



The Newsletter of
Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

June, 2023

President's Message

I'm looking forward to summer and great times with people at the beach! How about you?

Frankly, I love meeting people who ask "I'd like to start on my family history. What do I do first?"

I tell them to start with names – first, middle, and last. Then I tell them to gather information about birth dates and locations, marriages and hometowns, children and siblings. Be sure to repeat this step for every generation. Then write down the stories you remember. Where did your family members go to school? How about their careers? Any military service? Did they make any big moves or immigrate to the U.S.? You can use [FamilySearch](#) to find help records that support what you remember.

One thing I encourage my new pals to do is get things on paper first before trying to use genealogy software or online programs. But even with a paper start, pretty soon you'll have a lot of great information, and you'll be off on your journey to build out your family tree!

I hope this helps you in your summer research or in talking to your friends about family history.

Sara

MGS News

On March 18th MGS presented *Searching for Elusive Ancestors with DNA* at the Darien Library community room. Nora Galvin described

how to build a family tree (Online - Ancestry.com is the most widely used at this time.) Once the tree is as complete as you can make it, link your DNA to it and assign relationships of known matches. (Use available tools to incorporate your matches)

Use shared matches to identify additional same ancestral family matches. Building trees, if needed, for these matches so you can add them to your online family tree. Ancestry.com offers colored dots for sorting DNA matches. Start by naming 4 dots with your 4 great grandparent couples. Pick a DNA match that you know connects with one of these great grandparent couples. Use the shared matches tool. Now give everyone on the generated list the color associated with this couple.

You can also use the Leeds Method to make a spreadsheet chart. Write your matches names in column a. Then for each of the next four columns you will have a color assigned. When you create your shared matches list with the first relative on the list give them a color in column b. With each match put the color in column b. Now go to the next name on your list. Their color goes in column c. Repeat with all of their matches getting the color for column c. Repeat for column d and e. Some matches may overlap - that is ok. Mark both color columns.

Nora used her paternal great grandmother, Annie Connor, as the subject of her search, eliminating everyone who did not share her great grandmother's DNA to narrow down her search field. Starting with the closest match,

she built out the trees of unknowns to try to make a connection. The presentation was followed by a Q&A.

May 13th saw our final presentation of the 2022-2023 season, that was held in the auditorium of the Darien Library. Carol Ansel, Library Director of the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown Connecticut, presented a talk on the resources of this independent library, which was founded in 1947 by A. Fremont Rider, Head librarian emeritus of Olin Library @ Wesleyan. The library building opened in 1952 and houses roughly 40,000 print resources. It is the home of AGBI (American Genealogical & Biographical Index).

Carol walked us through the methods of searching the databases, including the most used [Search Scholar Databases](#). From here you can access many categories of genealogies, history, maps, newspapers and many other records. These databases are mostly for Connecticut but include other states and countries as well. There is a list of helpful websites broken down by type and location. The Godfrey Memorial Library is open for research assistance Tuesday through Friday and the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Basic membership is \$45 per year, Premium is \$65 per year and visitors are charged a user fee of \$15 per day. ([click Here](#)) The dues include access to library editions of Ancestry, My Heritage and others.

*Welcome to our newest
Board Member,
Joan Killian Gallagher.
Joan has been a member
of MGS since 2009.*

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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
Tara Finn Forschino	Social Director and Facebook Administrator
Pamela Shea	Past President
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs
Joan Killian Gallagher	Member at Large

PAST DIRECTOR

Mary Lavins	Email Communications
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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

1931 Census Of Canada To Be Released On June 1, 2023

This article has been reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <http://www.eogn.com>.

The following is a press release issued by Library and Archives Canada:

After the legislated 92 years in the vault, the highly anticipated 1931 Census of Canada will be made available to the public. Collected during the Great Depression and at a time of significant immigration, the census provides a snapshot of the more than 10 million people living in Canada in 1931. On June 1, 2023, Canadians can expect to browse the digitized census images by geographic district and sub-district on the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website. Following the initial release, LAC will work collaboratively with Ancestry® and FamilySearch International to create an advanced searchable database for Canadians and those with Canadian heritage who wish to look for their ancestors.

In this collaborative effort to increase access to the 1931 Census of Canada, LAC has digitized all 234,687 pages of the census, and Ancestry will apply its state-of-the-art handwriting recognition technology to the digital images to create a full index of the entire census. FamilySearch will then review the computer-generated index to ensure a complete and accurate index of all fields at a level never achieved before. The images and indexes will be available and searchable online for free through Census Search, Library and Archives Canada's new one-stop shop for national census records. The images and indexes will also be available on Ancestry.ca and FamilySearch.org

LAC has been working in collaboration with external organizations including Ancestry and FamilySearch for over 20 years to help preserve, and provide access to, its genealogically significant historical records. Today, collaborations between private organizations and public institutions are the meeting ground of cutting-

edge technology and subject-matter expertise. This collaborative partnership is key to meeting public demand and ensuring that the 1931 Census of Canada can be viewed and searched online more quickly than previous censuses.

Users can bookmark LAC's Preparing the 1931 Census web page to stay up to date on the project's status.

About Library and Archives Canada

The mandate of Library and Archives Canada is to acquire and preserve the documentary heritage of Canada for the benefit of present and future generations, and to be a source of enduring knowledge accessible to all, contributing to the cultural, social and economic advancement of Canada. Library and Archives Canada also facilitates cooperation among communities involved in the acquisition, preservation and diffusion of knowledge, and serves as the continuing memory of the Government of Canada and its institutions.

About Ancestry®

Ancestry®, the global leader in family history, empowers journeys of personal discovery to enrich lives. With our unparalleled collection of more than 40 billion records, over 3 million subscribers and over 23 million people in our growing DNA network, customers can discover their family story and gain a new level of understanding about their lives. For over 40 years, we've built trusted relationships with millions of people who have chosen us as the platform for discovering, preserving and sharing the most important information about themselves and their families.

About FamilySearch

FamilySearch International is the largest genealogy organization in the world. It is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Millions of people use FamilySearch

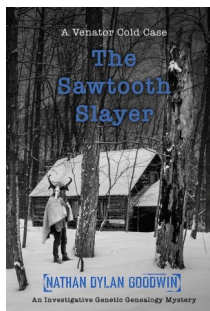
records, resources, and services to make joyful, personal, and family discoveries. To help in this great pursuit, FamilySearch and its predecessors have been actively gathering, preserving, and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. Patrons may access FamilySearch services and resources free online at FamilySearch.org or through over 5,000 FamilySearch centres in 129 countries, including the main FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Member Recommended Book

The Sawtooth Slayer

By Nathan Dylan Goodwin

April 2020, Twin Falls, Idaho. A serial killer is on the loose. A nameless man is kidnapping young women from their own homes, taking them out of the city to kill them before returning their bodies to random locations around the city.



Detective Maria Gonzalez heads up the investigation but has very few leads to pursue. As time passes and fears rise that the killer might strike again with a fifth victim, Maria turns to Venator—an investigative genetic genealogy company—in the hope that they can identify the killer from his DNA alone before he has the chance to take yet another life. Despite her initial reticence to take on the company's first ever live case, Madison Scott-Barnhart and her team in Salt Lake City agree to try to reveal the identity of this barbaric serial killer. In the midst of the global pandemic that has closed the Venator office and posed both personal and professional problems for Madison, time is running out on this case.

This is the second novel in the Venator Cold Case series. Although it can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story, for the best experience, begin your journey with *The Chester Creek Murders*.

Tip

Do you have a tip to share with your members? Send it to:
newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com
and have it printed in the MGS newsletter.

Your relative may not have spelled his or her name the way it is spelled today. Use a question mark (?) or an asterisk (*) to replace an unknown letter or letters. A search for Ols?n will display Olsen as well as Olson. As for my own Great grandfather, I have found 10 varieties of his surname all backed by reliable sources: Derin, Deren, Dearin, Dürer, Derring, Dürr, Deering, Dearing, Duran and Dearn and almost as many first name variations.

Nancy Cross

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Nancy Cross on December 17, 2022, at the age of 89.

She was a member of the Middlesex Genealogical Society for 15 years.

In 1955 she married A. Reid Cross of Darien, and they enjoyed 57 years together until he died in 2013.

Besides Nancy's varied career in mechanical drafting, accounting, advertising, sales, and marketing, she was an active volunteer at Stamford Hospital and the National Marrow Donor.

Are Your Ancestors Neighbors With the Famous or Infamous?

A list of some notable people buried in a few nearby cemeteries.

By John Driscoll

Calvary Cemetery, Queens, NY

Dom DeLuise (1933-2009) actor
 Alfred E Smith (1873-1944) governor of NY State
 Thomas Lucchese (1899-1967) mobster

Flushing Cemetery, Queens, NY

Louis Armstrong (1901-1971) musician and singer
 Laurie Bird (1953-1979) film actress

Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990) conductor
 Horace Greeley (1811-1872) newspaper editor
 DeWitt Clinton (1769-1828) NY Governor
 William "Boss" Tweed (1823-1878) New York politician
 Elias Howe Jr. (1819-1867) inventor of the sewing machine

Holy Cross Cemetery, Brooklyn, NY

Gil Hodges (1924-1972) major league baseball player
 James Buchanan Brady aka Diamond Jim (1856-1917) businessman

Machpelah Cemetery, Queens, NY

Harry Houdini (1874-1926) escape artist

St. Charles Cemetery, East Farmingdale, NY

Mary Ann Gasner (1948-1970) singer with the Shagri-Las

St. John's Cemetery, Queens, NY

Charles "Lucky" Luciano (1896 -1962) father of modern organized crime
 John Gotti (1940-2002) "The Teflon Don"

Woodlawn Cemetery, the Bronx, NY

Cicely Tyson (1924-2021) actress
 George M Cohan (1878-1942) entertainer
 Nellie Bly (1864-1922) journalist
 Herman Melville (1819-1891) author
 Dorothy Parker (1893-1967) poet writer and critic

Woodlawn Cemetery Elmira, NY

Samuel Clemens aka Mark Twain (1835-1910) author
 Hal Roach (1892-1992) comedy film and TV producer

Mountain Grove Cemetery Bridgeport, CT

P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) showman and entrepreneur.
 Tom Thumb (1838-1883) circus performer

St. Bernard's Cemetery Sharon, CT

William F. Buckley (1925-2008) author and conservative commentator

Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT

Samuel Colt (1814-1862) Inventor and industrialist
 Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003) actress
 J. Pierpont Morgan (1837-1913) businessman



Katharine Hepburn's gravestone, Cedar Hill Cemetery

Grove Street Cemetery, New Haven, CT

Eli Whitney (1765-1825) inventor of the cotton gin
 Noah Webster (1758-1843) lexicographer
 Charles Goodyear (1800-1860) inventor of vulcanized rubber
 Roger Sherman (1721-1793) signer of the Declaration of Independence

Digitally recovering Ireland's history: Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland connects millions of lost records



Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland

Maoinchiste Annála Samhalta na hÉireann

The newly launched [Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland](#) is a digital archive which combines historical investigation, archival discovery, conservation and technical innovation to re-imagine and recreate, through digital technologies, archives lost at the beginning of the Irish Civil War. For the first time in 100 years, researchers will be able to 'step back in time' to explore a virtual recreation of the Public Record Office of Ireland and its collections which were destroyed in a fire on 30 June 1922.

In June 1922, the Public Record Office of Ireland stored over seven centuries of Irish records dating back to the time of the Normans in Ireland. Hundreds of thousands of precious historical documents relating to all aspects of Irish life were lost, including invaluable census records dating from before the Irish Famine in the 1840s.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland has been developed by [Beyond 2022](#), an international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the destroyed Public Record Office of Ireland. Beyond 2022 has been developed by historians in Trinity College Dublin and computer scientists in the Science Foundation Ireland ADAPT Centre, in partnership with five core partners: National Archives, Ireland, National Archives, UK, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Irish Manuscripts Commission and the Library of Trinity College Dublin.

Rich collections and digitally reconnected archives

The [Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland](#) now provides access to 50 million words of searchable text spanning seven centuries; 150,000+

database records; 6,000+ maps; and 2.7 million knowledge graph triples. It brings together a rich array of replacement and surrogate records digitally repatriated from archival collections around the world, within an immersive 3D reconstruction of the destroyed building.

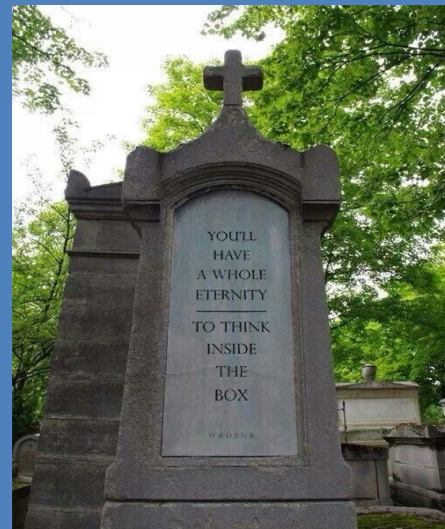
The items have been meticulously catalogued and shared by more than 70 international partners, with many millions of words and text from destroyed documents linked and re-assembled from copies, transcripts and other records scattered among international collections, including many existing Europeana aggregators. New partners are welcome to contribute to the project and support the recovery of lost knowledge, you can contact the Beyond 2022 team [here](#).

Explore the archive

The Virtual Record Treasury is an open-access resource, freely available online to all those interested in Irish history around the world

Welcome New Member
Ralph Burke

LEAVE THEM SMILING



MGS Social 2023

After a three-year hiatus, because of Covid, we held our first MGS Social on May, 31 2023. Many thanks once again to the efforts of Board Member, Tara Forschino for her work in arranging the event at Pinstripes in the Sono Collection, Norwalk. Social-goers engaged in general chit-chat and Bocce while enjoying drinks and appetizers.

PHOTOS

Upper right - Sue Hill McClenachan, Janeen Bjork, Tara Forschino and Rosie Trumpeter

Lower right - Janeen Bjork and Tara Forschino

Upper left - Kathy Kenyon, Peter Biggins and Amy Savage

Lower Left - Kathleen Turner, Sara Zagrodzky (President) and "Pete" Kenyon



Join us

at 6:00 pm on

Monday June 26th for a presentation

By Mark Olsen on the 24.1 & 24.2 updates to Family Tree Maker 2019. It will be held at the Darien Library in the Conference Room on the mezzanine.



**Family Tree
Maker®**

There will be a door prize

This event is held at, but not sponsored by, Darien Library. Any views and opinions expressed are not those of the Library.

**2023
OCTOBER 7,
NEXT MEETING**

**Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
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