



# Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

May 2007

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

These past few months the weather has devastated the scheduled programs we put on for the genealogically minded people of our community. Many thanks to speakers that were able to return and present their programs on a different day. It is hoped that the weather will be more generous to us in May.

On Thursday, 26 April 2007, the ninth New England Regional Genealogical Conference began with a Society Fair from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at The Hartford Convention Center. Our society had a display, which included a new MGS brochure. Many thanks to board members Marianne Sheldon and Chick Scribner for their efforts in creating the display for this event.

We are looking for additional members to volunteer to aid Darien Library patrons to get started researching their family history. Contact me for information at 203-438-9105 or [lrskeeter@optonline.net](mailto:lrskeeter@optonline.net) if you can help in this project.

I have again had the opportunity to spend some time traipsing through cemeteries in the area looking for clues. I find that there is a world of information there that is very helpful in finding our ancestors. I guess one of the lessons we need to learn is to always carry lots of paper in case we find a new cemetery on our travels. I find it very exciting when a name on a stone opens a new line of ancestors.

Lloyd Sturges Jr. ■

## LIBRARY NEWS

by C. Scribner

Two more books have been donated to the society. They are *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham, donated by Donna Moughty, and *The Quarter Centenary Celebration of the Promulgation of the Edict of Nantes, April 13, 1598*, donated by the Huguenot Society of America. ■

## RESEARCH SURPRISES

by June M. Reilly

As a child, I was raised by my grandmother on a chicken ranch in Northern California. I never asked questions as to how she got that ranch until it was too late.

After joining MGS of Darien, Connecticut, I learned how to procure documents, wills, deeds and licenses.

In 2001 I visited the ranch in California and took pictures. I went to the county seat, for I had dates. I asked an archive librarian whether he could find my mother's Finnish name when she went to the local school in California. He touched the 1910 census and out popped records of my grandmother, my mother, and a stepfather I knew nothing about. Further research in old newspapers revealed that the stepfather committed suicide. My grandmother married a chicken rancher. And my mother married a local rancher and changed all her names. (I didn't know that!)

I was able to do this on my own—no computer. Now I have a family journal, and I will continue to search for Finnish records. *What an adventure!*

You can do it, too. ■



## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Robert E. Kenyon III	Vice President
Dale Pollart	Treasurer
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Dorothy Shillinglaw	Newsletter Editor

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 and publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494). Annual membership dues are \$20 per individual and \$25 per couple or family.

Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

**Middlesex Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 1111  
Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820

Homepage: <http://mgs.darien.org>

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, PROGRAM ROOM  
AT DARIEN LIBRARY. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND!**

**12 MAY 2007. HIDDEN IN VAULTS: LESSER KNOWN TREASURES FOUND IN TOWN HALLS** will be presented by **THOMAS HOWARD**. Local governments have for years collected and stored many diverse and valuable genealogical gems. We know about vital records and land records, but towns have touched citizens in many other ways leading to significant and sometimes illuminating paper trails.

A retired high school teacher, Tom is now a full time professional genealogist. He has taught genealogy classes and lectured at regional and national conferences, including the 2005 NERGC regional conference in North Falmouth. He has lectured on several genealogical topics to the Daughters of the American Revolution, Westchester County Genealogical Society, Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, Southington Genealogical Society, Naugatuck Valley Genealogical Club, Middlesex Genealogical Society, and others. He is chairman of the Connecticut Genealogical Coalition, a founding member of the Town Clerks and Genealogists Action Group, president of the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, and is on the board of directors of NERGC and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, and was co-chair of NERGC's 2007 Hartford conference. He is a member of APG, NEHGS, Connecticut Ancestry and numerous other genealogical or historical organizations. He is a former president of the East Granby Historical Society and currently is president of the East Granby Land Trust.

**6 OCTOBER 2007. WELCOME ABOARD: PASSENGER LISTS & THOSE ANNOTATIONS** will be presented by **LARRY S. FERMI**. Learn how to find your immigrant relatives on the manifests of the ships that brought them to America and what those scribbles next to their names mean. Larry will discuss the various types of passenger lists that have existed over the years and what might be found in them, including ship manifests prior to 1820, Customs Passenger Lists 1820 to ca 1891, and the Immigration Passenger Lists from ca 1891 forward. We will also look at the various annotations that were made on the passenger lists and how they can be used to determine additional information about the immigrants, including other ships they may have traveled on, nationality, medical status and even clues to U.S. Naturalization records and dates.

Larry has been performing in-depth family history research since 1989, with a focus on European immigration during the peak periods of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and is a popular speaker on basic and advanced genealogy-related subjects in the greater New York metropolitan area. He has been a member of the Monmouth County Genealogical Society's Education Committee since 2001, and is also a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and the Ge-

*(Continued on page 8)*

## GENEALOGY, OH MY! WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?

by Esther Sturges

Although my husband, Lloyd, has been into genealogy for many years, I did not have that obsession until recently. As it happened, a short time ago Lloyd received a telephone call from a long-lost cousin, last heard from about 25 years ago. The cousin was in this area from Florida and wanted to stop by to see if we had any information on his mother and her family. He arrived, and, while Lloyd shared what he knew, I went through my large picture box for him. It was an all-day project lasting from 9 AM to 9 PM, and when he left he had loads of paper, numerous facts, and many photos that we had copied for him.

This was so absorbing that I got some forms from Lloyd and started to write down my own genealogy. I even got out obituaries that I had collected over the years. Then, to get more information, I went to Ridgefield Town Hall and learned much more and got certificates of births, deaths, and marriages. I then started to put all these things into albums.

It did not stop there. Next, I got a call from my niece, my brother's daughter, asking me for information about my side of the family. *Wow!* Then, she informed me that she was coming to Connecticut for a week and asked if we could get together. Well, that week was spent with my cousin, my sister-in-law and me going to town halls and gathering many more copies of certificates.

Okay, now I had to convince Lloyd to take me to some cemeteries in New York. *Oh my*, what a lot of information was on those gravestones! I had to keep going back, and each time I found more.

I was a little puzzled because I could not find a death record for a cousin who was listed on one of the stones without a death date. I was prompted to look in the phone book and there found someone with that name. I decided to call her and ask if she knew my cousin. Bingo—she was my cousin! She knew me and told me that she was there when I was born and provided the bottles to feed me. My husband and I went see her and her first words were, "You look just like your mother." Doors have been opened; I have been bitten by the genealogy bug; and, now, I have to keep going. ■

**NEED HELP WITH RESEARCH? Make an appointment through the Information Desk at Darien Library for a personalized consultation with an MGS volunteer.**

The following article is from *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* and is copyright 2007 by Richard W. Eastman. It is republished here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>

## YOU CAN HELP TEST THE NEXT FamilySearch.org

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints owns and operates one of the biggest and most popular genealogy web sites in the world: [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org). Hundreds of thousands of Mormons and non-Mormons alike use this web site every month. Hundreds of millions of genealogical records may be found there. Of course, a web site like this one is never static: a group of product managers, software developers, database administrators and many more keep adding new features and improving existing services.

Now the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (also known as the Mormons) has several new tools available for beta testing. That is, the Church is experimenting with new and probably better services. To make sure the services are better, the genealogy public is invited to test the features in a web site known as "FamilySearch Labs." If the testing is successful, these new and/or updated services will be moved to the main [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) about six months from now.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is inviting any and all genealogists to participate in the test. They are especially seeking genealogy newcomers. After all, one of the major objectives is to make a web site that is user-friendly and easily understood by newcomers. Who can test that best of all? The newcomers!

This is not to say that long-time genealogists are "locked out," however. The Mormon Church needs a wide variety of newcomers and gurus and everyone in between to help test the prototype services. The FamilySearch Labs' web site exists today in a true beta test condition: it might be a bit buggy or may be missing some features or explanatory text. The Family History Department would appreciate your help in finding those bugs and offering suggestions for improvement. You can expect the site to be changing frequently as beta testers' feedback is converted to new computer code.

FamilySearch Labs will obviously work faster on a broadband connection but dial-up users are also strongly encouraged to participate. One of the purposes of the test is to see what the speed limitations are.

The new features being tested in FamilySearch Labs

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include:

### **Pedigree Viewer**

The Pedigree Viewer is used to view and navigate your entire pedigree. This is one of the major new initiatives of the Family History Department: to allow everyone to navigate quickly and easily through a display of all their known ancestors. For the purpose of this beta test on FamilySearch Labs, you should upload a GEDCOM file of your own genealogy data, if such a file is available. If not, you can manually enter information.

**NOTE:** Be aware that all data will be deleted from FamilySearch Labs at the end of the test period. Because of the likelihood of duplicates with other data already on the main [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) site, it will be impractical to merge your beta test GEDCOM files with any other data. Any GEDCOM files you upload during the beta test will be destroyed at the end of the test and the data will not be kept nor used elsewhere.

I have used the new Pedigree Viewer briefly and am impressed with it. The Flash-based display is as easy to use as any other genealogy browser that I have used. I haven't had enough "hands on time" yet to find any bugs although I am sure they exist. Yes, it works on Macintosh as well as on Windows systems.

While it is called a Pedigree Viewer, it also includes the capability to view descendants in an interactive viewer.

You can click and drag the mouse to view families that you could not see originally. You can also zoom in and out easily, using the scroll wheel on your mouse (if available) or via menu keys. You can also print data from the information displayed. (*HINT:* use the PRINT button near the upper right corner of the displayed data, not the print command in your web browser's menus.)

### **Life Browser**

This feature is unlike any other service ever offered by the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints before. You can see what it will be like to learn about your family through the pictures, records and stories of their lives.

The Life Browser presently is in early Beta test, perhaps even a late Alpha. It is a conceptual prototype, so it only shows one person and many features do not work. Your feedback will be used to define additional features to be added.

### **FamilySearch Indexing**

Family Search Indexing is not brand-new. It has been around for a while, although in a limited and controlled offering. The Family History Department has now added more servers and more network throughput to the project.

As a result, the project can now be made available to anyone and everyone who wishes to contribute. Unlike the earlier version, you can sign up for FamilySearch Indexing right now and be extracting records within a few minutes. FamilySearch Indexing allows volunteers to extract family history information from digital images of original historical documents to create indexes that assist everyone in finding their ancestors.

In short, you first sign up for the project and download a bit of software to your computer. Next, an image of an historical document appears in the upper part of your computer's screen. The image might be birth records, death records, tax lists, census records, or any of the millions of documents that are so valuable to genealogists. The records might be handwritten or typeset.

The lower part of the screen displays a "fill in the blanks" area. You read the data in the top part of the screen, fill in the appropriate information in the lower part and therefore add a valuable new record for use by other genealogists.

The beauty of the FamilySearch Indexing is that you can index as many or as few records as you want. You only receive them in small chunks and do not receive additional records to index until you complete the present batch. If you do not complete those few within a certain length of time, the same small batch of records are then given to someone else to index. You are never "on the hook" for more work to be completed.

All data is entered twice: once by you and once again by someone else. If the data you add agrees exactly with the data that the other person enters, the data is accepted and eventually is added to an online database. If the two of you disagree, the record is sent to a third person, an experienced records extractor, for binding arbitration.

The FamilySearch Indexing system is a great way to "pay back" to other genealogists all the records and assistance that you have received. You can index a few records at any convenient time: on your coffee break, when the baby takes a nap, or perhaps just before bedtime as you wind down from the day's activities. The labor you supply free of charge results in records being made available to other online genealogists, also free of charge.

Unlike the other projects I have mentioned, data from the FamilySearch Indexing project will be saved at the end of the beta test and will be added to [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)

Millions of records have already been indexed by the FamilySearch Indexing project. This project is one of the greatest things that I have seen. I believe this one single project will benefit millions of future genealogists. ■

## THE IRISH COME TO NEWTOWN: A WORKFORCE FOR INDUSTRY IN A RURAL COMMUNITY 31 March 2007

Our March meeting was originally scheduled for 17 March, but Darien Library was closed that day because of the weather. Even though our speaker, Harlan Jessup, unaware of the closing, traveled to Darien prepared to address us on that date, he graciously agreed to return on 31 March to present his program. For a variety of reasons we were unable to mail members a reminder card for the 31 March program, and for that we apologize. Fortunately, Marianne Sheldon was able to place notice of the program in several local papers, and we had a good turnout.

It was an interesting program. Harlan followed the changing makeup of the population of a single community through a time of growing industrialization and railroad building. Although Harlan did his study on Newtown, he told us that others could do something similar in any town of particular interest. For example, he prepared for us a table of information gleaned from the 1850 and 1880 U.S. Censuses on the Irish population in Darien. In those 30 years, the Irish increased from 6.3% to 16.1% of the population of Darien.

In the same period, the Irish increased from 5.6% to 41.8% of the population of Newtown. Newtown, of course, had more, and a greater variety of industries than Darien did. In terms of land area, Newtown was one of the largest towns in Connecticut. It is on the Housatonic River, which provided power for several mills, and was at one time the hub for three different railroads. Labor was needed for the building of roads and then railroads, and the Irish came initially for the jobs.

Remember that U.S. censuses in those years provide "occupations" for those enumerated. Tracking changes in the listed occupations indicates a broadening economic base and expanding opportunities for newcomers. It actually provides considerable information on the social structure of the community.

Harlan has looked for Irish names on monumental inscriptions in old cemeteries in both Newtown and Darien and has found that many tombstones carry the name of the county, in addition to "Ireland," as the birthplace of the person buried there. Some stones are even more specific and include the townland or parish. (Oh, to be so fortunate!) ■

## UPCOMING SEMINARS

**National Archives and Records Administration Northeast Region** is offering free programs at two locations:

**New York City**, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, 201 Varick St. Programs at this location run from 12:30 PM to 1:15 PM on Tuesdays. For more information visit NARA's website at: <http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/> To register for any of these free programs, telephone toll-free (866) 840-1752 or e-mail [newyorkarchives@nara.gov](mailto:newyorkarchives@nara.gov)

- **Finding Family: Using the Access to Archival Databases (AAD) Catalog**, 8 May 2007.
- **Finding Family: Using Digitized Microfilm Holdings**, 12 June 2007.

**Waltham, Mass**, 380 Trapelo Rd., These free lectures last for approximately 90 minutes and begin at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Behind-the-scenes tours of the archives take place a half hour before the lectures. Light refreshments will be served. For more information and to register call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail [waltham.archives@nara.gov](mailto:waltham.archives@nara.gov)

- **Introduction to Genealogy**, 3 July 2007.
- **Census, Naturalization & Passenger Lists**, 7 Aug. 2007.
- **Records Related to Military Service 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries**, 5 June 2007.

*Note:* Both sites now close at 4:30 PM on Tuesdays.

**National Genealogical Society**, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304, (800) 473-0060:

- **2007 NGS Conference in the States and Family History Fair**, Wed. through Sat., May 16-19, in Richmond, VA.
- **2008 NGS Research Trip to Salt Lake City**, Sun.-Sun., 24 Feb.-2 March 2008. Space is limited to 30 attendees, so early registration is important. Trip leaders, who will be available for consultation throughout the week, are Dereka Smith, MLS, and Shirley Langdon Wilcox, CG, FNGS. Hotel accommodation, included in the trip package, will be at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, next door to the Family History Library.

For registration and more information, visit <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

**Westchester County Genealogical Society**, P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10601, is presenting **Incorporating Memoirs Into Fiction**, a talk by Edith Glass, at their meeting at 10 AM on Sat., 9 June 2007. The program will take place at the Aldersgate Methodist Church, 600 Broadway in Dobbs Ferry (across from Mercy College on Route 9). Refreshments and genealogical networking at 9:30 AM. A \$3 donation requested. For more information

visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>

**Genealogical Society of Bergen County** will be hosting an all-day seminar called **Searching Irish and Scots-Irish Roots**, 9:00 AM-3:30 PM, Sat., 16 June 2007, at Old Paramus Church, 660 East Glen Ave., Ridgewood, NJ. Fintan Mullan and Dr. Brian Trainor of the Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, Northern Ireland, will discuss research in all of Ireland, not just Ulster. Registration required. Early registration, before 25 May, \$25 for members; \$30 for nonmembers. Box lunch available for \$7. For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~njgsbc/IrishConf.html>, or e-mail: [irishseminarsbc@yahoo.com](mailto:irishseminarsbc@yahoo.com)

**New York Genealogical & Biographical Society**, 122-126 E.58 St., New York, N.Y. 10022; telephone 212-755-8532. NYG&B is offering:

- **Walking tour of Kleindeutschland**, Sat., 21 June 2007. The Lower East Side was home to thousands of German families who arrived in New York in great numbers after 1848. They settled in the area known as "Kleindeutschland" (Little Germany), where they founded a well-organized network of schools, theatres, athletic associations, political clubs, churches, synagogues, and associations of "free thinkers."
- **Suche und Spaß (Research & Fun): German Research at the NYG&B**; Fri.-Sat., 22-23 June 2007. The Education Committee of the NYG&B in conjunction with the German Genealogical Group of Hicksville, New York, announces a two-day **German Research** program.
- **Walking Tour of All Faiths/Lutheran Cemetery**, Sat., 23 June 2007. All Faiths/Lutheran Cemetery, the final resting place for many Germans and their descendants, is the primary burial place for the victims of the General Slocum disaster. This tour will highlight the early burials, the connection with the Slocum disaster, and will visit burial sites for some of the cemetery's most notable residents.
- **Family History Writing Workshop**, Sat.-Sun., 27-28 Oct. 2007. This is an intensive two-day course, during which you will be taken through the process and actually begin writing your story. Guiding you will be Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, author of the course text *You Can Write Your Family History* and thirteen other books, and James Warren, author of *Getting the Most Miles from Genealogical Research Trips* and other books.

For more information on any of these programs or to register online, visit [www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org](http://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org).

**New England Historic Genealogical Society**, 101 New-

berry St., Boston, MA 02116 (toll-free 888-286-3447) is offering:

- **Come Home to New England** programs Mon.-Sat., 18-23 June, and again Mon.-Sat., 6-11 Aug. 2007.
- **Research Tour to Salt Lake City**, Sun.-Sun., 28 Oct.-4 Nov. 2007. Lodging at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel.

For more information on these programs, visit [www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/](http://www.newenglandancestors.org/education/main/) or e-mail [tours@nehgs.org](mailto:tours@nehgs.org) or telephone (888) 286-3447.

**Federation of Genealogical Societies**, P.O. Box 200940. Austin, TX 78720-0940; telephone (888) FGS 1500; fax (888) 380-0500; e-mail [fgs-office@fgs.org](mailto:fgs-office@fgs.org)

**FGS 2007 Conference**, jointly sponsored by FGS and the Allen County Public Library, will take place Wed.-Sat., 15-18 Aug. 2007 at the Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 West Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.fgsconference.org>

**The National Institute on Genealogical Research (NIGR)**, held at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and College Park, MD, is an intensive program offering onsite examination of federal records. Designed for experienced researchers, the next institute will be held Sun.-Sat., 15-21 July 2007, and will focus on commonly used immigration, military, land, cartographic, African American, and nonpopulation census records. Complementing those core lectures will be presentations on lesser-known federal records useful to family historians. The program includes one day at Archives II and optional sessions at the Library of Congress and the DAR library.

Enrollment is limited, and the class fills quickly. Tuition is \$350 for applications postmarked by 15 May, or \$400 thereafter. Scholarships are available. For more information or to receive an application brochure, see the institute's Website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin/> and add your name to the mailing list; or e-mail [NatInsGen@juno.com](mailto:NatInsGen@juno.com) or write to NIGR, P.O. Box 724, Lanham, MD 20703-0724.

**Genealogy Seminar at Sea**, Sat.-Sat., 27 Oct.-3 Nov. 2007, sailing from the Port of Miami to San Juan (Puerto Rico), St. Maarten, and Labadee (Royal Caribbean's private island) aboard the brand new *Liberty of the Seas*. Fifteen hours of genealogy lectures will be given by John Philip Colletta, Stephen J. Danko, Michael J. Leclerc, Paul Milner, George G. Morgan, our own Donna Moughty, Laura G. Prescott, and Paula Stuart-Warren. Lecture subjects include methodology, writing and publishing, internet research, problem solving, and geographic areas around the world. For more information, visit [www.GenealogyCruises.com](http://www.GenealogyCruises.com) or e-mail [FlyAwayTravel@neo.rr.com](mailto:FlyAwayTravel@neo.rr.com)

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**Wholly Genes 3rd Annual Genealogy Conference and Cruise** sails through the Eastern Caribbean, Sun.-Sun., 28 Oct.-4 Nov. 2007, aboard the *Caribbean Princess* with stops at St. Thomas, St. Maarten and Princess Cays, Bahamas. Speakers include John Grenham (Ireland), John Titford, LHG FSG (Britain), Dick Eastman, Hank Jones, FASG, Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, Cindi Howells, Sandra Hewlett, CG (NEHGS), Robert Charles Anderson, FASG (NEHGS, Great Migration Study Project Director), Marsha Hoffman Rising, CG, CGL, FUGA, FASG (President, American Society of Genealogists), and Tony Burroughs, FUGA. For more information, visit [www.WhollyGenes.com/cruise.htm](http://www.WhollyGenes.com/cruise.htm)

**RootsMagic Caribbean Cruise 2007** will sail Sun.-Sun., 11-18 Nov. 2007, aboard Royal Caribbean's *Mariner of the Sea*. Classes will include general genealogy subjects taught by, among others, Dick Eastman and Leland Meitzler. There will also be classes on getting the most out of your RootsMagic, Personal Historian, and Family Atlas software taught by RootsMagic experts. For more information, visit: <http://www.RootsMagicCruise.com> ■

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## CHRONICLING AMERICA

According to the Library of Congress, Chronicling America is a prototype Website providing access to information about historic newspapers and select digitized newspaper pages, and is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP). NDNP, a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC), is a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with descriptive information and select digitization of historic pages. Supported by NEH, this rich digital resource will be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress. An NEH award program will fund the contribution of content from, eventually, all U.S. states and territories. More information on program guidelines, participation, and technical information can be found at <http://www.neh.gov/projects/ndnp.html> or <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/>

Currently, there is a searchable database of articles from 1900 to 1910 in newspapers from six states (California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, and Virginia) and the District of Columbia.

It is expected that over the next 20 years NDNP will create a national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers published between 1836 and 1922 from all U.S. states and territories. Also on the Web site, an

accompanying national newspaper directory of bibliographic and holdings information directs users to newspaper titles in all formats. The information in the directory was created through an earlier NEH initiative. The Library of Congress will also digitize and contribute to the NDNP database a significant number of newspaper pages drawn from its own collections during the course of this partnership. For the initial launch the Library of Congress contributed more than 90,000 pages from 14 different newspaper titles published in the District of Columbia between 1900 and 1910.

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## THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ROOTSWEB

Myra Vanderpool Gormley and Tana Pedersen Lord have a new book out, *The Official Guide to RootsWeb.com*. The book provides tips and tricks to help you put your family tree online, locate valuable research resources, create successful message board posts, search effectively, connect with other users, and much, much more.

This book is available through the new RootsWeb Store at [www.therootswestore.com](http://www.therootswestore.com) in two forms. You can download it electronically for \$7.95, or you can order a paper-bound copy for \$12.95 plus \$5.75 shipping and handling.

The store is a new RootsWeb feature that carries historical photographs and maps in addition to genealogy software and books. ■

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## BURKE'S PEERAGE

The Origins Network, which specializes in Irish and British online genealogy, has announced that a brand new Website for Burke's Peerage has just been launched ([www.burkes-peerage.net](http://www.burkes-peerage.net)). The Website has been totally redesigned to make it much easier for users to search the rich genealogical database and to access an extraordinary range of detailed articles and essays on many aspects of the culture and traditions of the British Isles. The database includes detailed genealogical information on over 15,000 families, some going back more than 1,000 years. Over a million family members are included.

Each of the family records has been meticulously researched by a team of professional genealogists to ensure the information is accurate and reliable. Each online record has been structured so that both experienced and first-time users can search quickly and find information.

This is a subscription site: 24 hours for £15.95; annual access for £64.95. ■



neological Society of New Jersey.

17 NOVEMBER 2007. UNDERSTANDING YOUR WESTERN EUROPEAN ANCESTORS CAN HELP YOU TRACE THEM will be presented by LESLIE A. HUBER. Learning about the lives of your Western European ancestors can not only be interesting, but it can make the task of tracing them much easier. Leslie describes peasant life and society and then shows how this information can be used to both target the search for ancestors and get more out of the records. The lecture centers on three topics: religion, demographics, and making a living.

Leslie Albrecht Huber is a freelance writer focusing on family history topics. Her articles have appeared in a wide variety of publications, including *Heritage Quest Magazine*, *Ancestry*, *Family Chronicle*, *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, *Everton's Family History Magazine*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Swedish-American Historical Quarterly*, *History Magazine*, *Family Fun Magazine*, *Family Chronicle*, *Journal of Mormon History*, *Internet Genealogy*, and *German-American Genealogy*. She recently completed her first book, *Generations: A Journey Through History*. Leslie has also taught classes on genealogy in colleges and community classes and has trained other instructors to teach as well. She now gives lectures to genealogy and history societies on topics centering on immigration and understanding Western European, German, and Swedish ancestors. ■

## A NEW NAME FOR MGS?

The name Middlesex Genealogical Society was chosen by our founder, Robert Fatherley, at the time the society began. The name dates back to the time when Darien was part of Stamford and referred to as Middlesex Parish. Unfortunately, Middlesex is also the name of a county in Connecticut, and that has caused a great deal of confusion. For example, we often get queries that we are unable to answer because they are about Middlesex County.

The MGS board has discussed this problem and decided to propose to the membership a naming contest. Ideally, the new name would be less restrictive and perhaps reflect the wide range of members' interests. Prize for the winning submission will be a year's membership free. Please submit your suggestions for a new name to Middlesex Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1111, Darien, CT 06820. ■

**Deadline for next newsletter  
11 September 2007**

MEETING  
 12 MAY 2007  
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