



The Newsletter of Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September, 2023

President's Message

Welcome to Fall of 2023!

We hosted Mark Olsen from Family Tree Maker software in June. We had a great turnout with lots of great conversation. I have been following his tips and working on trees.

The orange weather is sticking with us for a while longer. Best practice is to sync in one direction. How do you accomplish this? Only work on one platform. If you make all your changes, additions and source attachments in FTM then sync to Ancestry you are working on one platform and attaching those to the other through sync.

As a reminder, when you order BMD certificates you agree not to publish the record to an open site. Two options I see: One, make a note of the source in the description field with the quote "in my files". Two, create a tree with source material that you don't link to Ancestry. A shadow tree - make sure you keep both your linked tree and your records tree up to date. Your records tree can be the one you use to publish your family books and memories articles. Join us for social hour at the first lecture of the year on Oct. 7 to continue the FTM conversation.

[Check here for FTM update](#)

Sara

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2022-2023 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Sara Zagrodzky	President & Programs Director
Open	Vice President
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Ed.
Peter Biggins	Secretary & Webmaster
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Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs
Joan Killian Gallagher	Member at Large

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. Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

Website: mgsdarienct.org

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MGS News

On Monday June 26th, Mark Olsen, Genealogy Community Ambassador/Partner Relationship Manager for Family Tree Maker, gave a presentation via Zoom to a live audience at the Darien Library on the 24.1 and 24.2 updates to the Family Tree Maker program.



ship Manager for Family Tree Maker, gave a presentation via Zoom to a live audience at the Darien Library on the 24.1 and 24.2 updates to the Family Tree Maker program.

For those who are current users of Family Tree Maker version 19, he explained how to check for the update. Mark went on to describe the options for building your tree and customizing the Person Panel by adding additional facts to make the best use for the individual, as well as color coding descendants to make it easier to follow individual lines. He showed how to sync the trees with Ancestry.com and how to use the Tree Hints to merge with your tree. Other categories covered were sources, mapping and media. Mark then explained the Publish feature of FTM and described the plug-in-partner products, Charting Companion and Family Book Creator. He fielded questions throughout the presentation and forwarded a handout with many useful links.

At the end of the session there was a drawing for the door prize provided by Mark of a Family Tree Maker Version 2019, which was

won by MGS member Duncan Chisholm. All in all a very informative presentation.

Mark Olsen is the Family Tree Maker Ambassador to historical and genealogical societies around the world working to support their members as they use Family Tree Maker. Mark is a graduate of Brigham Young University and holds a bachelor's degree in Family History with a Spanish records emphasis. He has been working in the genealogy industry since 2007 and has been the Family Tree Maker Ambassador since 2016.

Upcoming MGS Presentations

Presentations will be held at the Darien Library in the Louise Parker Berry Community Room

Saturday, October 7, and Saturday November 18, 1:00 pm Informal "Meet & Greet"

Come and talk to your fellow members about your work, brick walls, successes, etc.

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 2:00 pm, Connecticut In Postcards: Bringing Deltiology to Your Genealogy, presented by Michael Cassara.

For genealogists with an affinity for Connecticut research, postcards can be an overlooked and occasionally invaluable means of peering further into the lives of our ancestors, or those of our clients. Not only can they illuminate microhistory (in ways that may otherwise be lost to the ages), but both the front and the back of postcards can contribute mightily to any genealogical study. Images on



the front of a card can offer illustrations of long-demolished places of interest, while messages on the back may shed light on an ancestor's travels, giving the researcher a clearer sense of the writer's concerns of a long-forgotten moment. These are only a few of the many ways in which genealogy and deltiology (the study and collection of postcards) can intersect.

Michael Cassara is a professional genealogist and lecturer based in New York City, specializing in Italian/Sicilian genealogy, New York and New Jersey research, and genealogical technology. He has frequently presented at regional societies as well as national conferences, including five years of presentations at Root-sTech, the 2018 Association of Professional Genealogists Professional Management Conference, a popular 2019 APG Webinar on genealogical technology, as well as talks at FGS, OGS, the New York State Family History Conference, and more. Michael holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University (OL19) and is a graduate of the ProGen Study Group (ProGen 43). He currently serves as President of the Italian Genealogical Group (ItalianGen.org) and he blogs about his research at <http://www.digiroots.net>. You can find him on Twitter and Facebook at @DigiRoots

Saturday, November 18, 2023, Digitizing and Searching Historical New York Collections. presented by Kalyn Paige Loewer MA.

Throughout New York, small and large organizations hold unique manuscripts, ledgers, and other materials. The NYG&B works to digitize these invaluable records, preserving the information contained within them. Kalyn Paige Loewer shows the behind-the-scenes process, how you or your organization can participate, and tips for



searching our online collections.

As the Manager of Digital Collections, Kalyn uses digital preservation and archival techniques to support the NYG&B's mission to preserve, document, and share family history. She works to digitize documents from all over New York State and makes materials available to researchers via the online collections. She also educates communities about how to access and maximize the NYG&B's online collections. As an early modern historian, her research is focused on the evolution of the Gàidhealtachd (Scottish Gaeldom) in the 16th and 17th centuries, with particular emphasis on the historiographical significance of Elizabethan genealogical and family history documents relating to Scottish clans. With her expertise in Scottish history and heritage, she acts as the Programs Director for the National Tartan Day New York Committee and serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors and as the Historian for the New York Caledonian Club. Kalyn was the recipient of the John. C. Gorman '38 Medal for Excellence in History from St. Francis College in 2021.

The Connecticut Genealogy Index Is Now Online.

The following is an excerpt from a *Reclaim The Records* email 8/16/2023.

Hello again from Reclaim The Records! Today, we come to you with a long-awaited present: **millions of new free genealogy records** — or at least, new searchable and downloadable indices to those millions of records, and helpful instructions on how you can order the underlying certificates, even very recent ones. And of course, we also have yet another Kafkaesque story about why the world is still missing public access to even more years of this great data, and how we're working to fix that.

Introducing ConnecticutGenealogy.org! It's a
Continued on pg. 8

Member Recommended Books

Five Points: The 19th-Century New York City Neighborhood That Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum

by Tyler Anbinder

All but forgotten today, the Five Points neighborhood in Lower Manhattan was once renowned the world over. From Jacob Riis to Abraham Lincoln, Davy Crockett to Charles Dickens, Five Points both horrified and inspired everyone who saw it. While it comprised only a handful of streets, many of America's most impoverished African Americans, Irish, Jewish, German, and Italian immigrants sweated out their existence there. Located in today's Chinatown, Five Points witnessed more riots, scams, prostitution, and drunkenness than any other neighborhood in America. But at the same time, it was a font of creative energy, crammed full of cheap theaters, dance halls, and boxing matches. It was also the home of meeting halls for the political clubs and the machine politicians who would come to dominate not just the city but an entire era in American politics.

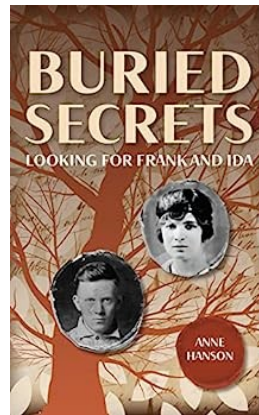
Drawing from letters, diaries, newspapers, bank records, police reports, and archaeological digs, Anbinder has written the first-ever history of Five Points, the neighborhood that was a microcosm of the American immigrant experience. The story that Anbinder tells is the classic tale of America's immigrant past, as successive waves of new arrivals fought for survival in a land that was as exciting as it was dangerous, as riotous as it was culturally rich.

Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida by Anne Hanson

When Anne Hanson's dad first asked her to investigate the secret past of his parents, little did she know what she was getting into. For two decades, despite all her digging, she failed to unearth even the tiniest speck of evidence that the families of her grandparents, Frank and Ida Hanson, had ever existed. If her quest were a detective novel, its title would have been, "The Case of the Missing Ancestors."

Finally, Anne unearthed her grandparents' true identities and the secrets they took to their graves. Journeying into an early twentieth century drama of pain and heartache, she solved a mystery from an era when a young couple, thwarted by social conventions, could simply vanish and create new lives. They radically altered their family destiny, with aftereffects that reverberated for generations.

Buried Secrets: Looking for Frank and Ida is, ultimately, a love story. When she learned the truth of her grandparents' past, Anne comprehended the true depth of their love. *Buried Secrets* also illuminates the love between a dad and the daughter who gave him answers he had longed for his entire life.



Welcome
New Members
Sue McClenachan
Amy Savage
Georgia Downey

Upcoming Regional Event

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Connecticut Society of Genealogists. The Hartog Auditorium at Ashlar Village, 74 Cheshire Rd. Wallingford, CT “Family History Day Seminar” Casey Zahn presenting “Finding Women in Records: 1700-1800” Featured Speaker: Judy G. Russell, J.D., CG, CGL presenting “Don’t Forget the Ladies – A Genealogist’s Guide to Women and the Law”

In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren’t there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to “protected” – second-class – status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today.

“Dowered or Bound Out: Records of Widows and Orphans”

Widows and orphans have always had a special place in the law. But it’s not always the place that 21st century researchers might expect. An orphan in the early days wasn’t a child whose parents had died, but rather a child whose father had died. The law didn’t care much about the mother. She was just the widow, entitled to her dower rights and generally not much more. Learn more of the way the law treated widows and orphans, and what the records may tell us about them.

Before September 1: \$52.00

After September 1: \$60.00

Deadline to Register: September 22, 2023, Registration, click [HERE](#)

- **9:00 AM – 9:30 PM** Registration Begins: Vendor/Exhibitor Room open; 2023 Literary Award winners and entries on display; light Continental breakfast
- **9:30 AM** –Welcome by Pauline Merrick, CSG President
- **9:45 AM – 10:45 AM** –“Finding Women in Records: 1700-1800” – Casey Zahn
- **10:45 AM – 11:00 AM** – Break – Visit exhibitors

- **11:00 AM – 12:00 PM** – “Don’t Forget the Ladies” – Judy G. Russell, J.D., CG, CGL
- **12:00 PM – 12:15 PM** – Break – Visit the exhibitors
- **12:15 PM – 1:15 PM** – Luncheon
- **1:15 PM – 1:30PM** – Break – Visit the exhibitors
- **1:30 PM – 2:00 PM** – Presentation of CSG’s 2023 Literary Awards & Door Prizes
- **2:00 PM – 3:00 PM** – “Dowered or Bound Out: Records of Widows and Orphans” – Judy G. Russell, J.D., CG, CGL

Tips

Do you have a tip to share with your members? Send it to:

newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com

and have it printed in the MGS newsletter.

If your ancestor had an unusual first name, try searching databases for it alone or along with his spouse and or children. When searching for death notices, add the name of survivors to the search field, they are often mentioned.

Write a story about your ancestors. Did your great grandparents belong to any societies or social clubs? What was your great grandmother’s day-to-day life like? Your great grandfather’s job may indicate where he came from? If in a census, he was a steelworker and he was born in England, look at Sheffield as a possible starting point. A biography may provide new areas to research

Most French Canadians are Descended from

800 Women Known as the Filles du Roi

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2023 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/>

If you have French-Canadian ancestry, you probably

have one, two, or perhaps a dozen filles du roi in your family tree. Several of them even have proven lines of descent from Charlemagne and a number of other royal families from

throughout Europe. Obviously, that makes you a descendant of Charlemagne and other royal families.

Who were these young French women known as les filles du roi? They traveled from France to what was then called New France, now known as Québec, between 1663 and 1673 as part of a program designed to boost the population by encouraging female immigrants to settle, marry, and raise families.

In the early days, Québec was settled almost entirely by men. The early population consisted mostly of fur trappers, other adventurers, priests, and soldiers. As the years went by, farmers joined the immigrants as well. A few women did pay their own passage, but few single women wanted to leave their familiar places to move and settle in the harsh climate and conditions of New France. The lack of suitable

female companionship encouraged the men of Québec to seek wives amongst the native population. The natives were mostly non-Christian, a source of concern to the many Jesuit priests who also were in Québec at the time.

As if the farmers and fur trappers didn't have enough competition finding wives, King Louis XIV sent almost 1,200 soldiers of the Carignan-Salières regiment to Québec in 1665 to fight the

Iroquois Indians, who were aggressive and killed many settlers. The soldiers were deployed at strategic points of the territory to defend the colony and its residents. The regiment was successful, and a peace treaty with the



Arrival of the Brides - Eleanor Fortescue-Brickdale (1872-1945)

Iroquois was signed on July 10, 1667. The Regiment then returned to France but left behind 400 soldiers and officers, aged between 19 and 30, who all agreed to remain in the country as settlers. The addition of 400 young men to the colony worsened the marriage problems. This became evident when Jean Talon, intendant of New France, carried out the colony's first census. He recorded that the population was a bit more than 3,000, with 719 unmarried males and only 45 unmarried females living in the colony. This did not bode well for the future of the settlement.

The growth of population in the competing English colonies to the south, including married couples, also created concern among some French officials about their ability to maintain their claim in the New World.

At the same time, social practices in the homeland create a potential solution to this problem.

In the custom of the day, the oldest daughter of a family in France received as large a dowry as possible from her parents to improve her chances of marriage. Dowries often included furniture, household articles, silver, land, or other inherited goods. Younger daughters of the same family typically received smaller dowries. Daughters of impoverished families often received no dowry at all, which reduced their chances of finding a suitable mate. These younger daughters were prime candidates for an opportunity in the New World.

As Intendant of New France, Jean Talon proposed that King Louis XIV sponsor passage of at least 500 women to New France. The king agreed to pay for transportation to New France of any eligible young woman. He also offered a dowry for each, to be awarded upon her marriage to a young Frenchman. Each woman's dowry typically consisted of 1 chest, 1 taffeta kerchief, 1 ribbon for shoes, 100 needles, 1 comb, 1 spool of white thread, 1 pair of stockings, 1 pair of gloves, 1 pair of scissors, 2 knives, about 1,000 pins, 1 bonnet, 4 laces, and 2 silver livres (French coins). Many also received chickens, pigs, and other livestock. Because the King of France paid the dowries instead of the parents, these women were referred to as the "Daughters of the King," or "Filles du roi."

Eventually nearly twice the proposed number of women were recruited. They were predominantly between the ages of 12 and 25, and they had to supply a letter of reference from their parish priest before they would be chosen for emigration to New France. Research by the historical demographer Yves Landry determines that there were in total about 770 to 850 filles du roi who settled in New France between 1663 and 1673.

About 80% of the filles du roi were from the Paris, Normandy, and western regions of France. Others came from rural areas, and a few were from other countries. According to the records of Marie de l'Incarnation, who knew

many of these women personally, there were among them one Moor (a black woman of African descent), one Portuguese, one German, and one Dutch woman.

All were women of fine moral character, as verified by the recommendation from a priest that each woman needed to obtain before being accepted for emigration.

These hardy immigrant women married, often within days after their arrival in New France. The ships carrying the filles du roi would travel up the St. Lawrence River, stopping first at Québec, then at Trois-Rivières, and lastly at Montréal. Most of the filles du roi raised families. In fact, many of them raised large families in the tradition of the day. Many of their sons and daughters went on to also have large families, and so on and so forth for generations. As a result, millions of living people are descended from this group of pioneer women. Descendants of the filles du roi today may be found throughout Canada, the United States, and many other countries.

An alphabetical listing of all the known Filles du Roi and their husbands is available at <https://fillesduroi.org/cpage.php?pt=9>.

You can find a lot more information about the Filles du Roi on the World Wide Web. Some of the better sites include the following:

In English:

"A Scattering of Seeds: The Creation of Canada" at https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_Scattering_of_Seeds/T9ERAQAAIAAJ?hl=en
La Société des Filles du roi et soldats du Carignan at <http://www.fillesduroi.org/>
Filles du Roi — "Daughters of the King" at <http://www.lookbackward.com/perrault/filleroi/>
"King's Daughters" on Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King%27s_Daughters

In French:

La Société d'histoire des Filles du Roy at <http://lesfillesduroy-quebec.org/>
"Filles du Roi" on Wikipedia: http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filles_du_Roi

CT Genealogy Index Continued from pg. 3

FREE searchable database of 576,638 births, 2,180,700 marriages, 2,086 civil unions, and 2,772,116 deaths from the state of Connecticut, spanning three centuries. Some of this data had been online before, scattered across several other websites, but with fewer years, in non-downloadable and non-shareable formats, locked behind paywalls, and/or with tools that couldn't handle searching the quirks and oddities in the data very well. Well, now it's all in one place, and we think we've got better data and better tools, and we're here to tell you all about it!

ConnecticutGenealogy.org includes the first-ever online publication of Connecticut birth index data from 1897-1917, and this new data is the only statewide index of Connecticut births that exists publicly online anywhere. (Yay!) We also acquired marriage and death index data from 1897 through 2017, while the next most

complete online version of the index only had data through 2012. And our search engine is set up to better handle some of the weirdness in this data, such as the official records from 1969-1979 only having the first five letters of each person's given name, and some of the pre-1925 data missing some names entirely. Our search engine also has all the fun bells and whistles like automatic nickname and partial name searches, wildcard searches, automatic typo or letter transposition searches, date range searches (even down to the exact day, not just the year), and so on.

If you like seeing records like these great Connecticut vital indexes go online for free, for everyone, forever, and you want to see us keep doing this kind of thing, and in more states nationwide, please consider making a donation to help fund our work. We really appreciate your support! You can [donate on our website](#).

[Read entire story here](#)

**NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 7,
2023**

**Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
Darien, CT 06820**