

The Newsletter of Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Message from the MGS Board

Dear Fellow Genealogists,

As genealogists we read many obituaries and can be excited by the information they contain. Sadly, this is not the case when the obituary is for one of our own.

MGS Secretary and Director Steve Haywood died Wednesday evening, October 21, 2020. He was 76 years old.

Here is some of his obituary.

Steve is survived by his best friend and loving wife of 52 years, Marie, six children and thirteen grandchildren.

Steve had a lifelong love of genealogy and generously assisted countless family members and acquaintances over the years in researching their own families. He delighted in identifying and connecting with new relatives, and proudly traced his family both to the Mayflower and to Charlemagne.

Steve was a devoted member of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Fourth Degree Assembly 100, and involved with several Norwalk councils throughout his life. He previously served as Grand Knight of Council 46 at Shorelands and, at the time of his death, served as Grand Knight of Council 1253 in South Norwalk.

Steve and Marie's love of preservation and

need for additional space for a growing family led them to relocate and carefully restore the Noyes Mather House from its location on the Post Road in Stamford to its current location adjacent to their home in Rowayton.

Steve was an active parishioner and past committee member at St. Ladislaus Church, a regular golfer at Oak Hills, and a member of the Rowayton Platform Tennis Association. An engineer by trade, Steve was a handyman and constant tinkerer; his home was filled with a long queue of projects.

Many of you would have met Steve at our presentations where he enjoyed sharing genealogy stories and challenges. He was happy to offer suggestions and help. His sense of humor meant he always had a quip and was quick to laugh. We still can't believe Steve won't be joining us at our meetings. He will be missed.

Rest In Peace Dear Friend.



**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2019-2020
OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS**

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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, 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 9
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Website: mgsdarienct.org

In This Issue

Message from the MGS Board pg. 1
Upcoming MGS Presentation pg. 2
Breaking Down Brick Walls pg. 3
CT State Library Newspaper Project pg. 4
Tip pg. 5
MGS News pg. 5
Relating Y-DNA to Ancient Genealogies pg. 5
Genealogy Workshop pg. 7
Leave Them Smiling pg. 7

Upcoming MGS Presentation

Our planned presentations are contingent on the availability of the Darien Library's Community Room during the pandemic. Please look for our emails for updates, changes, or cancellations.

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 2:00 pm, In partnership with JHSFC [the Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County](#) **"Introduction to Jewish Genealogy"** Presented by Linda Carlson.

Note this is a **SUNDAY** instead of our usual **Saturday**.

Have you always wanted to start working on your genealogy but didn't know how to get start-



ed? Have you always believed that there are no records on your family? Do you wonder where your family came from? Was your family name changed "at Ellis Island" and no one knows the original name? Come and learn how to find the answers to your

questions.

This presentation will cover some of the common methods of doing genealogy from a Jewish perspective. Content will include ship records, Ellis Island, name changes, naturalization, reading gravestones, finding towns in Europe, Holocaust records, Jewish DNA and more.

This presentation is provided as a partnership between [Middlesex Genealogical Society](#) of Darien CT and the [Jewish Historical Society of Fairfield County](#), Stamford CT.

Linda Carlson was born and raised in New York City until age five when she moved to Long Island. She is a descendant of Jewish immigrant grandparents. She moved to Connecticut in the 1970's to attend the University of Hartford and never left. Linda began her genea-

logical research at age 15 as part of a school project and now keeps the many branches of her family connected. Her husband is descended from English, Irish, Danish and Swedish immigrants which has allowed her to expand her research skills into these areas. Linda assists the public with their genealogy problems at Genealogy Road Shows with the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council.

After beginning her career as a Special Education teacher, Linda is now the Educational Director at a private high school with a Master's in Educational Technology from the University of Connecticut and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in School Administration from American International College. She has been working as a Professional Genealogist for the past few years specializing in doing research in the Hartford area for information that is not available online. She is a member of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council and on the Board of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists.

Strategies to Break Down Brick Walls

By Pamela White Shea



Brick Walls... everyone has them. They can make you want to scream and can take years to solve if ever. However, those years of frustrating research and dead ends is what makes a breakthrough so exciting when it happens. Here are some thoughts on how to make progress.

Don't assume that the information you have been given by family members is accurate.

Often some of the information is true but much might not be, so prove the information you have been given first.

My great uncle gave me the wrong names for my great great grandmother's parents. Once I

searched for my great great grandmother's records, whose name I had proven, I was able to find the information needed to find her parents.

Don't just focus on the Paternal side of the family.

Researching the paternal side of your family is usually easy because you know the surname. I have found that the women in a family are often the facilitators of marriages, take in and help family members and like to keep their sisters and female family members close. Researching the women can be difficult if you don't know their married names but don't neglect this strategy. Check the families living near each other to see if they are related through the women.

Research other family members and godparents.

Researching the lives of other family members, godparents and marriage witnesses can prove very fruitful. Often you can stumble upon information about your family members.

When I had no idea where in Ireland my great great grandfather came from, I started researching his first wife and her family, even though they were not related to me. Immigrants to this country often lived with and socialized with others from their hometown/county. Since she came over unmarried with her family and they were found in the Federal Census, I was able to find her family in Tipperary Ireland. And who else was there? My great great grandfather!

Use social media to ask for advice and help.

There are so many great groups online especially on Facebook. There are many special interest genealogy groups with members who can offer specialized advice. For instance, when I had the birth town of an ancestor but there were three towns with nearly the same name German genealogists in a Facebook group explained which was the one I should be searching. These groups can also provide translation help.

Do the hard work.

There are so many great records on online however there are a lot of great records that are

not. When you have exhausted the easy online records, it is time to do the hard work. This can mean traveling to libraries, town clerks, cemeteries, or churches. Often it is not easy to get access so it is always a good idea to call ahead to confirm their hours and explain why you would like to visit and what help you may need. The hard work can be time consuming and inconvenient but can yield great rewards. I had a situation where a parish secretary ran interference for the Monsignor. After visiting, emailing, calling and writing the church with no results, in desperation I sent the Monsignor a letter on which I wrote *Personal and Confidential*. Four days later I had an email with the information I had been wanting and an offer to provide any additional information needed. I have found being patient, pleasant and persistent with a little creativity pays off.

Connecticut State Library Announces Historic Newspaper Titles to be Digitized

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

The Connecticut State Library is pleased to announce that with a fourth grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the following newspaper titles have been selected to be digitized for the Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project (CDNP), and made freely available online. These newspapers include:

- The Litchfield County Post 1826-1829
- The Litchfield Enquirer 1829-1881 (a continuation of the Litchfield County Post)
- La Sentinella 1931-1948 (this completes the entire run of this title started in the last grant round)
- The Waterbury Democrat 1931-1946 (this expands coverage of previous Waterbury Democrat papers digitized)

For the full list of specific newspapers and

dates, history blogs and other resources, please go to the CDNP website at <http://ctdigitalnewspaperproject.org/>.



All titles are expected to be completed and freely available online through the Library of Congress' Chronicling America site <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> by Fall 2021.

In addition, the State Library's Newspapers of Connecticut digital collection is available online in the Connecticut Digital Archive <https://ctdigitalarchive.org/>.

The Connecticut Digital Newspaper Project has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this press release, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Additional information about the NEH and its grant programs is available at: <http://www.neh.gov>.

The National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) is a partnership between NEH, the Library of Congress, and state partners. NEH awards enable state partners to choose and digitize newspapers representing their historical, cultural, and geographic diversity. To date, over 16 million pages of historic newspapers are currently available on Chronicling America, with more being added all the time. State partners also contribute rich essays about each newspaper title and its history.

Tip

Newspapers can give you a trove of information. Obits, marriage announcements and social events are just a few of the items in newspaper articles that can yield a lot of incidental data; addresses, maiden names, relatives, occupations, photos, etc. With this data, you can further your research. More and more newspapers are added online all the time (See related article on pg.4) Some are free, others are pay sites and for some, the trip to the repository is still necessary.

MGS News

On Oct. 3rd, MGS had its first presentation hosted by the Darien Library using the Zoom meeting format.

Susan Miller, Director of Programs and Outreach at the NYG&B, gave a wonderful and informative presentation on the vital records at the Municipal Archives in New York City. The meeting was attended by 37 people and moderated by Sara Zagrodzky. Attendees asked questions via their keyboards and Sara passed them on to Susan.

In our second Zoom presentation, Nov. 21st, Carol Wilder-Tamme portrayed her forebearer, Constance Hopkins, who arrived on the *Mayflower* at age 14. As a grandmother, Constance told about how her father, Stephen, aboard the *Sea Venture*, was shipwrecked in 1609 on Bermuda, while travelling to Jamestown. He was able to return to England in 1614 and travelled on the *Mayflower* with his second wife, children and servants. Constance went on to describe the living conditions, native Americans and hardships the settlers endured, as well as

courtship and her marriage. She also gave a recipe on how to make hard-tack. Sally Ijams then relayed questions by the audience which Carol answered.

Relating Y-DNA to Ancient Genealogies

By Peter Biggins

Y-DNA is handed down from father to son, like surnames. Many testers have found that their Y-DNA matches testers having the same surname. A small number of these have been able to find a genealogical connection. A few lucky testers have found that they are part of a group of testers with a variety of surnames that match surnames in an ancient genealogy. This article is about three such groups:

- **The Three Collas**
- **Breassal Breac**
- **Ely Carroll**

Through the matching of surname sets, Y-DNA confirms the validity of the ancient histories, and the ancient histories put some life in the Y-DNA.

The Three Collas

My most distant known Biggins ancestor is my great great grandfather Patrick Biggins. Patrick was born in 1807 in Ireland, probably Drumgill, County Cavan. He married Bridget (I still don't know her last name) and emigrated to Ontario, Canada. They had two children there, then moved to a farm 35 miles outside of the new city of Chicago where they had five more children.

In 2008, I was skeptical about testing my Y-DNA because of the cost and doubt that I would learn anything, but my wife encouraged me to do it. I went ahead and soon found out that I matched some testers with names mentioned in the ancient genealogy of the Three Collas

I am now one of 466 testers with an ancient Y-DNA mutation called R-Z3008 that occurred very roughly around 100 AD. Of these, 232 have 20 surnames found in an ancient Irish ge-



nealogy descended from the Three Collas who lived in Ulster in the 4th century. The 232 testers are composed of 53 McDonald, 43 McMahan, 23 McKenna, 17 Connolly, 17 Duffy, 12 McGuire, 8 Hughes, 8 McQuillan, 8 Monaghan, 7 Boylan, 5 Hart, 5 Kelly, 4 Higgins, 4 McArdle, 4 MacDougall, 3 Carroll, 3 Cooley, 3 Larkin, 3 Neal, 2 Devine. These names are all in the ancient genealogy of the Three Collas.

Four named McDonald and two named McMahan can trace their genealogy back to the ancient genealogy.

Names with R-Z3008 Y-DNA that are not mentioned in the ancient genealogy are: McGinnis, McGroder, Østerud, King, Martin, Biggins, McAuley, O'Hara, White, Collins, Glennon, Murphy, Clarke, McGinn, Murray and Waters.

The Biggins testers are associated particularly with four names found in the ancient genealogy: McDonald, McGuire, Boylan and MacDougall.

For more information on the R-Z3008 Y-DNA and the ancient genealogy of the Three Collas, see: [DNA of the Three Collas](#).

Breassal Breac

My late wife Marilyn Biggins (1940-2020) was a Carroll. Marilyn's great grandfather Edmond Carroll was born in Ballyneeety, County Limerick, in 1835. He married Catherine Higgins and they had seven children in Ireland. They emigrated to Chicago in 1880.

Marilyn had no brothers or male first cousins. In 2011, we found a second cousin once removed, Michael Patrick Carroll, who agreed to have his Y-DNA tested at Family Tree DNA.

Michael Patrick Carroll is one of 228 testers now with a Y-DNA mutation called R-Y5058 that occurred around 150 BC. Of these testers, 87 or 97, depending on which is the right Carroll group, have seven surnames found in an ancient Irish genealogy descended from Breassal Breac, King of Leinster around 200 or

100 BC. The 87 or 97 are composed of 46 Ryan, 20 Dwyer, 6 or 16 Carroll, 7 Gorman, 4 Keogh, 3 Cosgrove, and 1 Whelan. These names are all in the ancient genealogy of Breassal Breac.

My wife's cousin Michael Patrick Carroll is in the group of 6 Carroll.

Names with R-Y5058 Y-DNA that are not mentioned in the ancient genealogy are: Kennedy, Ellis, Sexton, Condry, Wilder.

For more information on the R-Y5058 Y-DNA and the ancient genealogy of Breassal Breac, see: [Breassal Breac DNA](#)

Ely Carroll

Ely Carroll Y-DNA was discovered in 2008 by Kevin Carroll, who started the Carroll project at Family Tree DNA. He encouraged a descendant of Charles Carroll of Carrollton to join the Carroll project and have his Y-DNA tested. He is one of 163 testers now with an ancient Y-DNA mutation called R-Z16284 that occurred around 800 BC. Of these, 63 have nine surnames found in an ancient Irish genealogy descended from Cian who lived in fourth-century Tipperary. A famous descendant of Cian is Charles Carroll of Carrollton, signer of the Declaration of Independence. The 61 testers are composed of 17 Meagher, 12 Carroll, 11 Flanagan, 7 Bowe, 6 Dooley, 4 Keefe, 2 Murphy, 1 Corcoran, and 1 Redmond. These names are all in the ancient genealogy of Cian, which includes Ely Carroll.

There are quite a few famous Carrolls who descend from Charles Carroll the Settler (1660-1720), who immigrated to Maryland in 1688 and brought with him a "little Irish Manuscript Book" containing the genealogies of the O'Carrolls. He built Doughregan Manor near Ellicott City, Maryland, and the Carroll House in Annapolis, Maryland. Following are some of his descendants.

- Charles Carroll of Carrollton, 1737-1832, a signer of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. As indicated above, one tester can trace his genealogy back to

Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

- John Lee Carroll, 1830-1911, great grandson of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was governor of Maryland from 1876 to 1880
- Daniel Carroll of Duddington, 1764-1849, built a home for himself in 1791 which was torn down by Pierre L'Enfant to build the U.S. Capitol. One tester can trace his genealogy back to Daniel Carroll of Duddington
- Charles Carroll of Bellevue, 1767-1823, was friends with president James Madison and his wife Dolly. During the War of 1812, he went to the White House and saved the portrait of President George Washington for Dolly. He then took her to his home Bellevue in Georgetown, Washington, DC, until she could be reunited with the President.
- Daniel Carroll II of Rock Creek, 1730-1796, was one of the Founding Fathers of the United States. He supported the American Revolution, served in the Confederation Congress, was a delegate to the Philadelphia Convention of 1787 which wrote the Constitution, and was a U.S. Representative in the First Congress.
- John Carroll, S.J., 1735-1815, was the first Roman Catholic bishop in the United States. He was a founder of Georgetown University and Georgetown Preparatory School.

Names with R-Z162848 Y-DNA that are not mentioned in the ancient genealogy are: Purcell, Springer, Tracey.:

For more information on the R-BY16284 Y-DNA and the ancient genealogy of Cian, see:

[Ely Carroll DNA](#)

MGS Y-DNA Project

If you have done Y-DNA testing at FTDNA, you are encouraged to join the Middlesex Genealogical Society project at FTDNA. See:

[MGS Project](#)

If you have questions about Y-DNA, you can contact Peter at pabiggin@optonline.net

Genealogy Workshop

Join the MGS and Darien Library on Wednesday December 9, 2020 at 10:00 am. for our next genealogy workshop about "Lineage Societies." Joining a lineage society - hereditary, military service and founding families. A Lineage Society is an organization whose membership is limited to persons who can prove lineal descent from a qualifying ancestor. Sara Zagrodzky, President of MGS, will define these societies, suggest resources for your further study, and answer some questions about the processes for joining. We hope you can join us.

Registration Information

This program will take place on Zoom. We will email all participants the Zoom room link one hour before the event begins. [Click here](#) to register

Not a member of Darien Library, or need help registering? Email Sally Ijams at Sijams@darienlibrary.org.

LEAVE THEM SMILING



REMINDER

2021 DUES ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST

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

You can download the 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 mailed to PO Box 9, Darien CT 06820 (Make checks out to Middlesex Genealogical Society Inc.) or paid via our PayPal link [Click Here](#)

Membership fees are as follows:

<u>Membership Categories</u>	<u>One year</u>	<u>Two year</u>
Individual	\$25	\$45
Family	\$30	\$55
Lifetime	One payment of \$300	

If you wish to receive a paper copy of the quarterly newsletter, please add \$10 per year to cover the cost of printing and postage and a note stating you wish to receive a paper copy.

2021
JANUARY 31,
NEXT MEETING

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
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