



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

May 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It appears that warm weather may really be coming our way. Let us take the hint and heat up our quest for more knowledge of what is really important in our life: Our Family. In the last few messages I have dwelled on the importance of the preservation of all of the work of researching our ancestors, their documents, photographs, etc. It still is one of the areas on which I will be doing a lot of research. It appears that the solution is in the area of the clouds; even this has some drawbacks. I still have some research and self educating to do in order to understand this area, and I hope to have some good advice soon to help us preserve information for future generations.

Let us look at another area that I feel is very important to us as family historians. Why do we spend so much time hunting for information on the past of our families? Why do we collect old documents, pictures, make family trees, fill books and file cabinets, (or lots of boxes)? Is it for our own personal satisfaction? Is it to share with others? Is it so that our children, grandchildren, etc., will have knowledge of their family? Probably all of the above. So, what will happen to all of this interesting and often difficult work when we get old (I'm there)? Will our children say throw out those boxes of papers because they look like a lot of junk? I remember back to a time when I was

only married a few years; a large box arrived from a cousin in Hamilton, Ontario, that I really scarcely knew. I opened up the box and found lots of papers and small books. It really looked like a box of junk and I wondered why it had been sent to me. As luck would have it, my mother was at my home that day, and she was very excited over this box of stuff. Found in the box were small, pocketsize notebooks with information on four generations of my father's family and even a tintype photo of his mother and father.

A gold mine that almost got thrown away. So what's the point? Can we make our work be looked at instead of being thrown out? I believe we can. It also will be fun for us. Write a family history of your family. Tell the stories of your ancestors, the experiences that you went through to obtain the information you have; include pictures of not only the people, but their homes and interesting places in the towns where they lived, Catalog the things that

they did, i.e., played on the town baseball team, marched in parades, and describe where they went to school. Put this history of your family in books with fancy covers that will encourage family members to look at them. Do not bury them on that top shelf in your closet where they might only be found years later. Put them on a table out in plain sight so that when your children and grandchildren visit they can look at them and develop that old sense: CURIOSITY.

Lloyd R. Sturges Jr.



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**2013-2014
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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 and publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494). Annual membership dues are \$25 per individual and \$30 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

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

UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

ALL MEETINGS SATURDAY, 2 PM, DARIEN LIBRARY, 1441 POST ROAD. COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

18 MAY 2013: BLOGGING YOUR GENEALOGY will be presented by **PHIL HAYES** who is the CEO of Sirius Innovations, LLC. In that position he served as Technology Solutions Consultant and Web Applications Programmer for Fortune 500 companies, large municipalities and hospitals. He is fluent in SQL, ColdFusion, PHP, and Javascript programming languages. He is also a power user of the WordPress Content Management System, commonly used for blogging.

Combining the power of technology and the primary sources from historical documents, Philip developed his own family history Website based on the Word Press Content Management System (<http://www.hayesfamily.us>). It has inspired many people to develop an interest in the family's history and has connected Phil to several undiscovered relatives and their family stories.

Phil is a member of numerous historical and genealogical societies, including the Association of Professional Genealogists.

In 2010 Phil developed a presentation aimed at teaching amateur and professional genealogists how to document their family's history on the internet using a blog. If genealogists want to get the most out of their efforts, there are some basic strategies that must be employed. These strategies are fully covered in his program, "Blogging Your Way Into History."

5 OCTOBER 2013: To be announced.

16 NOVEMBER 2013: TONY LAURIANO. Program subject to be announced.

25 JANUARY 2014: To be announced.

15 MARCH 2014: TONI McKEEN will present **FINDING ELUSIVE FEMALES.**

REMEMBER: MGS volunteers are available to provide assistance for all researchers, members or nonmembers, to help with research problems, or just to get you started. You can contact a volunteer by sending an email to: mgsvolunteer@gmail.com. Include in your email any information you may have which will make it easier for the volunteer to understand what you hope to find.

TURN THAT NOISE DOWN!

by John Driscoll

Do you remember when your mother yelled at you to “Turn that noise down!”? As the first of the Baby Boomers, I grew up listening to the music of the Sixties. From when the Beatles arrived on the scene until the early Seventies, was my era for music. My long suffering Mom would put up with it as long as she could and then put her foot down. Of course when Dad came home from work, the music stopped. My music taste was eclectic; I loved everything from Motown to the New Christie Minstrels to Vivaldi. Really, how could Mom not like the Rolling Stones’ “Satisfaction”? And when the Marcells sang “Blue Moon,” wasn’t it just another version of a song she loved? Some music just needed to be played until you knew every nuance of the song. I played the Doors’ “Light My Fire” over and over so many times the record track changed color.

As I grew older, I realized that really good music was no longer being written. It seemed to have been encapsulated in the ten-year bubble of my youth. It took a long while, as my children grew and had their own children, for me to realize that I was stuck in the sixties. I tolerated the tunes my kids listened to, but did not think they were classic rock ‘n roll. In the ‘80s, when my boys made me listen to a “new” song, “Crimson and Clover,” I rummaged through my LP’s and brought out Tommy James and the Shondells, to show them what it should really sound like.

My cousin Larry, six years my senior, is stuck in a different bubble. He is in the Doo-wop bubble. He can name the song, year, artist, and record label of every ‘50s rock ‘n roll group there is; or at least it seems that way to me.

I think it took me until now, though, to put together the idea of the generational music gaps through the centuries. My grandchildren want me to listen to this atonal, whining, noise that can actually be played song after song, back to back without the listener realizing the artist has

changed and it is not just one very long song. Hip Hop is another seriously questionable noise called music. And yet, this “music” is winning Grammys. Maybe I have become my parents.

What did my Victorian era grandparents think of the Roaring Twenties? Did Grandma and Grandpa tell Mom and Dad to “Turn down that noise!” when they listened to “I Wish I could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate” or “Ain’t We Got Fun?” How about the Big Band sounds of Tommy Dorsey and Duke Ellington; “It Don’t Mean a Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing”? Were the kids listening to “noise”? Since before that time most music was listened to live, I do not think one generation’s music would encroach on the other’s even if they did not like it.

Music is an anchor to our past and I am pretty sure that it reflects:

- Where we are headed—“Meet Me in St. Louis,” or “San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Some Flowers in Your Hair).”
- How we feel about war—“When Johnny Comes Marching Home” and Donovan’s “Universal Soldier,” songs that make statements on humanity’s seeming preoccupation with self-destruction.
- Happiness—with music like the bubble gum songs of the Sixties, “Mrs. Brown You’ve Got a Lovely Daughter”; or the twenties, “In the Good Old Summertime.” They keep us smiling through the years.
- Others, like “Space Oddity” by David Bowie or “Brother Can you Spare a Dime?” make us sad.

Will our grandchildren look back at the “noise” of today with nostalgia? I can’t really believe it, but who knows?

MGS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MGS needs your help. A number of positions are currently open on the Nominating, Membership, Newsletter, Program, and Publicity Committees, and on the Board of Directors. Other committees can also be formed to meet the needs and interests of the membership, e.g., indexing, liaison, and/or hospitality. MGS does not require a large time commitment. Please consider participating. Call Keeley Kriskey at 203-353-1959 to

discuss your interests and how you would like to help.

DATA PROTECTION

Recently someone handed on to me an article entitled "How to Avoid a Data Disaster" by Ed Zapletal, which appeared in *INTERNET Genealogy* in April/May 2012. Much has been written on this subject, but this is a particularly good article, and data loss so potentially painful, that a review seemed useful.

Mr. Zapletal suggests reviewing your options and plans for coping with problems such as power outages, antivirus and security software, general software settings, backup storage (physical or cloud-based), and backup software. Form the habit of backing up your work frequently, certainly whenever you have produced, since your last backup, more than you would wish to redo.

Remember to click on "Save" frequently. It only takes a moment, but will prove a lifesaver in case of a power failure while using a desktop computer without a battery backup unit or an uninterruptable power supply (UPS). Laptops, of course, have their own internal batteries, but if totally dependent on your local power company it would be prudent to add an emergency power source. And while we are on the subject of electricity, be sure that you are using a surge protector.

Sadly, in this day and age anti-virus and security software is also essential. We are all susceptible to attack, and we are all occasionally procrastinators. Properly install and regularly update good anti-virus and security software. There are many choices available, and some of them are even free.

Proper software settings can be helpful, too. *Microsoft Word*, for instance will automatically save a backup copy as frequently as you have indicated. This function is usually located under headings such as "Preferences" or "Options." Wisely, MS Word by default stores the "Auto-Recoverable" version in a place different from the default storage location.

Genealogy software programs usually provide within the program an easy way to back up and restore data. Familiarize yourself with your own software's features and then USE THEM.

Ideally, you will keep multiple, up-to-date copies of your data on several types of media, such as CD, DVD, external hard drives, and USB stick drives. Because we cannot accurately predict how long any one type of storage media will remain useful, it would be wise to use more than one type. Currently, external hard drives offer the most storage (a terabyte isn't hard to find), but the capacity of USB stick drives is growing significantly.

Cloud storage offers several advantages and is growing in popularity among genealogists. Because cloud storage is separate from your computer, it would not be subject to some types of disasters that would affect a storage device physically located near the computer. Also, your data could be accessed from elsewhere if you were away from home.

GENEALOGICAL TV PROGRAMS

We can currently look forward to four new genealogy programs on television. The first will be *Family Tree*, a mockumentary series written by Christopher Guest and Jim Piddock and directed by Christopher Guest. The first of eight planned segments is scheduled to air 12 May at 10:30 p.m. on HBO and will star Chris O'Dowd, Tom Bennett, and Nina Conti.

Three other genealogy series are in production. Two are old friends that we have not seen in a while with a focus on celebrities: *Who Do You Think You Are?* (TLC) and *Finding Your Roots* (PBS). *Who Do You Think You Are?* is expected to screen in the fall, but *Finding Your Roots* will not be seen until 2014.

The fourth new program, *Genealogy Road Show* (PBS), is an Irish import that is currently casting and will tape in Nashville, San Francisco, Detroit and Austin. The emphasis will be on

family history mysteries, historical events, and average people.

DID YOU KNOW?

“By 1913, more than one million miners across Great Britain were working mostly by hand in 2,600 coal pits to produce a peak 280 million tons of coal a year.”

Kimberly Powell, *About.com Genealogy Guide*.

NEW YORK CITY, LONG ISLAND, AND WESTCHESTER COUNTY RESEARCH GUIDE

ARLINGTON, VA, 29 APRIL 2013: The National Genealogical Society has announced the release of the newest edition in its Research in the States series: *Research in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County*. This publication was written by native New Yorker and nationally recognized genealogist Laura Murphy DeGrazia, CG, FGBS. Laura is a trustee and former president of BCG and co-editor of the *NYG&B Record*. Barbara Vines Little, CG, FNGS, FVGS, is a former NGS president and is the current editor of the NGS Research in the States series and the *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*. *Research in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County* is an introduction to resources and repositories essential to genealogical research in these geographic areas. “Millions of Americans have ancestors who spent some time in the New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County area,” said Laura Murphy DeGrazia (author), “and knowing what resources exist and where they are located can help family historians be more successful in their research.”

Research in New York City, Long Island, and Westchester County will be on sale in the NGS

store at http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/research_in_the_states in a PDF and print version beginning 8 May, although the print version will not ship before 20 May. Other titles in the Research in the States series, which are also available in PDF and print form, include Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Additional states and a full New York State guide are planned for the future.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration, Constitution Ave. NW (between 7th & 9th Sts.), Washington, DC 20408. On Wed., 15 May, 11 a.m., Room G-25 in the Research Center, “Beyond the Basics Genealogy: Civil War Courts Martial.”

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, New York City, is now located in the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House at One Bowling Green, New York, NY 10004. Programs, which are held in the Learning Center on the 3rd floor, are free and open to the public, and take place Tuesday afternoons from noon to 1 p.m. Seating is limited so registration is required and can be accomplished by telephoning 866-840-1752 or e-mailing newyork.archives@nara.gov.

- 14 May, “Introduction to Naturalization Records Research.”
- 11 June, “Researching Military Records.”

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, Boston, Frederick C. Murphy Federal Center, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA 02452-6399, phone 781-663-0130, fax 781-663-0154, e-mail boston.archives@nara.gov. Programs are free, but reservations are required. Telephone toll-free 866-406-2379 or e-mail the address above.

- Thurs., 16 May, 6 p.m., “Finding Our Jewish Ancestors: Jewish history, migration, and ge-

nealogy,” presented by generalist Meredith Hoffman of the Jewish Genealogical Society.

- Tues., 4 Jun. 2 p.m., “They Went Down to the Sea in Ships: 19th c. crew lists, shipping articles, & more.”
- Thurs., 20 Jun., 6 p.m., TBA.
- Tues., 9 Jul., 2 p.m., “Introduction to Genealogy: Everything you need to get started.”
- Thurs., 18 Jul., 6 p.m., “Introduction to Genealogy: Everything you need to get started.”
- Tues., 6 Aug., 2 p.m., “Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records.”

Federation of Genealogical Societies (MGS is a member), P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940 will hold its annual conference, *Journey Through Generations*, on Wed.-Sat., 21-24 Aug. at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Ind. The Grand Wayne Conference Center is in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne and less than one block from The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library, which will have extended research hours and special events during conference week. While many of the sessions on Wed., 21 Aug., will be devoted to building and strengthening genealogical societies, the balance of the week will be divided into tracks such as Records, Methodologies, Technology, Ethnic Origins, European, German, British Isles, African American, Migration/Immigration, Transportation, Genetics, Midwestern and Neighboring States, Religious Communities, Military, NARA/Federal, Online Resources, and Writing, Speaking and Publishing. (Our past president Donna Moughty will be conducting a workshop on Using Griffith’s Valuation.) For more information visit the FGS Website www.FGS.org, the conference Website www.FGSConference.org, and the FGS Conference News Blog www.FGSConferenceBlog.org.

New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116-3007, toll-free telephone 888-286-3447, Website www.NewEnglandAncestors.org.

- **London Research Tour**, Sun., 19 May, 3 p.m.—Sun., 26 May, 11 a.m. NEHGS returns to the U.K, where participants will enjoy one-on-one consultations, guided research at the Society of Genealogists and The National Archives, and two group dinners. Daily educational activities include lectures and tours by

the experts at The National Archives, the SoG, and NEHGS.

- **Essex, Norfolk, & Suffolk County Record Offices Research Tour** at Bury St Edmunds, England, 27 May, 4 p.m.—31 May, 11 a.m. For the first time, NEHGS will lead a tour of county record offices in England, including trips to the archives of Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk and opportunities to learn from local experts. The trip, which immediately follows their London Research Tour held from May 19—26, will be based in Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, with day trips to the county record offices in Bury St. Edmunds, Norwich, and Chelmsford.
- **Come Home to New England, Mon. to Sat., 17-22 June, or 5-10 August.** One of NEHGS's most popular programs, *Come Home to New England* is an intensive week of family history discovery at NEHGS headquarters in Boston's Back Bay. Staff experts provide individual consultations and useful lectures to guide researchers of all levels in their family history explorations. Participants will also enjoy group meals and social events.
- **Albany, N.Y., Research Tour, Wed., 24 July, 1 p.m.—Sun., 28 July, 11 a.m.** Our extremely popular trip to Albany is now in its third year. Join NEHGS as we explore the vast resources of the New York State Library and the New York State Archives in Albany. The trip includes individual consultations, expert lectures, a reception, and a group dinner.
- **Great Migration Tour: The Winthrop Fleet**, Suffolk, England, Wed., 14 Aug., 8 a.m.—Sat., 24 Aug., 9 a.m. Robert Charles Anderson, director of The Great Migration Study Project, leads a reprise of this very popular tour to Suffolk and its environs, focusing on the immigrants to New England who sailed in the Winthrop Fleet of 1630.
- **35th Annual Salt Lake City Research Tour**, Sun., 3 Nov., 3 p.m. to Sun., 10 Nov., check out by 11 a.m. Daily activities include research at the Family History Library, individual consultations with NEHGS genealogists, lectures, and other special events.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 36 W. 44th Street, 7th fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; fax

212-754-4218.

- **“New York’s Censuses and City Directories: Ancestral Record Links Across Decennial Gaps of Federal Censuses”** will be presented by **Terry Koch-Bostic**, a professional genealogist, who also serves on the board of the National Genealogical Society, is the APG-NY Chapter Representative, and is also on the NYG&B’s Education Committee. Locating, then distinguishing, New Yorkers with similar names is daunting, especially in decennial gaps. Using New York’s censuses and city directories can span the gaps. This program will be presented on **Wed., 15 May, 5:30 p.m., at The New York Public Library**, Stephen A Schwarzman Building, Fifth Ave. between 40th and 42nd Sts.
- **“New York City Family History Research: An Afternoon of Learning in Memory of Steven Siegel”** will be presented by NYG&B in partnership with the Jewish Genealogical Society, Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, and the Jewish Historical Society of New York. The program will take place **Sun., 19 May, from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16th St., NYC**. There will be three lectures and a panel discussion. Cost: \$15 for members of a sponsoring organization, \$20 for nonmembers. If you have questions e-mail program@jgsny.org. To register, go to www.jgsny.org.
- **New York State Family History Conference**, cosponsored by NYG&B and the Central New York Genealogical Society, along with findmypast.com, Mocavo, National Genealogical Society, New York Public Library, Office of Cultural Education/ New York State Education Department, and William G. Pomeroy Foundation, will take place 20-21 Sept. and will include 20 lectures in two parallel tracks, two lunches and a dinner, all with excellent speakers, plus exhibits by vendors and societies. For complete details, visit www.NYSFHC.org.

Westchester County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 518, White Plains, NY 10601, presents speakers on genealogical subjects on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

(Premeeting networking starts at 9:30 a.m.) Meetings are at Aldersgate Memorial United Methodist Church, 600 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. (across from Mercy College on Route 9). A \$3 donation is requested of nonmembers. Visit the society’s website at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs>.

- 8 June, “Kleindeutschland: Researching Your Ancestors in Manhattan’s Little Germany,” presented by Joseph Lieby.

Ancestor Seekers, Mon., 17 June—Sat., 22 June, Salt Lake City Research Week. Visit their Website at www.ancestorseekers.com/slcrtevent.php?id=36 for more information.

Genealogy Cruises

The 10th Annual Legacy Genealogy Cruise, to be held 22 Sept. through 7 Oct. 2013 aboard Celebrity Cruise Line’s *Millennium*, starts in San Diego, Cal.; stops at Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta, Mexico; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; and Puntarenas, Costa Rica; then transits the Panama Canal; stops at Colon, Panama, and Cartagena, Columbia, and ends in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Featured speakers include Megan Smolenyak, Karen Clifford, Geoff Rasmussen, Randy Seaver, Steve Salisbury, Dave Berdan, Ken McGinnis, and Luc Comeau. For additional information, visit Legacy’s Website at www.legacyfamilytree.com/Cruiseinfo_2013.asp.

9th Annual Wholly Genes Genealogy Conference and Cruise aboard the *Grandeur of the Seas*, owned and operated by Royal Caribbean, will take place Thurs., 17 Oct. to Fri., 25 Oct. 2013. The ship will sail from Baltimore, Md.; and will visit Portland and Bar Harbor, Me.; St. John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and then return to Baltimore. Approximately 17 hours of genealogy and technology lectures are planned, and it is worth noting that none of the lectures will overlap. While Wholly Genes produces *The Master Genealogist* and workshops on its use will be available, the 17 hours of genealogy and technology lectures are entirely software neutral.

Speakers include David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FIGRS, FUGA, Chief Genealogical Officer for Family Search; Donn Devine, CG, a professional genealogist and attorney; Judy G. Russell, CG, CGL, a professional genealogist, attorney, and author of *The Legal Genealogist* blog; Rick Sayre, MA, CG, a professional researcher, lecturer, and author; Pam Boyer Sayre, CG, CGL, a professional

researcher, lecturer, and writer; and Craig Scott, MA, CG, certified genealogist and publisher.

More information will be found at <http://www.whollygenes.com/Merchant2/merchant.mvc?screen=CRUISE>.

Australian-based genealogy venture Unlock the Past (www.unlockthepast.com.au) has outlined prospective plans for family history cruises in 2014 and 2015. The 2014 cruise will be a 9-day round trip from Sydney and back again, taking in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart. Of greater interest, perhaps, on this side of the globe is the proposed 2015 cruise. No firm itinerary has been confirmed as yet, but the intention is to try to organize a two-week cruise from the U.K. to the Baltic.

**Deadline for next newsletter
15 September 2013**

NARA ANNOUNCEMENT

NARA has announced that the National Archives Online Public Access (OPA) system will be down for maintenance from 10 May to 25 May 2013. NARA is in the process of rolling out a new version of OPA that will bring the catalog up to date. After the updated system is rolled out, the catalog will be updated on a weekly basis.

You may wish to use the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) for your research during this downtime. Descriptions or catalog records will be available in ARC, although digital images in ARC will be unavailable for this period. OPA will be available again after 25 May.

If you have any questions, visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/> <http://www.archives.gov/research/search/>