



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

January 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a great deal that all of us can learn about family history research from others. New tools have now become available along with traditional sources of information. A good way to find research techniques that work for a particular geography or time period is to learn from others who have already spent time and effort in similar research. An opportunity to learn from others in our group is coming up at the MGS Annual Workshop on 31 January.

The 12 o'clock session, which MGS is conducting jointly with the Darien Library, includes demonstrations of resources that are available on the Internet.

At the 2 o'clock session, six panelists will be displaying some of their family history research. These panelists are available to answer questions as to how they went about their family history research, their sources of information, and the way that they have assembled their results. There is more detail about the Workshop on page 2 of this *Newsletter*.

We are grateful to Darien Library and to our panelists for sharing their knowledge and research with us. We look forward to seeing you on 31 January.

David L. Mordy ■

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WANTS YOUR BOOK

From: *The Family Tree*, Moultrie, GA, Dec. 1997/Jan. 1998.

The Library of Congress has more than 100,000 U.S. local histories and over 40,000 compiled family histories, but they still want yours.

If you have compiled your family history, send a gift copy to Local History and Genealogy Collection Development, The Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20550-5554. For more information, call (202) 707-5537.

Editor's note: In a conversation with a Local History and Genealogy staff member at the Library of Congress, I learned that offerings should be in "book form" with a title page, table of contents, chapters, and an index, but need *not* be bound. (If added to their collection, unbound material will be bound by the Library of Congress.) Text pages should, of course, be duplexed. The Library of Congress wants solid genealogical content based on sound research and is not interested in reminiscences, family stories, or computer effusions. DS ■

MGS AT DARIEN LIBRARY

by C. Scribner

The two items referred to in our last newsletter have been processed by the library staff. The CD containing the *1883 Pension Index* is now available for use on our computer, and the *General Index of the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland* is now located on shelf 3.3. The latter is an excellent reference book for anyone interested in Irish genealogy.

On shelf 3.1 there is a book entitled *Joseph Highmore of Holbron Row* by Warren Mild -- a gift from members of the author's family.

We also have the *1997 Membership Directory of the Federation of Genealogical Societies*. It is currently located in the top drawer of the filing cabinet.

Darien Library has six shelves of genealogy and history books adjacent to ours in the Business Reference Room. Among these books are 11 volumes of the *Public Records of the State of Connecticut* covering the years 1776 through 1803. They contain records of military appointments, court cases, criminal cases and much more. This is a must read for anyone looking for information on ancestors who resided in Connecticut during that period. ■

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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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 holds at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year, has established a Genealogy Section at Darien Library, provides research assistance on Saturday mornings (10 am to noon) at Darien Library, and publishes a quarterly newsletter. Annual membership dues are \$15 per individual and \$20 per couple or family.

Original articles, 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

Homepage: <http://www.darien.lib.ct.us/mgs>
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UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

31 JAN. 1998: ANNUAL WORKSHOP MEETING.

Prior to the Workshop Meeting, at 12 NOON, there will be a **computer demonstration**, sponsored jointly by Darien Library and MGS, on **USING THE INTERNET FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**. Maura Ritz (Head, Information Services, Darien Library) will explain how to get started, using an Internet service provider and browser software. Donna Moughty (MGS Board member) will provide guidance on how the Internet can help family historians to find people, search databases, discover locality information, join mailing lists and learn more about the process of family history research. The presentation will last until 1 PM, after which Maura and Donna will remain available to answer questions.

The **WORKSHOP MEETING** will follow at our usual time, 2 PM. After a brief introduction, attendees may visit and share information on the many ways to approach genealogy at "interest areas" hosted by MGS volunteers:

- Charles Scribner and Dick Sarr -- local area (Darien, Norwalk, Wilton, etc.) records, repositories, Revolutionary War.
- Marianne Sheldon -- Dutch; German; English: pre-1650 general, 1800s Lancashire, the channel island of Jersey; USA: New England, New York, Ohio; LDS: holdings, facilities.
- Charles Cotter -- keeping a genealogical scrap book, an informal way to present family material.
- Florence Wyland -- Centre County, PA, in the 1800s: history, records, newspapers, churches, cemeteries, repositories.
- Donna Moughty -- reference notebooks, report samples, old pictures, 20th century immigration, researching in Ireland, and how to process materials for publishing.

Be sure to visit MGS's display in the glass case near the front door of the library 19-31 January.

18 APR. 1998: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. SUZANNE McVETTY will speak on a New York City topic.

16 MAY 1998: Speaker to be announced.2

17 OCT. 1998: Speaker to be announced.

14 NOV. 1998: Speaker to be announced.

ALL MEETINGS: SATURDAY, 2:00 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND! ■

If you are interested in a springtime, overnight research trip to New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, please let your Board know at our 31 January meeting. If you will not be at the meeting, write or call.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER¹

Part 2

by Donna Moughty

My husband's maternal grandfather was Michael Daly. He emigrated from Ireland early in this century and married Ann Jane "Jennie" Martin. Michael, a janitor in a Stamford public school, died of tuberculosis at the age of 46, leaving his wife and their four children. Although my mother-in-law was the oldest of these children, she did not remember much about her father's family. She had lots of "cousins," but wasn't sure how they were all related. She knew that her grandfather (Michael's father) had had more than one wife, but she didn't know their names. She thought they were from Irishtown, County Mayo.

Here is an example of having pieces from lots of different puzzles all mixed up. You have to sort out the ones that belong to your puzzle, discarding (or setting aside, in case you discover eventually that they do fit) those pieces that belong elsewhere. I had no idea how many Dalys there were in Ireland. Even more to the point, I had no idea how many Michael Dalys there were. Researching in Ireland is not particularly easy for many reasons. Civil registration began in Ireland in 1864, but there is little information available prior to that date. The oldest surviving census data is from 1901. Earlier censuses were either destroyed by the government (through 1861) or burned in the 1922 violence at the Public Records Office. Add to that the Great Famine (1845-1847) when more than 4 million people either died or emigrated (with few records) and you begin to see why researching Irish roots can be very difficult -- difficult, but not impossible.

By some estimates there are 50 million Americans that claim to be Irish or to have Irish roots. When asked where in Ireland they are from, however, most, if they have any information at all, can only name a county. A county name is insufficient for researching Irish roots.

My first attempts to find out something about Michael Daly began with his death certificate. This provided me with a birth date (11 September 1886), his father's name (John Daly), and his mother's name (Mary Morley). His birth place was simply

listed as "Ireland." This information was insufficient to identify in the Civil Registration Index which Michael Daly born in 1886 was my grandfather. Short of sending to Ireland for every birth certificate (at \$5 each), I was stuck..

I will be forever grateful to Henry Hoff, a professional genealogist and lecturer who is also an MGS trustee. I attended a session he conducted in Boston entitled "Coping With the Common Surname." He advised that if you could isolate a surname to a specific geographic area you might find that it is not a common name within that area. It was great advice; however, I was unable to determine a specific townland for Michael Daly of Mayo.

The name of the townland, of which there are more than 60,000 in Ireland, is a crucial piece of information when researching Irish roots. Once you have the name of the townland, the *Alphabetical Index to the Towns, Townlands and Parishes of Ireland* (on our shelves at Darien Library) will help you to determine the Barony, Parish (civil), Poor Law Union, and County, designations found in various legal documents. You should be aware, however, that although official names were set during the Ordnance Survey of 1830, many Irish still use unofficial town names. My mother-in-law's recollection of "Irishtown" was such a case.

On each research trip to Salt Lake City, I would look at the name "Michael Daly" in the Civil Registration Index and be overwhelmed by the sheer numbers that I found. Finally, after approximately four years, I hit pay dirt. An aunt had recently returned to this area from Florida, and, while discussing with her the dilemma of location, she recalled that she used to correspond with a relative in Ireland. After checking an old address book, she gave me the town of Crimlin near Ballindine. According to the *Alphabetical Index to the Towns, Townlands, and Parishes of Ireland*, this town was in the Barony of Clanmorris, Parish of Crossboyne, Poor Law Union of Claremorris, and the County of Mayo

Only two Michael Dalys were born in 1886 in the Poor Law Union (civil registration) of Claremorris, and I was able to obtain both birth certificates from the Registrar General, Joyce House, Dublin. One of the birth certificates confirmed that Michael Daly, son of John Daly of Crimlin and Mary Daly, formerly Morrally (sic) was born 20 December 1886.

¹ Copyright 1997 Donna Moughty.

The registration was done by John Daly, father, who made his mark (x).

Note the discrepancy in dates again. Birthdays were not important events for the Irish. Many Irish immigrants were asked for their birth date for the first time when they arrived in the United States. Frequently, the date used was Christmas, St. Patrick's Day or some other significant saint's day. It is important, therefore, to look for clues other than matching dates when determining whether you have found your ancestor. With the name of the townland as well as the parents' names, I was able to confirm that I had the right Michael Daly. I was also able to confirm the information on the birth certificates of his brothers Martin and Thomas.

Civil registration is the main source of information for those who emigrated from Ireland late in the 19th or early in the 20th centuries. Beginning in 1864 all births, deaths and marriages required registration, although it is estimated that 10-15% were never recorded. (Protestant marriages were registered from 1845 on.) As indicated above, unless you are looking for an unusual surname (such as my Moughty and Moag ancestors had), you had better know the name of the townland where your ancestors lived.

Clues to a townland name may be found in church records, tombstones, cemetery records, obituaries, naturalization records, passenger lists, military records, family bibles, or letters. When working on an Irish genealogy, it is important to take a whole family approach. Irish immigrants tended to live in tight communities tied to their Irish heritage. Their migration pattern was chain migration, that is, one family member emigrated, earned money and sent it back to Ireland to bring over the next family member. If you can't find a vital record for the child of an immigrant ancestor, look for the church record of the baptism. Note also that sponsors for the child were likely to be family members so, again, look for patterns.

Once I identified the townland, I was able to extend my research to all Dalys within the Poor Law Union of Claremorris. I discovered that Daly was not a common surname in Mayo. To date, I have searched the Civil Registration Index for Birth (1864-1889), Marriage (1864-1879) and Death (1870-1881). From this research I have been able to discover the following:

- Michael Daly's father was John Daly of Crimlin.
- John Daly was married three times and fathered at least 10 children.
- Two of the children by his second wife were twins.
- John Daly's first two wives predeceased him; his third wife survived him.
- John Daly died prior to the 1901 Census of Ireland.
- John Daly's father was also named John Daly, and he died prior to 1873 (was listed as "dead" on his son's second marriage certificate).
- John Daly had a sister named Celia who was married in 1864 at age 40 (father was also John Daly of Crimlin).

Because of the destruction of so many Irish records in 1922, the use of census substitutes is very important in Irish research. One of the principal substitutes is land records. Two major land valuations were done for taxing purposes. The first resulted in the Tithe Applotment Books which date to 1823. The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the "Established Church," which had previously been paid in kind, must now be paid in money. A valuation was done, therefore, to determine the amount of the tax. For a genealogist the value of this documentation is that it can place ancestors in a certain location during that time period, as well as providing clues to their lifestyle. These records only name the head of the household occupying the land (basically farmers), so not everyone was included.

As can be imagined, the Tithe was not popular. Because of various exemptions, the poorest paid the most. In addition, the fact that most of the poor farmers were Catholic and the established church was the Church of Ireland (Anglican) meant that these payments were fiercely resented. The Tithe was abolished in 1838.

In order to provide accurate information for a fairer tax, the Tenement Act of 1842 created a uniform valuation of all property in Ireland. Richard Griffith became Commissioner of Valuation and the results of his survey were published as the *Primary Valuation of Ireland*. The original survey dates from 1848 to 1864 and includes every landholder and householder in Ireland. This document has become important for genealogists for many reasons. First, it is the only document that places an individual head

of household in a specific location during the time period immediately after the famine. It can also, with the help of the Index to Griffith's and the Tithe created in the 1960s, assist in determining where to find a specific surname in Ireland. In conjunction with the Tithe, it can help determine whether land was passed from father to son during the time period between the two valuations, indicating a death. Finally, when land holdings are compared to others in the area, it can help develop a better understanding of the status of your ancestor.

The survey of County Mayo was done between 1857 and 1858. John Daly appeared in Griffith's Valuation in the Townland of Crumlin (sic) in the Parish of Kilvine. His immediate lessor (usually a middleman for an estate) was Thomas Lambert, and his property consisted of a house on 13 acres of land. His annual valuation was seven pounds.² When compared to other landholders in Crumlin, John (grandfather of Michael) appears to have had the second largest holding. One thing I did not find in Griffith's was the name of any of John's (Michael's father's) wives (Morley, Kirrairie, or Carney). This is unusual as most marriages occurred within the community. Future research may show that "Canny" in a nearby town was related.

One last note about Griffith's Valuation: The land valuation records begun with the Primary Valuation have been kept up to the present time. Each time land ownership changed, it was noted in the Current Land Books (or Canceled Land Books). These books can be searched at the Valuation Office in Dublin and might lead to a current owner who is a descendant of the original landholder. A trip to Ireland is definitely in my research plans.

The last record I have for Michael Daly in Ireland is the 1901 Census. This is the oldest surviving census of Ireland. For those whose ancestors emigrated during this century, the census records provide an interesting view of life. Mary Daly (Michael's mother), age 56, was head of the family, indicating that John (Michael's father) had died some time between 1886 and 1901. She could not read, but she could

write. She was a farmer's widow, born in Mayo, and spoke Irish and English. Her home was a "3rd class house" built of stone and concrete with two rooms, two windows, and five outbuildings (barns, latrines, etc.). Her three sons lived with her: Thomas, age 21; Martin, age 19; and Michael, age 15. All three sons could read and write, and they spoke both Irish and English.

I currently have a separate database of about 60 Dalys that has not been merged with my primary family file. Some of these represent individual puzzle pieces; some are in small family groups. Most sit outside the main part of my jigsaw puzzle waiting for that important piece that will lock them together.■

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

Information primarily from: *Iowa Genealogical Society Newsletter*, October 1996, as reprinted in *Ancestry Home-Town Daily*, 22 December 1997.

The more formal the pose, the earlier the photograph was probably taken. Always check clothing fashions against other photos of known age (and, if possible, attend "Genealogy '98"; see page 7). Beyond that, the *type* of photograph you possess can help you to estimate its age.

- Daguerreotype, 1839-1857, invented by Louis Daguerre in 1837. This was the oldest commercially made photograph -- a positive image with a shiny, mirrorlike surface. Subjects were required to remain absolutely still for approximately six minutes. Daguerreotypes were once enclosed in a case and still need protection.
- Ambrotype, 1852-1863, invented by Archer and Frye in 1851. This is a positive image on glass with a coating of red or black paper or cloth behind the glass.
- Melainotypes, Ferrotypes, or Tintypes, 1856-20th Century -- positive, matte images on metal. They may be in cases, paper frames, wall frames, albums, or loose. Those pasted in paper frames or in cases are likely to be the earliest and may have the photographer's name on the back. Many were taken at fairs and amusement parks.

² *Editor's note:* According to the article "Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland" by James R. Reilly, CGRS, *The Irish at Home and Abroad* (Vol. 4, No. 3, 1997), in his 1835 "Revised Instructions to Valuers," Richard Griffith required his valuers to enter in their original field books the name of the person who occupied *any* house that was measured. When "fair" copies were made, however, only occupiers of houses valued at three pounds or more were included. Both "rough" and "fair" copies were sent to the Commissioner of Valuations in Dublin. The original, rough copies (with notes, calculations, etc.) still exist, but are only available within Ireland.

- Carte de Visite, 1859-1914, invented by Disderi in 1854. These were the first paper photographs, 2-1/2 x 4-1/4 inches in size and called visiting cards. Earlier ones were thinner; later ones heavier and thicker. No longer used in the U.S. by the turn of the century, they continued to be made in Great Britain and Scandinavia. (A revenue stamp on the back of a Carte de Visite or a Tintype would indicate it was taken during the Civil War.)
- Cabinet Portrait, 1866-1914, invented by Window in 1866. This was a negative, 4-1/2 x 6-1/2 inches. They are often found in albums and wall frames. If the photograph is in an oval pasted on a card, or if it is surrounded by dark gray or a black mount, it was probably made after 1900.
- Postcard, 1905-1930. These were very popular and sometimes mailed. Look for a postmark. ■

COMPUTER CORNER

by David Bowley



1997 was a big year for those who use their computers for searching and updating their family histories.

Broderbund is growing by leaps and bounds and has just absorbed Parsons Technology which makes my favorite genealogy software package, "*Family Origins*." Broderbund will continue to market the software under this name.

My last article stated that Broderbund will accept the return of any CD with which you are dissatisfied within 30 days. This should have read 90 days.

Ancestry HomeTown, which can be found at:

<http://www.ancestry.com>

is offering an excellent daily newsletter called "*Ancestry HomeTown Daily*." They offer access to a database of the day, a free map of the day, and worthwhile articles from genealogical society newsletters and writers such as Myra Vanderpool Gormley. They have an excellent library of databases and the HomeTown Library which is full of goodies. An annual subscription (\$59.40) gives you access to all their data and either *Ancestry Magazine* or *Genealogical Computing* for one year.

In the weekly computer genealogy arena, Dick Eastman, who now publishes under the auspices of Ancestry HomeTown (where you can find his letter) has been joined by *Global Gazette*, which is a brand

new Canadian newsletter published weekly by Rick Roberts. To get details, go to:

<http://globalgenealogy.com/gazette.htm> on the Internet. This looks like a good site for those with Canadian ancestors. (The site got 2300 subscribers in the first 13 days of operation!)

Dick Eastman also announced this week that CompuServe will allow anyone on the Internet to access the four excellent genealogical forums that Dick manages for a free trial period. Just in case you aren't already aware of them they are: North American Genealogy Forum, World Wide Genealogy Forum, Genealogy Techniques Forum, and Genealogy Vendors Support Forum. The latter includes a number of genealogical societies such as the National Genealogical Society and the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This program is called "C from CompuServe" and you can sign up for free access by pointing your Web browser to:

<http://c.compuserve.com>

You will also be interested to learn that the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is now on line at:

<http://www.nygbs.org/>

and that the American Immigration Center has accepted the Middlesex Genealogical Society homepage and linked us to their page. We have reciprocated and our page now has a link to them at:

<http://www.us-immigration.com>

Please let me know if there are any more useful genealogy links that we can add to our page.

Don't forget to attend Maura Ritz and Donna Moughty's demonstration on using the Web to help search for your family history, Saturday, 31 January, noon, at the library -- prior to our annual Workshop meeting (see page 2). ■

ILLINOIS RECORDS CLOSED

According to *The Family Tree*, Moultrie, GA, Dec. 1997/Jan. 1998, the Illinois State Legislature recently passed an act restricting access to public records to those with a private investigator's license. Current interpretation is that genealogists, regardless of where they live or work, must have a private investigator's license before requesting birth, marriage death, obituary, or estate records! ■

NATIONAL ARCHIVES GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLETS

From time to time the National Archives issues or revises General Information Leaflets, which are available free from Product Sales (NWPS), National Archives and Records Administration, Room G7, 700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001. Recently listed by NARA are:

- GIL 17: *Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States*, which has been revised and reprinted.
- GIL 26: *Cartographic and Architectural Branch*, which explains the holdings and research procedures of the Cartographic and Architectural Branch, has been updated to reflect the branch's move to the National Archives at College Park.
- GIL 55: *Using the Census Soundex*, which guides researchers through the census Soundex indexing system. With easy to follow examples, it explains what Soundex is and how to use it to find entries in federal population censuses.
- GIL 67: *Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office*, which explains how to use the land entry case files, tract books, and name indexes in the records of the U.S. General Land Office, Bureau of Land Management, that document the transfer of public lands to private ownership. ■

GENEALOGY '98

The annual genealogy seminar sponsored by The Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich, The Stamford Historical Society, and The Connecticut Ancestry Society will take place from 9 am to 4 pm, Saturday, 28 February 1998, in the Parish Hall of Christ Church, 254 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich. Speakers will be:

- Maureen Taylor, Boston, MA, whose subject will be "The New NEHGS Library in Boston Brings New Research Opportunities."
- Kathleen Hinckley, Arvada, CO, who will cover two subjects: "Reflex Genealogy -- Knowing What to Do Next" and "Why Bother with 20th Century Research?"
- Nancy Rexford, Danvers, MA, will discuss "Photo Identification -- By the Cut of Her Clothes." (Participants are invited to submit *one* photo for identification of date of women's clothing.)

These seminars always offer valuable information and the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers. The registration fee of \$50 (\$5 more than last year) includes coffee/tea, donuts, and an excellent box lunch. For registration forms and more information, call (203) 329-1183. ■

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

- Genealogy and Family History, a noncredit, continuing-education course at Western Connecticut State University, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810-6885. For more information, call Elaine A. Miller, Associate Director of Continuing Education, at (203) 837-8225.
- New England Historic Genealogical Society's 1998 Research Tour to Washington, DC, 22-28 March, with accommodations at Hotel Washington, Pennsylvania Ave. at 15th St. Will visit repository holdings at the DAR Library, National Archives, and Library of Congress. For more information, call NEHGS at (617) 536-5740, ext. 226, or toll-free at (888) 286-3447.
- Huntington Historical Society (Long Island, NY), 18 April 1998. Sessions will cover Germany; Ireland; Research Strategies in Poland, Lithuania and Belarus; Passenger Lists; Hispanics; and much more. For more information, contact William Chamberlain, Roots XIV Committee, Huntington Historical Society at:
Chamberlain<wchamber@suffolk.lib.ny.us
- National Genealogical Society Conference in the States, 6-9 May 1998, Denver, CO. For a registration brochure write to NGS, 4527 17th St. N., Arlington, VA 22207-2399. ■

WAYSIDE WINDFALLS

Occasionally you may find yourself traveling to -- or through -- areas with pleasant climates that have attracted significant portions of their population from elsewhere. As libraries generally reflect the interests of their patrons, a visit to such an area's repository can often turn up treasure. Mentioned with great enthusiasm by MGS members on the road are libraries in Cocoa Beach, Fort Lauderdale and Sarasota, Florida, and Charlotte, North Carolina. Visit them if you can, and, if you have found others worth an unscheduled stop, please let us know. ■

Application for Membership

Middlesex Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 1111

Darien, CT 06820

Annual Dues

Individual (\$15) _____

Family (\$20) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Deadline for next newsletter
10 March 1998



Middlesex Genealogical Society

PO Box 1111

Darien CT 06820-1111

SATURDAY, 31 JAN. 1998
COMPUTER DEMO 12 NOON
WORKSHOP MEETING 2PM
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