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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September, 2018

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2018

OFFICERS

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

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Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Tara Finn Forschino	Social Director-Facebook Administrator
Stephen Haywood	
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

Effective with the annual meeting of the Middlesex Genealogical Society on November 10, 2018, we will have four new officers:

Pamela Shea and Tara Finn Forschino will be Co-Presidents, replacing yours truly who has been President since 2015.

Mary Lavins will be Vice President-Programs, replacing Len Christie who has been Vice President-Programs since 2013.

Stephen Haywood will be Secretary, replacing Pamela Shea who has been Secretary since 2016.

In addition to serving as Secretary, Pamela has been bringing refreshments for our Satur-

day presentations at Darien Library. Pamela is also a moderator of the MGS Facebook page.

Tara Finn Forschino has been a Director of MGS since 2013 and as Social Director was responsible for our social gatherings at Oak Hill Golf Club. Tara is also an administrator of the MGS Facebook page.

Mary Lavins has been a Director of MGS since 2015. Mary is also in charge of Email Communications.

Steve Haywood has been a Director of MGS since 2017.

Please join with me in welcoming Pamela, Tara, Mary, and Steve to their new positions and thanking them and their predecessors for their contributions to MGS.

John Driscoll continues as Treasurer and Editor of the Newsletter. Rob Martinelli continues as Membership Director.

Len and yours truly are retiring from the Board after nine years, the maximum allowed by the MGS By-Laws, but will continue to attend Board meetings.

Peter Biggins

Upcoming MGS Presentations

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 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, October 6, 2018, 2:00 pm. "Y-DNA and Genealogy." Presented by Peter Biggins.

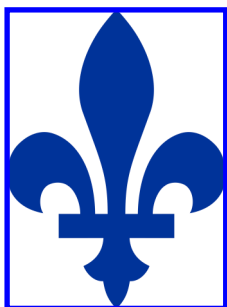


Discover your paternal ancestry, or that of any male in your family tree. The Y chromosome passes almost unchanged from father to son. Male ancestors carried their Y-DNA line along their migrations, allowing you to trace your paternal ancestry by Y-DNA testing. Last November, we looked at all kinds of DNA testing. This presentation focuses on just Y-DNA. It seeks to explain the ways that your Y-DNA, or that of a relative, can help you in your genealogical research and expand your horizons. Included is information on types of Y-DNA tests and how to select a testing organization based on your objectives. Y-DNA is no substitute for genealogical research, but the presentation shows how it can be helpful. Y-DNA can confirm or deny your genealogical research. It may be able to break down a brick wall. It can explain a surname. It can take your genetic pedigree back thousands of years. It may connect a modern pedigree with an ancient pedigree.

Peter Biggins started tracing his and his wife's family histories after he retired in 2002. In 2004, he took a course in Website Development at Norwalk Community College and started a family history website called PetersPioneers.com. In 2008, Peter had his Y-DNA tested at [Family Tree DNA](http://FamilyTreeDNA). In 2010, he made a presentation at the October MGS meeting in Darien on "How to Test Your DNA and Why." In 2011, he made a presentation on Clan Colla Y-DNA at FTDNA's 7th Annual International Conference on Genetic Genealogy in Houston, Texas. In 2017, he made a presentation at the November MGS meeting in Darien on "Understanding DNA in Genealogy." Peter administers seven projects at FTDNA, including one for [MGS member](#)

[DNA](#) to help members understand their testing results and suggest avenues for further testing. Peter is MGS President and Webmaster.

Saturday, November 10, 2018, 2:00 pm. Beginning French Canadian Genealogical Research. Presented by Ronald Blanchette.



The presentation will examine the record types available in French Canada, online and print resources available for accessing those records, and the ways in which French-Canadian genealogical research differs from research on other nationalities.

We will further explore:

1. The kinds of records that exist, how to locate them, and how they differ from similar comparable records in the U.S.
2. Unusual types of research problems common to French Canadian research.
3. The organization of standard print and online source materials and how to read and use them.

Ron Blanchette is a Board Director with the [French-Canadian Genealogical Society Connecticut](#) (FCGSC) His education includes Central CT State University 1973, BA Urban Studies, Cum Laude – University of Hartford 1976, MPA - Temple University 1984, J.D. He published *Quebec Doomed, The 1759 Battle for Quebec* Vol. 17 No. 4 Winter 2016.

Ron served in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1969. He is also a Tour Guide for yearly trip to Quebec City and enjoys travelling to Australia, New Zealand and Europe. He has appeared in over fifty shows in community theater and is an avid blueberry grower.

Upcoming Regional Presentations

September 15, 2018, 1:30 p.m. Connecticut Society of Genealogists Library, 175 Maple

Street, East Hartford, CT - "S.O.S: Save, Organize, Share"

This presentation by Tammy Kirby will include ways to save all your photo memories, from printed to digital, looking at different options that are out there for saving your photos and the ten questions you should ask yourself when looking for photo solutions that work best you. The program is FREE and open to the public www.csqinc.org or 860-569-0002.

Saturday, September 22, 2018, 10:30 a.m. – noon, Co-sponsored by the Connecticut Ancestry Society and the Friends of the Cos Cob Library -"Land Records: More than Metes the Eye"

Ed Strickland will offer eight case studies to demonstrate how to get proofs, connections and relationships from land records. His case studies include some information that was revealed in land documents about multiple marriages, or cohabitation without marriage, although that information had been concealed from friends and family members who would considered it scandalous. The program is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. Cos Cob Library 5 Sinaway Rd Cos Cob, CT 06807

Saturday, October 13, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm Cheshire Public Library, 104 Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410 - DNA Testing for Genealogy Research

TV researcher and Genealogy teacher Janeen Bjork will begin her presentation with a very brief lesson in the science of DNA testing. She will give an overview of the various options for DNA testing and discuss her family's experience with different tests and different DNA testing companies. With their permission, she will share and compare the ethnicity results of a dozen family members with the caution that these results have changed over time as companies change their representative population
See MGS events on page 7

Five Historic Thanksgiving Foods . . . That You Won't Be Eating

From the New England Historical Society
<http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com>

The best food historians can say is that turkey *probably* has been on Thanksgiving tables since the beginning, and it's been remarkably constant – holding off any attempts to squeeze it off the menu. But many other historic Thanksgiving foods have come and gone from New England menus over the years as tastes change. Here are just five examples:

Lobster. Records of what was eaten at the first Massachusetts Thanksgiving meal in 1621 mention only that the Pilgrims ate fowl and venison. But most likely they also ate the other traditional foods that were common to their diet, and those included seafood such as lobster and mussels. These have been mentioned as dishes at other early American Thanksgiving feasts. Of course, today it's the unusual home where someone brings out the pot to boil or steam up shellfish for Thanksgiving.

Bear. All manner of game was served at early feasts. In 1714, the Rev. Laurence Conant of Danvers, Mass. recorded details of his Thanksgiving dinner with a neighbor, Mr. Epes. Bear was the centerpiece of the feast and was well enjoyed, though venison was also served. The venison, it turned out, was quite controversial as the deer had been shot on the sabbath. That required some consultation with Rev. Conant as to whether it could be eaten. In the end, hun-

gry stomachs topped religious prohibitions against hunting for food on the Sabbath. The venison was gobbled up.

Pigeon Pasties. In 1779, Juliana Smith of Sharon, Conn. wrote to her cousin Betsey to describe the family's Thanksgiving meal. She noted that her dour grandmother had argued that as the American Revolution was depriving Connecticut citizens of their property, the day really should be one of fasting and prayer, "due to the wickedness of our friends and the vileness of our enemies."

However, Juliana's father persuaded the family to instead have a Thanksgiving feast.

Smith, who would go on to marry New York's mayor Jacob Radcliff, outlined a sumptuous menu. She bemoaned the fact

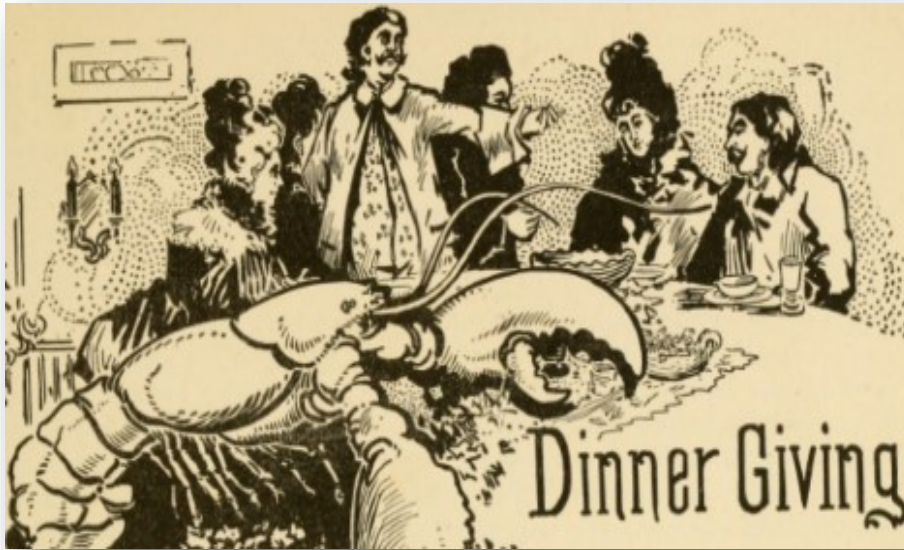


Illustration from *Woman's Favorite Cookbook*, by Annie R. Gregory

that beef was not on the menu and

hadn't been for three years. It was all needed by the army. Nevertheless, the table groaned under the weight of turkey, goose, port, venison and a wide range of vegetables. The menu also featured suet pudding, a far less common dish today, and, "two big pigeon pasties." Pasties, for the uninformed, are also called hand pies. (Think of a pot pie without the pie tin). Sounds like Julia's were larger than today's common pasties.

Puffball Soup. Sarah Royer was the Martha Stewart of her day. A Pennsylvania native, her cookbooks and magazines, which were spread far and wide, guided households toward domestic perfection. Her ideal Thanksgiving Dinner menu, published in *Table Talk* magazine, *See Thanksgiving on page 7*

M.G.S. Social

Thanks again to the Tara Finn Forschino, the Middlesex Genealogical Society's Social was on June 27th at the Hills Golf Course. Over the event. Light fare was available for purchase. Since the management is new and has not yet received their liquor permit, wine and beer were provided by members. The weather was not ideal, but the covered porch provided the perfect place for animated conversation.

Family Tree DNA generously provided a certificate of a free Family Finder test, as well as other discounted offers. All attendees were given a raffle ticket and it was raffled off at 8:00PM. The lucky winner was Lisa D'Alton.



Attendees enjoying the social

hard work of board member second Middlesex Genealogical Society's Social was a great success. It was held at the Clubhouse Grille at the Oak Hills Golf Course. Over thirty people attended the event. Light fare was available for purchase. Since the management is new and has not yet received their liquor permit, wine and beer were provided by members. The weather was not ideal, but the covered porch provided the perfect place for animated conversation.

Family Tree DNA generously provided a certificate of a free Family Finder test or \$79 toward another discounted offer. All attendees were given a raffle ticket and it was raffled off at 8:00PM. The lucky winner was Lisa D'Alton.



Mary Lavins and Pam Shea



Tara Forschino, Lisa D'Alton and Pete Biggins


Do you have a story to share?

Send it in to our newsletter at mgsnewsletter@gmail.com and have it published.

The Two Brothers

By John Driscoll

The story passed down in my wife Joanne's family was of the **two brothers** killed in World War I.



One I knew of. He was Patrick McHugh, the brother of Jo's maternal grandmother. Patrick was killed in action on July 18, 1918 at the battle of Soissons. He was originally buried in France and in 1921 his body was returned to the States and interred in St. John's Cemetery, Middle Village Queens, NY. on May 14 of that year. (See his story in the March 2018 MGS newsletter.) <http://mgs.darien.org/mgsxxxivone.pdf>

Buried in the same grave with Patrick, is his brother Mark. He was 2 years older than Patrick and was interred on Sept. 10, 1921. These then were the **two brothers** we all thought died in France in 1918. We assumed they were both returned for burial here. Although I had a lot of information on Patrick's military service, I had virtually nothing on Mark. He was one of ten siblings who immigrated at different times from Ireland.

Mark was listed in the 1901 Ireland census. His whereabouts between 1901 and his burial in New York in 1921 were a mystery. I searched for a long time but could not even locate Mark in any census record. The only evidence I had that he lived in the States was that he was buried here. Then I found what I believe is his death certificate.....in Detroit, Michigan in 1921. He was killed by a streetcar and his body was removed to Brooklyn, NY for burial. The certificate stated he was to be buried two days after his death. His actual burial was six days after. Although some details don't agree exactly, birth and burial, I believe this is

Mark and will work further to prove it.

Now the problem was if Mark was not the other brother, who was? Patrick's only other brothers remained in Ireland. Puzzled, I dropped this for a while and worked on Joanne's other side, the Gillens.

Then I found him! It wasn't Patrick McHugh's brother, it was John Gillen, the brother of Joanne's maternal grandfather Thomas Gillen! The **two brothers** were brothers of her maternal grandparents, **not** each other!



John Gillen

The 1973 fire in the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis destroyed all but two of John Gillen's records. One of the two remaining documents was a War Department telegram to his brother, Thomas, that he had been severely wounded on October 17, 1918. He died from those wounds on November 7, 1918, just four days before the end of the War to End All Wars.

John Gillen was born May 7 1893 in County Longford Ireland. He arrived in New York aboard the SS Baltic on March 29 1912 and went to live with his brother, Thomas and his wife Delia.

He enlisted in the 14th Regiment of the New York National Guard on July 9, 1917, three months after the US entered the war. He was transferred to the 106th Infantry and on May 10, 1918 was shipped to France aboard the SS President Lincoln. (On



Somme American Cemetery

its return voyage the ship was sunk by three torpedoes from the German submarine U-90 with a loss of 26 lives).

As far as I can tell, John was mortally wounded in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, (September 26 to November 11, 1918). He is buried in the Somme American Cemetery, Bony, France.

The lesson I learned here is that family stories have validity but may not be wholly accurate. Use them as leads but prove them.

MGS events continued from page 3

samples and their algorithms. She'll also show best practices for making the most of DNA matches and how shared DNA matches can be used to identify relationships and common ancestors. The program is free and open to the public.

Thanksgiving continued from page 4

featured puffball soup. Puffballs are a family of mushrooms that are familiar to anyone who has spent much time walking the woods. Small ones provide a degree of entertainment when they are dry. If you crush them, a small puff of smoke-like spores is expelled. But larger ones can be diced and simmered into a tasty mushroom soup, though it's largely disappeared from Thanksgiving menus today.

Thanksgiving Pudding. Fannie Farmer launched her career as a cookbook author in 1896 with *The Boston Cooking School Cookbook* and what cookbook would be complete without a nod to Thanksgiving. Much of her sample Thanksgiving menu would be familiar to modern celebrants of the holiday. But one suggested dish has faded from memory. In addition to pies and other sweets, Farmer had a Thanksgiving Pudding in her cookbook. Thanksgiving pudding was a simple dish of crackers, milk, sugar, eggs, butter, nutmeg, salt and raisins. To top it off, she recommended a brandy sauce.

Tips

DON'T YOU BELIEVE

By Virginia Banerjee (1925-2017)

August, 2006 (Revised April 2008)

DON'T BELIEVE ads for family books promising to tell you about your surname and provide YOUR family history. If you want an instant pedigree and don't care whether it's true or not, by all means, buy yourself a Coat-of-Arms and ready-made genealogy and then go find another hobby.

DON'T BELIEVE that you can "find" your family tree in ANY one place no matter what that source. Compiled genealogies, abstracts and indices, the Internet, CDs, the IGI and the Ancestral File of the Family History Library offer clues and are sources to explore. PROVE whatever you find.

DON'T BELIEVE everything in print. PROVE IT.

DON'T BELIEVE that because the name is the same that it is the same person. PROVE IT.

DON'T BELIEVE that there are no records because the "courthouse burned". Some records may have been destroyed but there are other ways to go and record substitutes to be explored.

DON'T BELIEVE all the family folklore. Family stories are rarely all true or all false. Determine which parts are which.

Flea Market

Stop by and visit the Middlesex Genealogical Society's table at Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum's

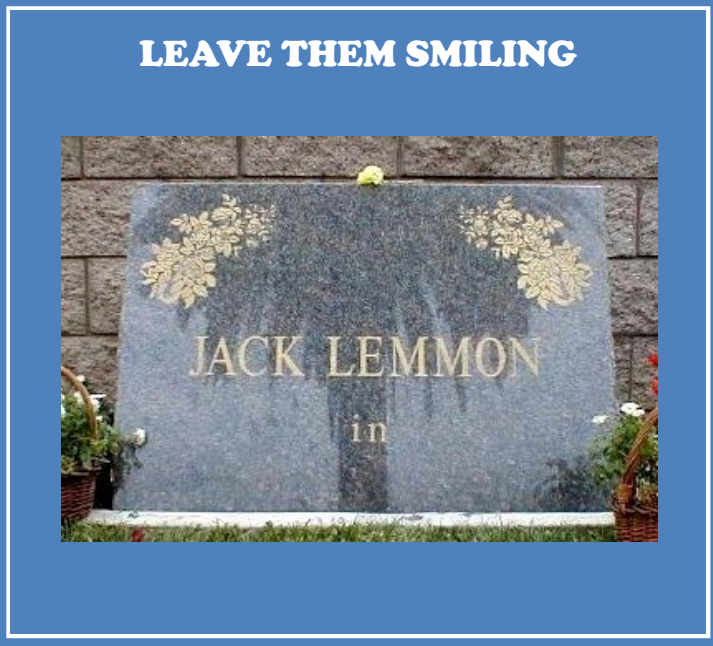
Old-Fashioned Flea Market

September 16, 2018, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

<https://www.lockwoodmathewsmansion.com/event/old-fashioned-flea-market-2018/>



Welcome New Members
Jack T. and Juliann L. Hungerford
Virginia S. Otis



2018
OCTOBER 6,
NEXT MEETING

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