

The Newsletter of
**Middlesex Genealogical
Society**

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

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MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2018

OFFICERS

Peter Biggins	President
Leonard Christie	Vice President
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Editor
Pamela Shea	Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Tara Finn Forschino
Stephen Haywood
Ed O'Hara

Lloyd Sturges Jr.	Past President
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Mary Lavins	Email Communications
Robert Martinelli	Membership

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 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

The work of the Middlesex Genealogical Society is accomplished by many hands, and we are always looking for new ones. We meet seven Monday nights a year at the Darien Library at 7:00 pm. We talk about what needs to be done and we cannot escape talking about what's happening in the world of genealogy. The meeting dates are on mgs.darien.org on the "About Us" page. If you are interested in getting involved, give me a call at 203-655-3694. Here are examples of how some members are involved in the work of MGS.

One of our workers is Len Christie, who has been Vice President-Programs since 2013. He surveys member interests each year and develops five presentations and speakers to meet those interests at meetings on Saturday after-

noons at the Darien Library. He also promotes those meetings through area newspapers and the Darien Library. Len replaced Pete Kenyon in 2013. Pete has a wealth of experience at MGS and continues to serve on the MGS Board of Directors, which is what we call this group that makes MGS run.

Pamela Shea has been MGS Secretary since 2016. The position had been vacant for a while. The previous Secretary had been Joan Rinaldi. In addition to keeping track of the work of the MGS Board, Pamela has been bringing refreshments for our Saturday presentations at Darien Library. Pamela is also a moderator of the MGS Facebook page.

Our newest Board member is Rob Martinelli. He joined the Board in 2017 and not too long after took on the new position of Membership Director. (This work had formerly been done by the MGS Treasurer.) If you are tardy in renewing your membership, you will probably hear from Rob. Rob issues the cards that give you access to vital records at town and city record offices in Connecticut.

Tara Finn Forschino has been a Board member since 2016. Tara is an administrator of the MGS Facebook page. She had the idea of MGS meeting socially at Oak Hill Golf Course, which we did last May, and it was a great success. We decided to call her our Social Director, however, her biggest accomplishment was disposing of under-used MGS books at Darien Library. In 2017, MGS donated many of its books to Darien Library, a number of books to three Connecticut libraries with more specialized collections, and sold some of its lesser-used books. Tara's work was made lighter by the inventory maintained by Chick Scribner over the years.

Pete Kenyon, Pamela, and Tara have formed a nominating committee to find Board members to fill the President and Vice President positions, which will be open at the end of this year.

John Driscoll is now wearing two hats. He has been Editor of this Newsletter since taking over from Dorothy Shillinglaw in 2015. The Newsletter is published quarterly and can be found in the [Newsletter](#) section of the MGS website. It covers MGS meetings, meetings of other organizations, and genealogical topics of interest.

John welcomes articles and queries for publication in the Newsletter. In 2017, John took on the added responsibilities of MGS Treasurer from Keeley Kriskey. Keeley had taken over from Dale Pollert in 2013.

Mary Lavins is in charge of Email Communications. All the emails we receive from MGS are put together by Mary. They remind us of upcoming Presentations, new issues of the Newsletter, and other topics of interest. Mary maintains a list of email addresses using MailChimp. Mary is also quite involved with the MGS Facebook page. She has also done a lot of work helping beginners to get started on genealogy.

"Many hands make light work."

Peter Biggins

Virginia Banerjee 1925-2017

Virginia Banerjee died on December 19, 2017. She was a member of the Board of Directors of MGS. A professional genealogist, she was a member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council. Her article entitled [Getting Started](#) appeared in the May 2009 edition of the MGS Newsletter. A version of this material was presented at the MGS meeting on February 21, 2009. At the MGS March 20, 2010 meeting, Virginia focused on "Maximizing Census Research."

Virginia Elaine Banerjee was the widow of Bani Ranjan Banerjee. She was born June 29, 1925, in Youngstown, Ohio, and was the daughter of Jesse and Claude Timblin. She graduated from Otterbein College and met her husband, Bani, while attending graduate school in Chicago. Virginia received a Masters of Social Work from Rutgers University. She and Bani lived in Chicago, India, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Princeton, New Jersey. A devoted and loving mother of Krishna and Ravi, Virginia was a professional advocate on children's welfare as well as a talented genealogist.

An Irishman in the US Army

World War I

By John Driscoll



Patrick G. McHugh was born on January 8, 1887, in the township of Cloonegeragh, Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland. He was the sixth of Michael and Mary Gibbons McHugh's ten children. Four of his older sisters preceded him to the States,

beginning with Delia, my wife's grandmother in 1899, then by Mary in 1901, Julia, 1902 and Margaret in 1905. He then followed them when he was twenty-one and went to live with his sister Margaret at 306 5th St., Brooklyn. As each sibling arrived, they worked to bring another over. The girls worked as domestics and Patrick got a job at the Morse Dry Dock Co., the largest floating dry dock in the world during the First World War era, whose yards, embraced an enormous ship basin, stretching from Fifty-Fifth Street to a point between Fifty-Seventh and Fifty-Eighth Streets and from 1st Avenue to the water, South Brooklyn.

On June 5, 1917, Patrick, a tall stout young man with blue eyes and brown hair registered for the draft. He was called up on the 23rd of November, trained at Camp Upton, NY and was assigned to Company I, 18th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division, U.S. Army. On January 17, 1918, his company was sent to France where he joined the rest of the Division in the Ansaerville Sector, which is located about 25 kilometers

northwest of Toul. The 1st had relieved the French Moroccan Division. The front extended seven and a half kilometers from Seicheprey to Bouconville. The winter conditions, cold and frequent rain, with mud up to their knees in the trenches, combined with a constant German bombs, bullets, gas and flamethrowers, made life sheer misery. Because of a gas attack and continued enemy action at the end of February, a major German push was expected and the 18th Infantry was withdrawn from the front line each night and reinserted during the day.



Patrick G. McHugh

At 5:30 A.M. on March 1st there suddenly came down upon the right sub-sector, held by the 18th Infantry, a tornado of bursting shell and bullets and every battery was deluged with high explosive shell and mustard gas. Patrick came through this unharmed.*

On April 17th, the entire 1st Division was put in motion on various roads leading to the front. A journey of four days brought them to the rear of the Cantigny Sector, which extended from just north of Cantigny to just south of

*Mesnil-St. Georges, a distance of about four kilometers. The primary mission of the Division was to hold the front. **

*The sector was exceedingly active and the artillery fire over it was compared by the French officers to that of the last days of the Verdun battle. As a result of this fire it had been impossible to dig trenches..... The line was little more than a succession of shell holes.**

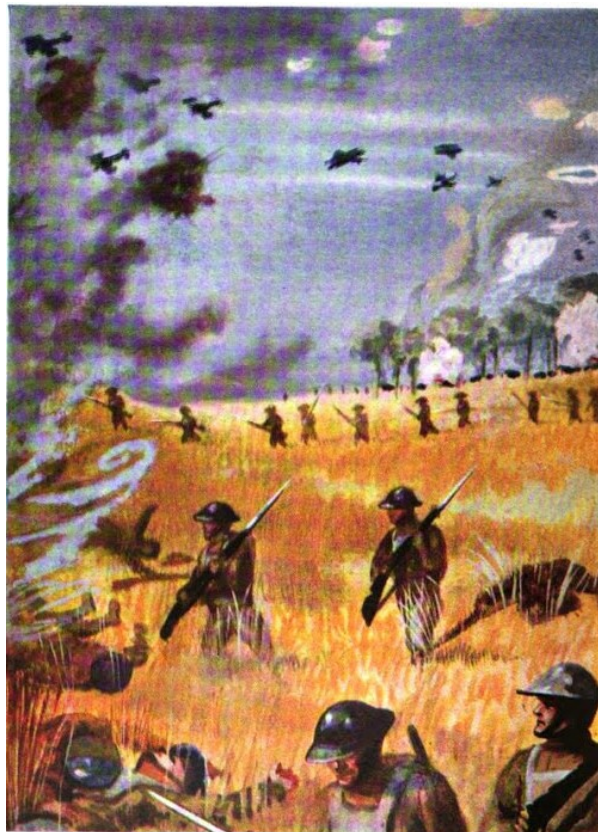
On the night of April 24th the 1st Brigade entered the line. The 16th Infantry occupied the

*right sub-sector with headquarters at Broyes. The 18th Infantry occupied the left sub-sector with headquarters at Villers-Tournelle. Both of these towns afterward became especial targets for the enemy's guns and were practically destroyed.**

Patrick was severely wounded on April 28th, just a day or so after he wrote to his sister Margaret, that he was enjoying good health and three days after he was promoted to Pfc. She received a telegram to this effect on May 23rd. After recovering from his wounds, he returned to active duty, where he participated in the battle of the Aisne-Marne, also known as the Battle of Soissons.

Since May 27th the Germans had driven a salient into the French lines between Soissons and Reims that extended to the Marne River. The battle was a major effort to push the Germans back from the trenches and bring an end to the war. Most of the Germans were concentrated at western end of the salient near Sois-

attack. The 18th, 16th, 26th, and 28th Infantry Regiments were formed right to left, each with an assault, support, and reserve battalion and a machine gun company attached to each battal-

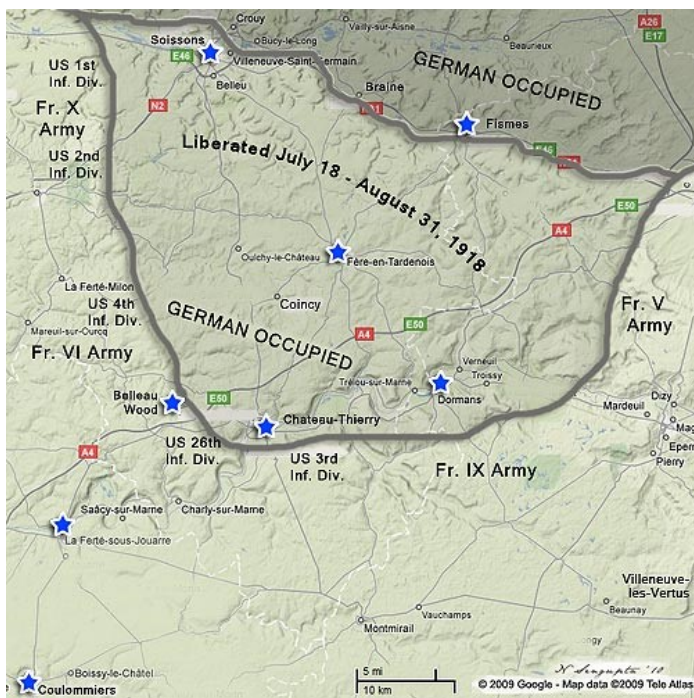


July 18 1918, Soissons

ion. The battle began on July 18th 1918. At 4:45A.M., the men of the First Division went over the top, advancing rapidly through waist high wheat towards the Paris-Soissons road, behind a rolling artillery barrage which advanced at a rate of 100 meters every two minutes.

Patrick McHugh was killed on the first day of the battle. His last letter dated July 3rd to his sister, said he was back in the trenches. The Allied victory after four days of fighting proved the Americans forces could hold their own on the battlefield.

General John J. Pershing, C.I.C of the A.E.F, referred to the Battle of Soissons, as this phase of the Second Marne often is called, as



AEF at Belleau Wood - Soissons upper left

sons. The American 1st and 2nd Divisions were attached to the French XX Corps and led the

*"the Gettysburg of this war." George C. Marshall agreed. He saw it as the "turning point of the war."***

Patrick was buried either in Pierrefonds or Sery-Magneval, where there were field hospitals and cemeteries. In searching for his initial resting place, I contacted Flora Nicolas of the Aisne-Marne Cemetery, who wrote *"I looked at our burial register. We have 91 men of the 18 Inf. 1st Division honored in this cemetery. Among them, only 18 have burials, all the others are on our wall of the missing... This information itself gives an idea on the fighting in which your Great Uncle participated..... I have*

two men who were in the same company as your great uncle (Comp I) and they were buried at Pierrefonds, but another one was in Sery Magneval, Oise, France."



Patrick's grave

In 1921 Patrick's remains were repatriated to the States and he was laid to rest on May 14th in St. John's Cemetery, Middle Village, Queens, NY.

** Paraphrased from The History of the First Division During the World War 1917-1919 compiled and published by the Society of the First Division.*

*** Over There, The United States in the Great War 1917-1918, Byron*

Upcoming MGS Presentations

BEFORE OUR PRESENTATIONS, ATTEND THE SOCIAL HOUR AT 1:00PM: COME TALK ABOUT YOUR WORK

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 2:00 pm.

"NYPL Genealogical Resources." Presented by Susan Kriete.



In this talk, Reference Librarian Sue Kriete will help researchers learn how to navigate the rich genealogical holdings of NYPL's Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History,

Local History and Genealogy. In addition to highlighting some of NYPL's unique resources, this presentation will outline research strategies that family historians can use to locate relevant records, whether held at NYPL or elsewhere. Sue Kriete is a Reference Librarian at NYPL's Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy and has previously worked as an archivist and reference librarian at the New York Historical Society. A former lawyer, Sue's interest in genealogy was piqued when her adopted sister identified her biological parents through DNA testing. In addition to assisting NYPL patrons with genealogy and history research, Sue teaches frequent classes on genealogy-related topics in NYPL's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building.

Saturday, May 19, 2018, 2:00 pm.

"Research Like a Pro: Applying the Genealogical Proof Standard." Presented by Marian Woods.

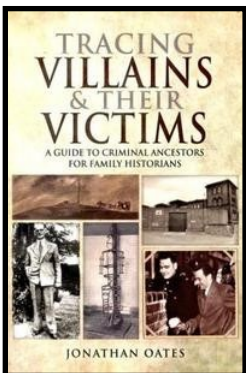


Take your research to the next level by learning to apply the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) to your toughest family history challenges. This

Books continued from pg. 6

on-the-ground research. Once you've returned home, learn how to incorporate gravestone information into your research, as well as how to upload grave locations to [Billion Graves](#) and record your findings in memorial pages on [Find a Grave](#). The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide features: Detailed step-by-step guides to finding ancestor's cemeteries using websites like Find A Grave, plus how to record and preserve death and burial information; tips and strategies for navigating cemeteries and finding individual tombstones in the field, plus an at-a-glance guide to tombstone symbols and iconography; resources and techniques for discovering other death records and incorporating information from cemeteries into genealogical research."

Tracing Villains and Their Victims: a Guide to Criminal Ancestors for Family Historians Jonathan Oates

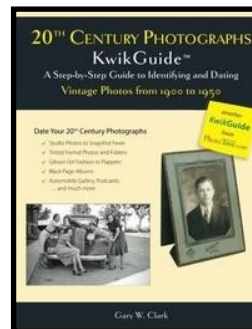


In this practical handbook Jonathan Oates introduces the fascinating subject of criminal history and he gives readers all the information they need to investigate the life stories of criminals and their victims. He traces the development of the justice system and policing and gives an insight into the criminal world of the times and the individuals who populated it. In a series of concise chapters he covers all the important aspects of the subject. At every stage, he guides readers towards the national and local sources that researchers can consult the libraries, archives, books and internet sites that reveal so much about the criminal past. Sections focus on the criminal courts, trial

records, the police and police reports, and on punishments transportation, execution and prison sentences. Details of the most useful and rewarding sources are provided, among them national and local newspapers, books, the Newgate Calendar, coroners records, photographs, diaries, letters, monuments and the many internet sites which can open up for researchers the criminal side of history. Tracing Villains and Their Victims is essential reading and reference for anyone who seeks to trace an ancestor who had a criminal record or was the victim of crime.

20th Century Photographs KwikGuide: a Step-by-step Guide to Identifying and Dating Vintage Photos from 1900 to 1950 Gary W Clark

Do you have a collection of unidentified photo-



graphs? The 20th Century Photographs KwikGuide is the fifth book in a series that helps genealogists and family historians date old photos and identify the people in them. Covering photographs from 1900 through World War II,

each decade is studied to reveal clues that place photos in their correct historical timeline. Other KwikGuides in the series examine Tintypes, Ambrotypes, Daguerreotypes, Card Photos and Postcards. Everyone has photos from the 20th century; this is must-have for any genealogist's or family historian's library.

Welcome New Members

Karen C. Iaco

Olivia S. Lovelace

Richard J. Mueller

Pat Ormsby

THE LEPRECHAUN

The Leprechaun is an Irish fairy. He looks like a small, old man (about 2 feet tall), often dressed like a shoemaker, with a cocked hat and a leather apron. According to legend, leprechauns are aloof and unfriendly, pass the time They also possess a hidden pot of gold. Treasure hunters can often find a leprechaun by following the sound of his hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with the threat of bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of his treasure, but the captor must keep their eyes on him every second. If the captor's eyes leave the leprechaun (and he often tricks them into looking away), he vanishes and all hopes of finding the treasure are lost. Near a misty stream in Ireland in the hollow of a tree live mystical, magical leprechauns who are clever as can be with their pointed



Leprechaun engraving 1900

live alone, and making shoes. possess a hidden gold. Treasure hunters can often find a leprechaun by following the sound of his hammer. If caught, he can be forced (with bodily violence) to reveal the whereabouts of

ears, and turned up toes and little coats of green. The leprechauns busily make their shoes and try hard not to be seen. Only those who really believe have seen these little elves and if we are all believers we can surely see for ourselves.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

LEAVE THEM SMILING



2018
MARCH 10,
NEXT MEETING

Middlesex Genealogical Society
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