in-laws or neighbors. By studying them you may find out more about your own family.
- When you think you have a relative, but can't yet prove it, start a **new** tree for him or her. Keep it separate from your master family tree. As you gather information for this new tree, you may find some piece of evidence that confirms the relationship and be able to merge it with your master tree. You may also be able to disprove the relationship and put it aside without the hassle of unwinding someone you added in error.
- DO YOU HAVE A TIP TO OFFER? Send it in to the editor at newsletter-mgsdarien@gmail.com and share it with your fellow members.

*Welcome New Member
Chris Conley*

Events, continued from pg. 7

and the pitfalls of the pursuit. Details about the dinner to follow.

<http://www.ucitalianamericanfoundation.org/events/calendar/>

Saturday, March 9, 2019, 10:30 a.m.- noon.
Naugatuck Valley Genealogy Club, Prospect Library, 17 Center Street, Prospect, CT
“Using Social Media for Genealogy” - Speaker: Marian Burk Wood

Twitter, Facebook, and Pinterest are fun, free, and good ways to gain family history knowledge, find useful and timely information, connect with researchers and possible relatives through posts and live chats. Decode the hashtags of #family history, #genealogy, #genchat, and more. Marian will explain how to lurk and learn or participate by asking questions

and adding comments. Marian Wood is the author of the best-selling genealogy book *Planning a Future for Your Family's Past*.

Meeting, free and open to all. More info: <http://www.naugatuckvalleygenealogyclub.org/>

LEAVE THEM SMILING



2019
JANUARY 26,
NEXT MEETING

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