



The Newsletter of

Middlesex Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

March, 2022

President's Message

Happy Spring!

I hope you have had some time outside to watch the bulbs poke through the ground and the snow. Just like the little green shoots coming up we are all waiting on the 1950 Census to spring up in April.

What are you looking for? Yourself, parents, grandparents or other relatives? Are you tracking their neighbors? Make sure they are where you think they should be. I'm wondering where my grandfather will be enumerated. Is he home or still at sea? Will he be with his ship or listed with the family?

The 2 lectures this spring will get us back into the genealogy groove. Learning about some changes on our favorite platforms to get the most out of the upcoming Census release.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom,
Sara Z

MGS News

On Jan. 22, Middlesex Genealogical Society held our first meeting of 2022 on the Darien Library's Zoom platform. Diana Elder, AG®, presented "*Location, Location, Location : Putting Your Ancestors in Their Place.*" to fifty-five par-

ticipants. Diana, who with her daughter Nicole Dyer operate the website [Family Locket](#), gave a very informative presentation explaining how using land records can lead to discoveries. She said to ask three questions; What is happening? Where is it happening? and Why is it happening? Analyze what you already know and make a timeline that includes events dates and places. You can then follow where and when a family travels. Useful sources she mentioned were, locality guides, Atlas of the Historical Geography of the US, Google Earth, gazetteers found on Family Search Wiki, and the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), on which you can search by landmarks, Diana also told us to learn the jurisdiction of the areas you are researching to find who has the records. Knowing the changes of borders is valuable, not only country borders, but states and counties. The Atlas of Historical County boundaries is helpful here. She told us to learn the history of the area we are researching. Following the progress of neighbors may also shed light on your ancestors.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE !

to renew your membership in MGS or re-join if you skipped a year!

[CLICK HERE](#)

for membership information

**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2022
OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS**

Sara Zagrodzky	President & Programs Director
Open	Vice President
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Ed.
Peter Biggins	Secretary & Webmaster
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs

PAST DIRECTORS

Pamela Shea	Past President
Mary Lavins	Email Communications
Tara Finn Forschino	Social Director and Facebook Administrator

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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Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820**

Website: mgsdarienct.org

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From Darien to the Netherlands

By Tara Forschino

In 1945 American and Allied forces liberated Europe from Nazi occupation during World War

II. This freedom came at a cost and Darien resident, Harold Dale Parady, was one of those gallant soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, Harold rests in peace in the foreign country he helped to liberate and a Dutch community makes it their mission to never forget these heroes.



During the advance of U.S. forces into Germany, Harold was killed in action at age 33 on March 5, 1945. Never married, Harold was one of nine children born to Alfred and Emma Parady. His three brothers, Arthur, Albert and Maurice, also served in WWII and at various times they served simultaneously. Today, Harold is one of the 10,023 American heroes, including four women, buried and memorialized at the Netherlands American Cemetery in the small village of Margraten, about 7 miles southeast of Maastricht. It is a 65.5-acre cemetery with a military precise alignment of 8,301 graves consisting of either white marble crosses or Stars of David and the 1,722 inscriptions on the Walls of the Missing for soldiers listed as missing in action. The American Battle Monuments Commission serves as the guardian of this cemetery along with all of America's military cemeteries and federal memorials around the world.

One day last June, I was scrolling through a Facebook genealogy group that I follow, "Connecticut Genealogy! Just Ask!", when I was intrigued by a post from a Dutch woman seeking information on a local veteran. Judith Camonier-Dupont wrote "Hello, I am looking for pictures, information or family members of Harold Parady. We live in the Netherlands and have adopted his grave on the Netherlands American War Cemetery and Memorial in Margraten." Ju-

dith quickly gained admiration and assistance from other group members with her compassionate care for this American soldier's grave. She shared lovely pictures of the cemetery from past memorial observances and added "We will never forget what they did for us."

As a Middlesex Genealogical Society volunteer for many years, I reached out to the President, Sara Zagrodzky, and past President and current Secretary, Peter Biggins, since they are also Darien residents.

The two made great progress gathering genealogical records on Harold. Peter also created a member page for Harold on the MGS website and designated him as an honorary society member. ([CLICK HERE](#))

Months passed, then a year, yet still no picture of Harold surfaced. Then in October 2021, an email was received at MGS from Jim Valentine of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, which said "I am trying to contact someone familiar with Harold D. Parady. I came across the Society's online notice regarding Judith Dupont from the Netherlands who has adopted Harold's grave. She was requesting more information which I may be able to provide." Jim further explained that Harold was his great uncle, his maternal grandmother's brother, and following the passing of Jim's father he found Harold's relics stashed away at his house. Immediately, I emailed Judith to share that we received an inquiry from a relative of Harold's. Judith ecstatically replied "You can't imagine how happy we are with this. Feels like winning the lottery!"



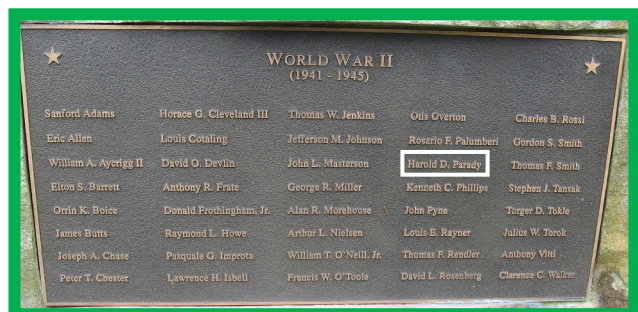
A lottery it turned out to be as Jim not only had pictures of Harold that Judith had long been seeking, but Jim was also in possession of Harold's Purple Heart and Bronze Star, both awarded posthumously. A flurry of emails were exchanged for weeks and then on February 4th, with a six hour time difference involved, Jim, Judith and I met in a video meeting.

Judith said she adopted Harold's grave in 2017 when she inherited it from her cousin.

This local tradition of adopting the graves of soldiers started soon after WWII ended with the goal for adopters to periodically visit, bring flowers, and if welcomed, keep in touch with the next of kin. The program quickly gained support resulting in all graves being adopted by 1946 and continues to be popular today as evidenced from the current extensive waiting list. Formally signed adoption certificates are issued confirming the soldier, grave and adopter. Local schools also get involved as a way to educate the students on the sacrifices the heroes made for their country's freedom.

Judith further talked about her participation in a biennial tribute at the cemetery, The Faces of Margraten, where volunteers decorate the graves and memorials with the soldier's photos to give a face to the names of their liberators. Judith said "It hurt us every year that we hadn't been able to put a face to our hero." The Fields of Honor Foundation organizes this commemorative event during the Dutch Memorial holiday in early May. According to the organization's Facebook page, as of February 1, 2022, they are seeking to put faces to the remaining 1,574

soldiers without photos. MGS members may be interested to know that this targeted list of soldiers with missing photos includes 22 from Connecticut with 10 from Fairfield County where MGS is based.



WWII Memorial Darien CT Town Hall

Personally, I observed the Dutch people's enduring gratitude for our country and American soldiers when I traveled there in my twenties. Following a stop in Paris, my friend Lesley and I proceeded to the Netherlands and on our first night in Amsterdam we received an unexpected reception in a local, lively pub. After a friendly chat with the bartender, the DJ announced to the crowd that there were visitors from New York City and pointed towards us. Suddenly, Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blasted and the entire bar erupted in song. Throughout the remainder of the evening various people approached us to say a friendly hello and warmly thanked us for liberating their country in WWII. As surprised and pleased as I was by this experience, I never quite fully grasped the depth of their gratefulness until I met Judith and learned about the adoption program at Margraten.

Prior to Jim's interactions with Judith, he had no idea that his Great Uncle's grave was being cared for in such a personal manner and his legacy honored by a local Dutch family. In fact, there are many relatives of WWII veterans that are not aware that their loved one's graves and memorials have been adopted nor about the campaign to acquire photos of all the veterans.

For Jim and Judith, this unexpected connection is the beginning of a burgeoning friendship. Jim's goal is to eventually visit the cemetery

and to meet Harold's faithful adopter. In the meantime, Judith will send pictures to Jim on her usual visits to Harold's grave on his birthday, death date, Easter, Christmas, annual commemorations, and anytime she just happens to be in the neighborhood. "It is a great honor to be Harold's adopter and to take care of his grave" Judith said.



Harold Parady's grave, Netherlands American Cemetery Margraten

For further information, visit:

- American Battle Monuments Commission, www.abmc.gov/Netherlands
- Akkers vann Margraten, www.akkersvanmargraten.nl/en
- The Faces of Margraten, www.facebook.com/degezichtenvanmargraten
- Adoptiegraven Margraten, www.facebook.com/groups/293811040671047/
- Fields of Honor Foundation, www.fieldsofhonorfoundation.com

"TIME WILL NOT DIM THE GLORY OF THEIR DEEDS"

General John J. Pershing

Dorothy Shillinglaw

1928-2021

It is with a heavy heart we note the passing of Dorothy Shillinglaw. She was an invaluable member of the Middlesex Genealogical Society since 1994 and served as editor of the MGS newsletter for almost 20 years. Dorothy passed away on Dec 22, 2021, at Stamford Hospital at the age of 93.

Debbie Parker Wayne

The Board for Certification of Genealogists joins the entire genealogical community in mourning the passing of Debbie Parker Wayne, CG®, who served as a Trustee and member of the BCG Executive Committee from 2018–2020, and as a trustee of the BCG Education Fund.

An early adopter of genetic genealogy, Debbie developed the online autosomal DNA course offered by the National Genealogical Society. Among her many other contributions to the field, Debbie edited and contributed to the award-winning book titled *Advanced Genetic Genealogy: Techniques and Case Studies*, and co-authored (with Blaine Bettinger) the widely used *Genetic Genealogy in Practice*.

Upcoming MGS Presentations

As of this printing, Middlesex Genealogical Society and the Darien Library are using the library's Zoom platform for our presentations

Saturday, March 12, 2022, 2:00 pm.

.Using Family Search & Ancestry in 2022

Presented by Susan Jaycox

Even if you are a long-time researcher, the online websites that we depend upon for a lot of basic genealogical documentation and tips

have changed significantly and hardly look the same. We'll discuss the many changes and the best ways to find information you want. You will learn how to document your sources and ways to write up your family history that will draw your family into the fascinating story of your ancestors. Learn

how to determine what information is accurate and understand how the resources can be attached to your relatives in family trees.

Susan Jaycox is a professional genealogist, lecturer, and the current President of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island. She is a long-time Genealogy Research Volunteer at the Plainview Family History Center, member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, National Genealogical Society and many local genealogical societies. Her education background includes a Bachelor of Science in Finance, Masters in Business Administration and she attended Long Island University's Palmer School of Library Science. She has been researching her own family history for over 40 years and has done a One-Name Study across the United States and England

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 2:00 pm

1950 Census: So Much to Find

Presented by Susan Miller

1950 Census is here. Be prepared for research and the fun of exploring the most recent-



ly released United States census. We will look at the questions asked, including those indicating the person/family's quality of life.

Susan R. Miller is the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's Director of Programs; editor of the New York Researcher; a managing editor of the New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer; and a national and regional genealogical-program presenter.

Tips

Do you have a lot of discoveries that you have yet to add to your family file? Have you been saving your findings in a temporary folder to add to your master file when you find the time? Well, NOW is the time. The 1950 Federal Census, which will be released in April, will have you as busy as the day you started your family history. Any facts that you can add before then may help you corroborate what you find on the 1950 census.

Don't take obituaries verbatim. Obits are usually written by a family member who, sometimes may embellish the facts to add a little spice to the lives of their dearly departed. Prove the claims by researching each.

When searching online databases, reverse your ancestor's name. Also try all variations of the spelling. Try phonetic spelling. When it comes to spelling variations, be creative. Often clerks and government officials were unable to correctly record the names given them by unschooled immigrants not familiar with languages used in their port of entry. The surname was written down as the official heard it and the immigrant accepted that as the official American rendering of his name.

**Send your tips in to the
MGS newsletter!**

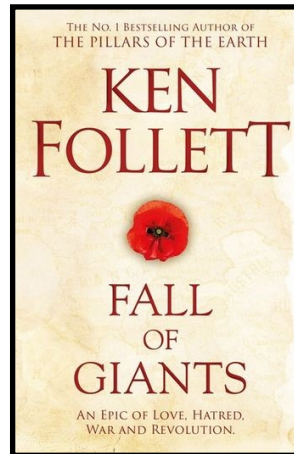
newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com

Member Recommended Book

The Fall of Giants

by Ken Follett

The first novel in The Century Trilogy, *Fall of Giants* follows the fates of five interrelated families - American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh - as they move through the world-shaking dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage.



Thirteen-year-old Billy Williams enters a man's world in the Welsh mining pits...Gus Dewar, an American law student rejected in love, finds a surprising new career in Woodrow Wilson's White House...two orphaned Russian brothers, Grigori and Lev Peshkov, embark on radically different paths half a world apart when their plan to emigrate to America falls afoul of war, conscription, and revolution...Billy's sister, Ethel, a housekeeper for the aristocratic Fitzherberts, takes a fateful step above her station, while Lady Maud Fitzherbert herself crosses deep into forbidden territory when she falls in love with Walter von Ulrich, a spy at the German embassy in London...

These characters and many others find their lives inextricably entangled as, in a saga of unfolding drama and intriguing complexity, *Fall of Giants* moves seamlessly from Washington to St. Petersburg, from the dirt and danger of a coal mine to the glittering chandeliers of a palace, from the corridors of power to the bedrooms of the mighty. As always with Ken Follett, the historical background is brilliantly researched and rendered, the action fast-moving, the characters rich in nuance and emotion. It is destined to be a new classic.

1950 Census Differences from the 1940 Census

[Historyhub.gov](https://www.historyhub.gov) Posted by Claire Kluskens in Census Records on July 27, 2021

NARA expects to digitally release the 1950 population census schedules for researcher use on April 1, 2022, which is 72 years after the official 1950 census day. This is the 21st in a series of blog posts on the 1950 census.

Census questionnaires have changed over time. From 1850 to 1950, six basic questions asked in each census remained the same: name, age, gender, race, occupation, and place of birth. Relationship to head of household was asked from 1880 to 1950, and the citizenship status of each foreign-born person was asked from 1890 to 1950. The nature and number of additional questions has changed over time. This post will take a look at the major differences between the 1940 census and the Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing, that was the standard fill-in-the-blank census form used in most of the continental United States.

The questions on the standard 1940 and 1950 census forms were similar. The most significant differences between them are:

In 1940, each census page had lines for 40 persons; in 1950, this was reduced to 30 lines in order to ask “sample” questions of more people and give the enumerator space to write notes and explanations if they were needed.

In 1940, only two persons on each form answered sample questions. In 1950, six people on each form were asked sample questions, and the 6th person answered several additional sample questions.

In 1940, everyone was asked whether they had lived in the same place, same county, or same state in 1935. In 1950, only persons on six “sample” lines were asked what county and

state (or foreign country) they had lived in “a year ago” in 1949.

In 1940, everyone was asked the highest grade of school they had attended and if they had attended school since March 1, 1940. In 1950, only persons on six “sample” lines were asked the highest grade they had attended, whether they had completed that grade, and whether they had attended school at any time since February 1, 1950.

In 1940, everyone age 14 or over were asked if they had worked (or been assigned to work) on public emergency work for agencies such as the Work Projects Administration (WPA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and National Youth Administration (NYA) during the week of March 24-31, 1940. Those agencies were abolished during the 1940s so the question was not asked in 1950.

In 1940, everyone age 14 or over was asked the dollar amount of wages or salary income earned during calendar year 1939, and whether they had received income of more than \$50 from sources other than wages or salary (yes/no). In 1950, only persons on six “sample” lines were asked the dollar amount received in 1949 from wages or salary; working in his or her own business, profession, or farm; or from interest, dividends, veteran’s allowances, pensions, rents, or other non-wage or non-salary income. In addition, persons on six “sample” lines were asked how much money their relatives in the same household received from the same sources. If the respondent was not comfortable answering these income questions, the enumerator gave the person a form that could be directly mailed to the Bureau of the Census. The enumerator was to record “10,000+” for anyone who reported an amount more than \$10,000. (Average family income in 1950 was \$3,300.)

In 1940, persons on two “sample” lines were asked if they had a Social Security Number

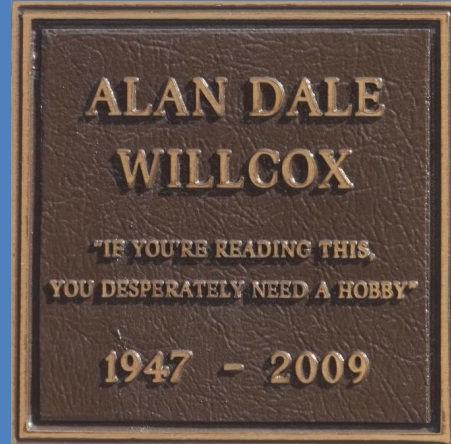
(SSN) and whether deductions had been made from their wages or salary in 1939 for Old-Age Insurance or Railroad Retirement. This was not asked in 1950.

In 1940, persons on two "sample" lines were asked what their usual occupation was and in what industry it had been in. The answers to these questions could be the same or different than the person's current occupation or industry reported in the main part of the form. In 1950, only the person on the last sample line was asked his or her occupation in their last (previous) job and the industry in which it had been.

In 1940, persons on two "sample" lines were asked if they were a military veteran, wife or widow of a military veteran, or a child (under age 18) of a military veteran. In 1950, only men on six "sample" lines were asked if they had served in the military in World War II, World War I, or at any other time.

*Welcome New Member
Duncan M Chisholm*

LEAVE THEM SMILING



**2022
MARCH 12,
NEXT MEETING**

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