



Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The summer is now over and went by too fast. I hope that it was a prosperous and restful summer for each of you and that you completed all of the research that you had hoped to do. If you had some exciting finds, it would be great if you wrote a small article and sent it to our newsletter editor Dorothy Shillinglaw so that it could be shared with all.

I thank all of you who contributed to the 1940 Federal Census indexing project. It is now complete and the index of the census, along with the census itself, is available on FamilySearch.org, which will aid you in your search for your ancestors. Eighteen thousand names were indexed by MGS members.

Your board of directors, along with the Darien Library staff, is working to make genealogy research successful for everyone in the Darien area. Learn how and where to do your genealogy research by going to our Website at mgs.darien.org. There you will find out how to contact our consultant and get started on learning about your ancestors.

Also on the Website is a Members Page. Our Webmaster is looking for more inputs from society members to share with visitors to our Web-

site. This may even help you reach a relative who is also doing some research.

You will also find a schedule of the programs that we will be presenting to the public this 2012/2013 season. The first one, on the 6th of October 2012, will be on the 1940 Census given by Toni McKeen. It will be followed on the 10th of November by "How to Search Probate Records" by our own Virginia Banerjee.

Much of my summer has been spent, along with my wife, on an organization project of all of the documents and pictures that we have been accumulating—finding a good way to file these so we can locate them again quickly. Identifying who and what is in them is a challenge. We will share our solutions with all of you when we get a little closer to finding the way that we think works best.

It is my hope that each of you will enjoy the thrill of connecting to your past family members, and want to help. I am looking forward to seeing you on 6 October 2012 at the 1940 Census presentation.

Happy hunting!

Lloyd R. Sturges Jr.



MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**2012-2013
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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 (6 October meeting in Conference Room on the mezzanine, above the 2nd floor). COME, AND BRING A FRIEND.

6 OCTOBER 2012: 1940 CENSUS will be presented by **TONI McKEEN**. The presentation includes a review of the new, important data included in the recently released 1940 Federal Census, including who answered the questionnaire, and how to find the people missed the first time around. There will also be an overview of the data contained in the Steve Morse Website (<http://stevemorse.org/>) and how to use it in researching particularly difficult cases.

Tony has been doing genealogy research on her own extensive Italian family and her husband's Irish family for the last 28 years. For the past eight years she has also been teaching several levels of genealogy in her hometown of Ridgefield, Conn. And has been a popular lecturer at various genealogy societies in the New York, Connecticut, Boston, and Long Island areas.

10 NOVEMBER 2012: PROBATE RECORDS will be presented by **VIRGINIA BANERJEE**. Making maximum use of the wonders that may be buried in a probate file means *mining* it for every scrap of information. This program will focus on these rich files that may contain gems available nowhere else.

Virginia Banerjee is an experienced family historian whose interest in genealogy began when she was a teenager but became more focused over the past 40 years. She has published articles, taught and lectured widely, and is a director of the Middlesex Genealogical Society and of a family association of an old Connecticut family. During many field trips, she has sought to document ancestry on both sides of her family. She completed research and private publication of a book concerning Indian history, her late husband's Indian family genealogy and memoirs of their life in India in the early 1950s.

26 JANUARY 2013: MILITARY RECORDS RESEARCH will be presented by **TONY LAURIANO**. The presentation will provide a step-by-step approach to procuring military records, including draft registration cards, separation papers, certification of military service, serial number index, medal replacements and cold war certificates of recognition, and civil war enrollments and pension files.

Tony has been a genealogy instructor for five years and has published a number of articles in the Italian Genealogical Group

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

USING WORLDCAT TO FIND GENEALOGY BOOKS

by Richard W. Eastman

WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and services. It is an online library catalog that lets you look up items in libraries around the world. The items available include books, electronic documents, journals, microform, and audio and video recordings.

Best of all, WorldCat is available to everyone free of charge. WorldCat libraries provide access to their catalogs on the Web, where most people start their search for information. By using the WorldCat.org catalog, you can search the collections of libraries in your community and thousands more around the world.

Please keep in mind that these are catalogs of available books, not the text of the books. WorldCat is useful in at least three situations:

1. You know which item you want, but you don't know which libraries have it.
2. You want to know what items exist on a particular subject (or by a particular author).
3. You need more information about an item (for instance, to get information for a proper citation in your bibliography).

WorldCat identifies the book's title, author, publisher, and more and then shows the participating libraries where the book is available.

In addition to searching distant libraries, WorldCat also will let you search for books available at your local library, assuming that the library participates in WorldCat.

Many genealogy libraries have their catalogs available in WorldCat, including:

- the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana;
- the Clayton Library, Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas;
- the Newberry Library in Chicago;
- the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, Massachusetts;
- the Albany Regional Family History Society

- Inc. in Albany, Western Australia;
- the Australind Family History Society Inc. Library in Australind, Western Australia;
- the Genealogy and History Room in Shelbyville, Indiana;
- the Caribbean Genealogy Library in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands;
- the Carnegie Genealogy and Local History Library in Corydon, Indiana;
- the Harrison County Genealogy Library in Bethany, Missouri;

...and dozens more local genealogy libraries. The above list is a sample extracted from the "Find a Library" link on WorldCat.

You can use WorldCat Mobile to search from your handheld device. WorldCat Mobile is not a separate application. Instead, it runs in most any handheld device's web browser and is designed to display information on a small screen. It works well with iPhone, Android, and Blackberry devices. There is no software to download and install; simply point your handheld device's web browser to <http://www.worldcat.org/m/> and use it immediately.

Of course, I always start by searching for genealogy books of interest. However, anyone can also search for popular books, music CDs, downloadable audiobooks, and even videos. You may also find occasional article citations with links to their full text; authoritative research materials, such as documents and photos of local or historic significance; and digital versions of rare items that aren't available to the public. In addition, WorldCat libraries' resources are available in many languages.

Obtaining books from remote libraries will vary from one library to another. As stated on the WorldCat web site, "It depends on whether you have an active membership with a library that owns the item, and whether that library's Web site permits remote checkout of an item. WorldCat.org lets you find an item of interest and then locate a library near you that owns it. Usually you will link directly to the item record on the library's Website. The actions available to you on that page will vary from one library to another. You may be able to join a waiting list,

reserve the item, check it out, or even have it shipped or delivered.”

If the book or other item is not available to you through WorldCat, I'd suggest you print out the information and then take it to your local library. Libraries often can obtain books via Interlibrary Loan, even when loans are not available to individuals.

Some libraries may also offer specialized reference databases on their Websites to the library's members, but such access usually is not available to nonmembers. In most cases, you will have to visit a local, participating library to use its online resources. Access policies will vary from one database to another.

Finding books or other items on WorldCat can be very simple: enter the book title and click on **SEARCH EVERYTHING**.

In fact, you don't even need a user name or password to search WorldCat. However, there are advantages to creating an optional account that I will describe shortly.

Of course the more specific the search, the better the results. I searched for EASTMAN GENEALOGY.

The searches work in much the same manner as Google: the first few “hits” are the most popular of the entries in the WorldCat database that match the search terms you specified.

I was most interested in the *Genealogy of the Harvey Eastman (1777-1829) branch of the Eastman family*; it turned up as #4 on the list. I clicked on the title and learned that four participating libraries were shown as having the book available. Unfortunately, none of them is close to me. In fact, WorldCat even displays the distance from my location to each library, based upon my ZIP Code. In my case, the closest library is 309 miles away. I will need to obtain the book remotely.

I also noticed it is a very thin booklet at 29 pages.

One library, the Allen County Public Library, also shows a link labeled, “Ask a Librarian.” This is a help feature of a library's Website. Not all libraries offer this feature. In most cases, librarians will answer questions about the book but cannot look for specific information inside the book. That remains as your task.

Advanced Search

If Basic Search is not giving you the results you want, or if you are getting too many irrelevant results, you can fine tune your search using WorldCat's Advanced Search. You can click on Advanced Search at any time to see a search screen that asks for keywords, title, author, year of publication, language, and more. You do not

need to fill in all the search items. Simply leave any unknown search item blank.

All the items mentioned so far are available to everyone, even without creating a user account. You can find books, ebooks, CDs, DVDs, and more without ever entering a user name and password. However, creating a free user account and then signing in with that account provides the user with even more functionality. Registered users can provide ratings and even write reviews of the books and other items under the "Reviews" tab.

The reviews allow users to contribute factual notes or a book's table of contents under the "Details" tab. Note that only you can modify or delete your own review, but other users can edit information that has been contributed under Details (similar to Wikipedia).

Summation

WorldCat doesn't have everything, but it is the largest available online catalog of books from libraries around the world. As you become more and more experienced with WorldCat, you will find many new resources that perhaps you never knew existed.

WorldCat grows every day, thanks to the efforts of librarians and other information professionals.

A bookmark to WorldCat at <http://www.worldcat.org> belongs in your list of genealogy search tools.



NEW FEATURE: MEMBER PAGES

By Peter Biggins

Since January 1, 2012, Middlesex Genealogical Society has been offering members a free page on its Website to display information about their families. To see the pages developed to date, go to: <http://mgs.darien.org/members.htm>.

There is no set format. Your page can be as simple as a list of surnames you are researching. Here are some of the things you might consider:

- Surnames of your ancestors;
- Geographical areas from which your ancestors come;
- Your family history;
- Your family tree;
- DNA of descendants of your ancestors;
- A link to your genealogy website;
- Images, such as photographs, paintings, maps, census pages, ship passenger lists; and
- Poems.

One of the advantages of Member Pages is that distant relatives may find you and provide you with new genealogical information. One of our members, John Driscoll, has heard from two relatives who found his story on the Member Pages. John wrote about his experience in the May 2012 issue of the MGS Newsletter.

If you would like a page constructed for your family or have an inquiry about someone else's page, contact MGS Webmaster Peter Biggins at:

pabiggin@optonline.net"

LDS FILMS AND FICHE NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE DARIEN LIBRARY

The Darien Library is now licensed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints to offer public access to LDS films and fiche from all over the world. As a FamilySearch affiliate, Darien Library may require membership and/or a fee to obtain LDS films and fiche. To search the LDS library catalog and order films and fiche through the Darien Library, go to the LDS website at: <https://familysearch.org/locations>.

Contact the library if you have any questions. The Darien Library is located at 1441 Post Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820; telephone 203-669-5236; e-mail askus@darienlibrary.org.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, New York City, 201 Varick St. Programs are free, but space is limited. Register by calling toll-free 866-840-1752, faxing 212-401-1638; or e-mailing newyork.archives@nara.gov.

- **Sat., 27 Oct.**, NARA Staff will present two programs at: **The Genealogy Event** at Metropolitan Pavilion, 18th St. and Ave. of the Americas (aka Sixth Ave.). This is a two-day event with a wide variety of exhibitors, learning opportunities and one-on-one expert sessions—all in one space. Registration and additional information can be found at <http://www.thegenealogyevent.com/>. The two programs are:
 - 10:15 to 10:45 a.m., “Genealogical Records of the National Archives”;
 - 12:30 to 1:00 p.m., “Researching the 1940 Census.”
- **National Archives at NYC Open House** takes place this year during the week of 10 Dec. at our **new location, One Bowling Green**. There will be a series of events throughout the week, including:
 - “Researching the 1940 Census” genealogy workshop, 11 Dec., at noon, in the Learning Center, 3rd floor.
 - “Family Activities”: including Archival Adventures from 1 to 4 p.m. in the Learning Center, 3rd floor.
 - “Gallery Talks”: overview of National Archives originals in New York on the Record Exhibit Gallery at 11 a.m. in the Welcome Center, 3rd floor.
- **Tues., 11 Dec., 12 to 1 p.m.**, “**Researching the 1940 Census.**” in the Learning Center on the 3rd floor. The 1940 Federal Census is the most significant record to be made available to genealogists in a decade. This will be a detailed look at the valuable information it contains, including

demonstrations of a variety of hands-on searches.

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., 18 Oct., 6 p.m. “They Came from Italy.”** Over five million Italians immigrated to the U.S. in the 19th and 20th centuries, with the greatest volume arriving between 1880 and 1920. Marcia Melnyk, a specialist in Italian family history, will share the secrets of researching Italian family history.
- **Thurs., 15 Nov., 6 p.m., “Finding Our Veterans: Military Records of American Veterans”.** Millions of official records of Americans at war have been preserved by the National Archives—from the Revolution to modern times. Many of these records are available online and on microfilm for public use. Learn how to find them.
- **Tues., 4 Dec., “Introduction to Genealogy.”** Researching family history through historical records is an engaging and worthwhile pastime. Many of these records are held at the National Archives.
- **Thurs., 6 Dec. “Reimagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race & Finding Home.”** Prof. Anita Hill speaks on her genealogy research, observations, experience, and insights.

New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, 36 W. 44th Street, 7th fl., New York, NY 10036-8105; telephone 212-755-8532; fax 212-754-4218. The NYG&B’s Education Committee is cosponsoring several programs with the **New York Public Library** at 42nd St. in NYC. These programs are free to the public and registration is usually unnecessary (with the exception of the "Block & Lot" program). They take place at the Stephen Schwarzman Building, South Court Classrooms, New York Public Library, Fifth

Ave. and 42nd St., which is fully wheelchair accessible.

- **“Block & Lot: New York City,”** Sat., 26 Nov., 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Discover how you can use NYPL resources to unlock the history of a building, a block, or an entire borough. In this class you will learn how to use antiquarian maps, fire insurance atlases ("Sanborns"), online property data, books and historic real estate photos to document the history of the city's built environment. Registration is required and is available at <http://www.nypl.org/events/classes/>.
- **Tues., 23 Oct.. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., “Social Networking for Family Historians,”** From its earliest years, government in New York has involved itself in the lives of its residents. Whether it is vital statistics, education, incarceration, military service, court actions, or political activity, an amazing collection of voices of New Yorkers can be heard through the records in the State Archives. This session will provide information on some of the onsite and online resources available for family historians.
- **Tues., 27 Nov., “Trace Your Roots with DNA,** in the NYPL’s 2nd floor Berger Forum. Over the past decade, genetic genealogy has graduated from pioneering research to one more tool in our family history arsenal. But just as the number of us taking DNA tests has grown, so have our genetic options. Come hear one of the co-authors of *Trace Your Roots with DNA* discuss how Y-DNA and mtDNA testing can be used to shed light on the paternal and maternal branches of your family tree, as well as how new (in many respects, revolutionary) autosomal tests can reveal previously unknown facets hidden anywhere in your family's past. Talk delivered in plain English!

Tues., 4 Dec., 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. “Other Places Your Ancestors Might be Hiding: ‘Nongenealogy’ Databases and Internet Resources to Explore.” Through their rich offerings of online census records, passenger lists, naturalization records and other sources, Websites dedicated to genealogical research have led to and increased interest in family history. However, there are databases and Websites that genealogists might not be aware of which contain information that can be of tre-

mendous value to their research. Some are free sites and others are subscription databases that may be available through a local public library system or university.

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, NY (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>.

- **13 Oct.**, “A Fond Look Back at the Ol’ Put” will be presented by Joe Schiavone.
- **10 Nov.**, “Researching Your Jewish Roots” will be presented by Roni Liebowitz
- **8 Dec.**, “The Trans-Atlantic Voyages of Our Ancestors.” will be presented by Kathy Lenerz.
- **12 Jan. 2013**, “The Hart Island Project: Twenty Years Later” will be presented by Melinda Hunt. (For more information on Hart Island, visit the Website at <http://www.correctionhistory.org/html/chronicl/nycdoc/html/hart.html>)
- **9 Feb.**, “Using Ancestry.com in Researching Your Family” will be presented by Toni McKeen.
- **9 Mar.**, “Civil War Research” will be presented by Laura H. Congleton.
- **13 Apr.** “Blogging Your Genealogy” will be presented by Philip Hayes.
- **11 May**, “Finding Your Female Ancestors” will be presented by Tony Lauriano.
- **8 June**, “Kleindeutschland: Researching Your Ancestors in Manhattan’s Little Germany” will be presented by Joseph Lieby

Genealogy Cruises

3rd Unlock the Past History & Genealogy Cruise is a nine-day cruise from Sun., 10 Feb., to Tue., 19 Feb. 2013, aboard Royal Caribbean’s *Voyager of the Seas*—one of the largest and most exciting cruise ships to visit Australia. The *Voyager*, which is 138,000 tons and accommodates up to 3114 passengers, will sail from Sydney, Australia, to Noumea and Fiji, returning to Sydney.

Conference-cruise pricing starts at \$1499 per person, twin share, all accommodation and gourmet meals included. Participants may attend up to 50 presentations for a selection of over 80 genealogical topics. One-on-one conferences with the experts are possible. Unlock the Past’s parent company is Gould Genealogy, P.O. Box 675, Modbury, SA 5092, Australia. They can also be reached by phone at (08) 8395 7476, (08) 8263 2455, and via e-mail at inquiries@unlockthepast.com.au.

Legacy Family Tree 2013 Genealogy Cruise, 22 Sept. 2013 - 7 Oct. 2013 (15 days), aboard Celebrity Cruise Line’s Millennium Ship *Vision of the Seas* as it sails from San Diego, Cal.; stopping at Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta in Mexico; Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala; Puntarenas, Costa Rica; then transiting the Panama Canal from west to east; and stopping at Colon, Panama; Cartagena, Columbia; and finally reaching Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Class descriptions and speakers are to be announced. Trekalot, the Legacy Cruise Travel Agency, is handling all of the details. Contact information for Trekalot: Call 888-505-6997 or send an e-mail to info@trekalot.com

MYHERITAGE INTRODUCES RECORD MATCHING

PROVO, Utah & LONDON & TEL AVIV, Israel – September 19, 2012: MyHeritage (<http://www.myheritage.com/>), the world’s largest family network, today announced the release of Record Matching, an innovative new technology set to change the face of the family history market. Record Matching will help millions of families learn more about their past by automatically discovering relevant historical records and newspaper articles dating back 300 years.

Record Matching is the next generation of family history exploration. It saves time by automating online research for users’ family trees, breaking through “brick walls” for dedicated genealogists, and giving beginners a significant boost with their family tree research. It works by comparing more than one billion profiles in family trees created by MyHeritage users to more than four billion historical records, to find relevant

matches. It's the only service of its kind to automatically research newspaper articles, books and other free text content through semantic analysis, to find articles that can shed light on the actual lives, personalities and achievements of one's ancestors.

MGS PROGRAMS

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magazine. He is a regular lecturer on genealogical subjects throughout the tri-state area including Nanuet (NY) High School; New City (NY) Library, Valley Cottage (NY) Library, Clarkstown Central School District, New City, NY; The Valley Hospital, PrimeTime Program, Ridgewood, NJ; Chilton Memorial Hospital, Community Outreach New Vitality Program, Pompton Plains, NJ; Westchester Italian Cultural Center, Tuckahoe, NY; POINTERS Italian-American Club, Elmwood Park, NJ; and South Orangetown Central School District, Continuing Education, Orangeburg, NY.

16 MARCH 2013: CRUISING LONG ISLAND SOUND—TRACING ITS EARLY FAMILIES WITH A REGIONAL VIEW will be presented by **FRED HART**. The program will be fully illustrated, including maps, examples of migrations within the region, etc.

Fred is a Norwalk native and graduate of Norwalk High School, Dartmouth College, and Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering, and is now retired from an engineering management career at Northeast Utilities. Both of his parents grew up in Rowayton—one on the Norwalk side and the other in Darien. In addition to being a charter member of the Middlesex Genealogical Society, he is also a member of Connecticut Ancestry Society, the Connecticut Professional Genealogists Council, and several other historical and genealogical organizations. Fred has been a Certified Genealogist since 1993 and was elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists in 2007.

18 MAY 2013: BLOGGING YOUR GENEALOGY will be presented by **PHIL HAYES**.

Deadline for next newsletter 30 October 2012