



The Newsletter of
Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

December, 2021

President's Message

Welcome to the holiday season of 2021!

I hope you are all well and gearing up for some family time.

This fall we have heard about DNA matching and Land records.

As you enter the holiday season, I hope you have made lists of questions you want to ask of your relatives. Lists of the stories of your life you have never told people. Your family and friends would love to hear about that first car or the trip you took for work that had you in an interesting city.

We look forward to seeing you in the new year as we dig into records and repositories.

Sara

MGS News

The MGS held its fourth presentation of 2021 on October 2 via Zoom with the Darien Library. "Searching for Elusive Ancestors with DNA." Presented by Nora Galvin, CG. It was attended by 30 participants.

Using her great grandmother as an example, Nora described creating a family tree online and connecting her DNA results to it. She concentrated only on her great grandmother to

find possible DNA matches. She showed how to create a color chart, using Ancestry DNA or the Leeds method, then used the chart to create a list of desired matches. She then asked the matches to do the same exercises. This narrowed down the field to find elusive DNA matches.

Our final presentation of 2021 was held on November 13 and attended by 24 participants. Again, it was on the Darien Library's Zoom platform. Sandra Schaad, MA, CSCS, presented "American Land Records: The Meat and Potatoes of Genealogical Research." Sandy recommended one of the first places to go is the Family Search Catalog [United States Land and Property • FamilySearch](#). Find deeds and learn how to read them. Other sources included a 1790 law, still on the books in New York State, in which every living member in a probate case must be contacted, this is a source for the genealogist of names and addresses. Find every deed your family is named in and plot the property on a map. This can help determine how the land was divided among children. She also told us how to find where records were located by understanding how they are designated. Books she recommended were: *Digging Deeper - Using Essential Pre 1850 Records*, *The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy*, *Locating Your Roots and Courthouse Research for Family Historians* as well as NGS Module classes; *Federal Land Course and Effective Use of Deeds*.

Upcoming MGS Presentation

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

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 2:00pm,
"Location, Location, Location: Putting Your Ancestors in Their Place." Presented by Diana Elder AG®

Locality research is key to making progress in genealogy research. An understanding of the history, geography, records, and repositories for the research locality is the foundation for building a solid research plan and finding additional information for your ancestor.



Diana Elder AG® is a professional genealogist accredited in the Gulf South region of the United States and serves as a Commissioner for The International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). Diana authored *Research Like a Pro: A Genealogist's Guide* and co-authored the companion volume, *Research Like a Pro with DNA: A Genealogist's Guide to Finding and Confirming Ancestors with DNA Evidence*. She created the study group and eCourse that teach the Research Like a Pro process through videos and learning modules. Diana and her daughter, Nicole, share research tips on their website, Family Locket (<https://familylocket.com/>), and are the hosts of the Research Like a Pro Genealogy Podcast. Diana teaches regularly at genealogy conferences such as RootsTech and the National Genealogy Society Conference. She also presents webinars and seminars to local genealogy societies across the United States.

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2021-2022 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. Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
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Website: mgsdarienct.org

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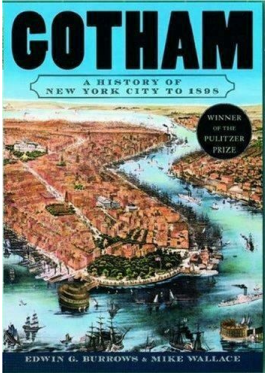
Member Recommended Book

Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898

by Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace

To European explorers, it was Eden, a paradise of waist-high grasses, towering stands of walnut, maple, chestnut, and oak, and forests that teemed with bears, wolves, raccoons, beavers, otters, and foxes. Today, it is the site of Broadway and Wall Street, the Empire State Building and the Statue of Liberty, and the home of millions of people, who have come from every corner of the nation and the globe.

In *Gotham*, Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace have produced a monumental work of history, one that ranges from the Indian tribes that settled in and around the island of Manna-hata, to the consolidation of the five boroughs into Greater New York in 1898. It is an epic narrative, a story as vast and as varied as the city it chronicles, and it underscores that the history of New York is the story of our nation. Readers will relive the tumultuous early years of New Amsterdam under the Dutch West India Company, Peter Stuyvesant's despotic regime, Indian wars, slave resistance and revolt, the Revolutionary War and the defeat of Washington's army on Brooklyn Heights, the destructive seven years of British occupation, New York as the nation's first capital, the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, the Erie Canal and the coming of the railroads, the growth of the city as a port and financial center, the infamous draft riots of the Civil War, the great flood of immigrants, the rise of mass entertainment such as vaudeville and Coney Island, the building of the Brooklyn Bridge and the birth of the



skyscraper.

skyscraper.

The events and people who crowd these pages guarantee that this is no mere local history. It is in fact a portrait of the heart and soul of America, and a book that will mesmerize everyone interested in the peaks and valleys of American life as found in the greatest city on earth. *Gotham* is a dazzling read, a fast-paced, brilliant narrative that carries the reader along as it threads hundreds of stories into one great blockbuster of a book

Have you read a book that has helped you in your family search? Has it given you an insight as to how your ancestors lived?

Tell us about it at:

newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com

and share it with your fellow members.

TREE TRIVIA

1. There is an obvious problem with finding your family's coat of arms. What is it?
2. What is the most common type of deed, which is used to convey title from a party who has clear title to the property?
3. Which church does not practice infant baptism?
4. What was a Caddy Butcher?

Answers on pg. 6

Upcoming Virtual Events

Saturday, January 9, 2022, 10:00a.m. to 12:00 Noon, Westchester County Genealogical Society “You Should Write a Book!” Presented by Genealogy teacher and author Janeen Bjork <http://janeenslist.com/about-janeen/>

The program is designed for anyone who has heard "You should write a book!" but who needs a roadmap on how to do it.

For more information on WCGS programs, <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs/>

The program is free and open to the public. Zoom link to follow.

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Capital District Genealogical Society Albany, NY “Family Search: The Other 70%” Presented by Jill Morelli

You know how to search the Family Search website - or do you? Jill Morelli shows us how to access the whole website, not just the indexed records. There is a lot more than you think.

Members of CDGS can register for these free meetings on the first of the month for that months meeting. Non-Members can register (if there are seats remaining) on the 16th of the month for that months meeting.

Saturday, February 26, 2022, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Capital District Genealogical Society Albany, NY “Treasury Records: Follow the Money” Presented by Craig Scott

Craig Scott shows us how to use Treasury Records to track down elusive relationships and connections.

Thursday, March 3, though Saturday March 5, 2022, RootsTech, a Free Online Event.

Building on last year’s success, RootsTech Connect in 2022 will remain completely virtual

and free. Registration opened in September 2021. [RootsTech Connect 2022](#) will take place as a fully virtual family history event. After welcoming over one million visitors from over 240 countries to its 2021 online event, RootsTech Connect 2021 was the largest in the history of RootsTech. The success of this online experience is spectacular proof of humanity’s interest in discovering our roots and connecting to each other.

Continuing with the virtual model for RootsTech Connect 2022 will allow people across the globe to participate for free. Classes will have a mix of on-demand, livestream, and interactive sessions where people can socialize, ask questions and learn from experts and enthusiasts.

There will be engaging demonstrations and experiences for all ages and multicultural celebrations that will connect attendees to their family story and to each other.

As anticipation builds for RootsTech 2022, many are still taking advantage of all that RootsTech 2021 has to offer. With over 1,500 free, on-demand sessions available year-round at RootsTech.org, the website offers a tremendous amount of family history learning and inspiration. *For reminders and updates, visit RootsTech.org, and click on **Subscribe for Updates**. You can also follow RootsTech on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).*



FamilySearch Completes Massive Microfilm Digitization Project

September 21, 2021 - by Laurie Bradshaw
Reprinted with the permission of [FamilySearch Blog](#)

Huge news: after 83 years of filming the world's historical genealogical records, FamilySearch has completed digitizing its 2.4 million rolls of microfilm. The best part? The archive, which contains information on more than 11.5 billion individuals, is now available for free on [FamilySearch.org](#).

Over 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are included in the digitized documents. All types of genealogically significant records are included—censuses, births, marriages, deaths, probate, Church, immigration, and more. Now that the project is completed, it's much easier for users to find members of their family tree and make personal discoveries within these records.

Want to check out these digitized microfilms for yourself?

Explore FamilySearch's free collections of indexed records and images by going to [FamilySearch](#), then search both "Records" and "Images." The [Images feature](#) will let you browse digitized images from the microfilm collection and more. You will need a FamilySearch account to access digitized records—but don't worry, signing up is completely free! [Create a FamilySearch Account](#)

A microfilm is a roll of film, like what would be used in an old camera—it just holds a lot more images per roll. However, instead of storing photos of treasured memories and loved ones, microfilms are designed to store documents that

are shrunk down into miniature. These historic records are captured on the roll of film and reduced in size for easier storage. Before digital preservation, microfilm was an effective and space-conscious way to preserve historic documents and make them widely accessible.

Microfilm has been used [since 1839](#), but its biggest breakthrough and popularization occurred in 1928. The first practical use of commercial microfilm was developed by a New York City banker, George McCarthy, in the 1920's.

He was issued a patent in 1925 for his Checkograph machine, designed to make permanent film copies of all bank records. In 1928 Eastman Kodak bought McCarthy's invention and began to market it under Kodak's Recordak Division.

FamilySearch began microfilming in 1938, back when it was still called the [Genealogical Society of Utah](#). It was one of the first major organizations to embrace the use of microfilm imaging for long term record preservation. FamilySearch's microfilm collection eventually grew to more than 2.4 million rolls.

FamilySearch ended its microfilm distribution to family history centers in September 2017 when it began its transition to a free, all-digital, online access approach. FamilySearch's physical microfilm collection will continue to be preserved, but the information the rolls contain can now be easily viewed and searched online.



Tips

Cemetery records include plot deeds, interment lists and other persons who may be related to the person you are researching in nearby graves.

When writing to a relative for information, offer to share *your* information. When you give them a birth or death certificate of their grandmother that you have found, they will be more forthcoming to help you. Ask for specific requests, like a photo or bible, not just “whatever you have.”

If you have an old photo, look for the studio name that the picture was taken in. An internet search may give you a location. With that, you may be able to get the date the studio was in operation and be able to roughly date the photo. The matting, or frame can also provide clues for dating. Also, look for jewelry and clothing to give you an idea of the date. *See related article in the June 2019 MGS newsletter: “Fixed in Time.”*

Along with your ancestors name, add an event, date or place into the search engine, and you may find databases and other resources that you’ve not yet explored.

Tree Trivia Answers

1. **There simply is no such thing.** While rules and customs varied throughout Europe, a coat of arms was usually given to an individual, not the entire family.
2. **Warranty deed.** A Deed of Trust involves payment of a debt, the Quitclaim deed does not require proof of clear title, and the Deed of Gift transfers title without a normal consideration.
3. **Quaker.** Congregationalist, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Reformers, Catholics, and Methodists all practice infant baptism, creating records which are useful for genealogists. Quakers do not practice infant baptism but may have records which are equally of value to genealogists.
4. A **caddy butcher** specialized in preparing and selling horse meat, which was popular in both the United Kingdom and the United States until the 1940s. The meat was relatively cheap and was considered an alternative to beef or venison. However, eating horse meat became taboo, and the practice died out.

LEAVE THEM SMILING





1921 England & Wales Census online publication date announced

Today we can announce that the 1921 Census for England and Wales will be published online by [Findmypast](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) on 6 January 2022.

Taken between two world wars, during a period of economic turmoil and at a time when women had just won the right to vote, the 1921 Census will provide some fascinating insights about society and how it has evolved over the past 100 years.

In preparation for the online publication, a team of hundreds of Findmypast conservators, technicians and transcribers have worked for almost three years to complete the invaluable task of getting the census ready. It is the largest project ever completed by The National Archives and Findmypast, consisting of more than 30,000 bound volumes of original documents stored on 1.6 linear kilometres of shelving.

You can find out more about what to expect from the 1921 Census of England and Wales by visiting <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/1921-census>.

Neil Curtis, Chief Operating Officer at The National Archives, said: 'Census releases are keenly anticipated and create a period of collective curiosity about the past, generating a national moment of reflection.'

'The 1921 Census will offer us a glimpse into the lives of individuals and communities between the wars, recovering from a great influenza pandemic, and embarking on a new era

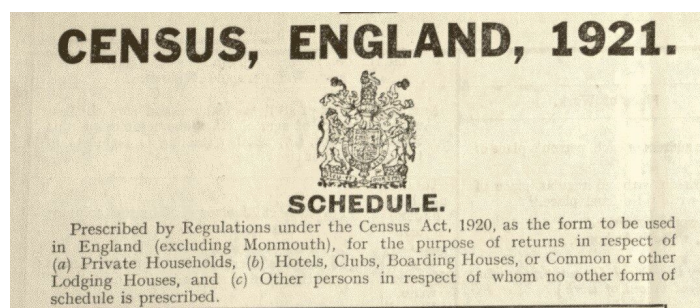
where everyday rights and roles were changing.

'What makes the 1921 Census even more vital is that it will be the last census release for England and Wales for 30 years, with the 1931 Census lost in a fire and the 1941 Census never taken.'

'As home to more than 1,000 years of history, The National Archives is delighted to be working with Findmypast to open up this unique collection to the world.'

Tamsin Todd, CEO of Findmypast said: 'It has been a great honour for Findmypast to work alongside The National Archives as its commercial partner to reveal the extraordinary stories captured by 1921 Census of England and Wales.'

'I am incredibly proud of our Findmypast team who have worked with passion and dedication for thousands of hours to conserve, scan, and



transcribe 38 million historical records from 30,000 volumes of delicate original documents. As a result of their diligent work, when the Census is opened for the very first-time next year, family historians around the world will be able to meaningfully search the Census to reveal where and how their ancestors lived and worked 100 years ago.'

We're pleased to unveil some new resources that look ahead to the launch of the census. Listen now to a special episode of our popular On The Record podcast, [Counting down to the 1921 Census](#).

REMINDER

2022 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.)

Membership fees are as follows:

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

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 your wish to receive a paper copy.

2022
JANUARY 22,
NEXT MEETING

Middlesex Genealogical Society
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