



# Newsletter of The Middlesex Genealogical Society

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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

October 2015

## MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### 2014-2015 OFFICERS

Peter Biggins  
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Steven Anderson	Past President
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Charles Scribner	Librarian
John Driscoll	Newsletter Editor
Dorothy Shillinglaw	Past 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 \$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>

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members and friends:

It is with great pleasure that I can announce that Peter Biggins has agreed to serve as President of your Society. Peter is a serious genealogist, a long-standing member of Middlesex Genealogical Society, a Board member, our webmaster, and last but not least our resident genealogical DNA testing expert. As you can see he brings an excellent set of skills and experience to our Society. Peter will assume the remainder of my term (until November) and will serve the next term as well.

John Driscoll has agreed to become the new editor of our newsletter. He succeeds Dorothy Shillinglaw who has served tirelessly in the job of editor for almost 20 years.

We all have benefitted from her dedication and

efforts to regularly produce such a professional product. I encourage everyone to join us on Saturday, 3 October, for the first round table at 1 P.M., to be followed by our speaker Janeen Bjork at 2 P.M. who will give us a presentation on Historical Newspapers. We will hold our sessions in the Community Room on the first floor of the Darien Library.

### Thanks Dorothy

A special "Thank you" is due to Dorothy Shillinglaw, the long-time editor of the Middlesex Genealogical Society's newsletter. She has decided to take a well deserved time-off from the task that she has diligently performed for the last nineteen years.

Born in the Bronx and educated at the Academy of Mount St. Ursula and Hunter College, Dorothy has worn many hats. She worked for Jefferson Chemical Company until it moved to Texas. She was then employed by American Machine & Foundry Company in their Public Relations Department. After taking a leave to raise a family, Dorothy resumed work with a half job at a law firm and then joined the National Headquarters of Junior Achievement in Stamford, where she eventually became Managing Editor of their program materials. After Junior Achievement moved its National Headquarters to Colorado, she was employed by Soundprints Corp. in Norwalk as Editor of their children's books.

As a new member, Dorothy found the newsletter to be in need of rigorous copy editing and offered assistance. In 1996, the then editor of the MGS newsletter asked if she would help out with some typing. She agreed to do so and was able to standardize the newsletter by producing it electronically for the first time. She took over the job of editor soon thereafter and has improved the newsletter greatly over the years. So enjoy your well earned respite Dorothy, and thanks from all of your fellow members.

## UPCOMING MGS MEETINGS

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**October 3, 2015, 1:00 pm.**

Come Talk About Your Work. This is an informal one hour discussion session/round table where all are invited to participate. Think of the most important question or issue that you have about your genealogy. It may be a brick wall with one of your ancestors that you are facing, a question of wanting to know where to find a particular resource, or a success that you are dying to share with the rest of us. The goal is to share your experiences and to help your fellow genealogists and hopefully gain new insights.

**October 3, 2015, 2:00 pm.** "Historical Newspapers - Read About Your Ancestors." Presented by Janeen Bjork.

Janeen will teach you what is available through the major collections of digitized newspapers that can be accessed online. Newspaper articles reveal information about people that may not appear in other public records. This information may include details about births, marriages,



social events, sporting events, church activities and affiliations, occupations, legal notices, land sales, taxation, military service, businesses, tragedies, heroism, letters to the editor, and advertisements. You will learn strategies for finding newspaper items about your ancestors. These include not only looking in newspapers where and when they lived, but also in places hundreds of miles from where they were and decades after.

Janeen teaches genealogy and computer classes at

*continued on Pg. 4*

## 100 Years ago in 1915, Independence Day Was Americanization Day

This article is reprinted from The New England Historical Society [www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com).

“What is Americanization?” Future Supreme Court Justice Lewis Brandeis posed the question to a packed audience at Faneuil Hall in Boston marking the country’s first Americanization Day on July 4, 1915.

The attempt to crowd out Independence Day with Americanization Day was launched in 1915



in response to nearly two decades of increasing immigration. The influx of immigrants, largely from southern and eastern Europe, had been a sore spot for many Americans.

Laborers perceived that wages were being held down by the influx of non-Americans. Businesses feared immigrants might help increase acceptance of socialism, and they worried that

factory production was suffering because immigrant workers were not fluent in English.

This stew of issues and ideas was manifesting itself in a number of ways. In 1894, a group of Harvard graduates formed the Immigration Restriction League. This group lobbied for restrictions on immigrants in terms of raw numbers, and in terms of who could enter the country. It wanted literacy tests as a condition of admission.

The Boston-based group blamed “Jews, Jesuits, and Steamships” for thwarting its efforts to slow immigration.

Later, the North American Civic League for Immigrants was organized as an outgrowth of the Young Men’s Christian Association in 1907 and it rapidly expanded outside New England to New York and other growing industrial cities. It morphed into the Committee for Immigrants in America, which found support from business leaders.

Rather than focusing on limiting immigration, the CIA focused its efforts on training and educating immigrants and assimilating them. In 1912, the issues of immigrant assimilation got a boost from the Bread and Roses Strike in Lawrence, Mass.

The textile mills reduced salaries, driving the largely immigrant workforce into the welcoming arms of the labor movement while highlighting the plight of immigrant workers.

Against this backdrop, the CIA in 1915 decided it needed to establish a campaign to unify new and old Americans, and they chose the July 4 celebrations as a venue. Long a raucous celebration, the Americanization Day movement set about to reshape the day’s image around themes of immigrants embracing American culture.

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## Upcoming MGS Meetings

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the Greenwich Senior Center, Greenwich Adult & Continuing Education, Norwalk Community College's Lifetime Learning Institute, and the Connecticut Ancestry Society. To learn more about her schedule, see: [Janeen's List](#).

<http://janeenslist.com/>

**November 14, 2015, 2:00 pm.**

"Researching Your German Ancestors." Presented by Joseph Lieby.

**January 23, 2016, 2:00 pm.** "Intermediate Genealogy." Presented by Tony Lauriano.

**March 12, 2016, 2:00 pm.** "Using Facebook for Genealogy." Presented by Marian Wood.

**May 14, 2016, 2:00 pm.** "Finding Italian Records - Italian Genealogy." Presented by

## 100 Years Ago in 1915

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Across the country, immigrants and nonimmigrants gathered to sing patriotic songs, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and listen to speeches.

In Boston, it was Brandeis who was called on for the keynote speech, explaining what Americanization Day meant. Immigrants, Brandeis insisted, needed more than just freedom afforded Americans, but also access to education, good wages and leisure time.

He also took the opportunity to argue for immigrants' right to retain some of their cultural independence from their home countries, a nod to his personal affection and support for Zionism.

Americanization Day did not take hold, though the sponsoring organizations and industrialists carried on their work with English classes and citizenship classes designed to make immigrants more Americanized. The debate over immigra-

tion, meanwhile, took new shapes, both peaceful and not peaceful.

## Research Tips

**Families** in the early twentieth century and before. tended to live very close to each other, sometimes in the same buildings. Whenever you find a new family member, like an uncle of a grandparent, go back to your saved directories, censuses and other listings and browse the pages on each side of the new found relative for other relatives you may have overlooked. When you find that long-lost relative, he or she may be living next door to his/her brother, sister, cousin or parents. Look also for maiden names; you may find the family of an elusive wife.

**If** you are like me, you like to update your tree program with recent photos of your grandnieces and grand-nephews No longer do you have to repeatedly ask for pictures of growing children to put in your tree program. They are being posted on a daily basis. Use Facebook to get info and photos of family members.

**When** adding "facts" to your file, keep a record of everything as recorded. I'm sure you know that grandpa was born on a certain date, but add things like 1897-1898 United States separately from 1897-1898 New York. For those relatives you *don't* know much about, it might help determine where and when. For those you *do* know about it will show consistency.

## Upcoming Regional Events

### Connecticut

#### October 2-3, 2015 - New Britain, CT

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast is holding their 2015 Genealogy Conference on October 2 and 3 at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT.

The conference provides an opportunity to learn strategies for tracing your Polish-American and Eastern European roots. The speakers are well known in Polish genealogy circles and their discussions will enable attendees to fill in the missing pieces of their family history. All speakers, who are highly respected with excellent credentials within the genealogy community, have extensive experience in their respective fields and have been featured at numerous regional, national and international conferences.

Featured speakers will be Tadeusz Piłat, John Righetti, Kris Rzepczynski, Lisa Alzo, Dr. Mięczyński B. Biskupski, Matthew Bielawa and Jonathan Shea.

Always a favorite at our conference is the two-part seminar "Introduction to Polish Research" on Friday night. This lecture is designed for both beginners and intermediate Polish genealogy researchers.

For more information and a description of the speakers topics, please consult our website at <http://www.pgscne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx> where registration materials are available. You can also contact Diane Szepanski, Conference Chair, at [Sze-panski3@cox.net](mailto:Szepanski3@cox.net).

#### October 3, 2015 - Danbury CT

Connecticut Ancestry Society and Danbury Library present a Genealogy Roundtable. Join your fellow genealogists in sharing and discussing your brick walls and breakthroughs, on Sat. Oct. 3, 2015, 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, at Danbury Library, 170 Main St., Danbury. Free and open to the public. <http://www.connecticutancestry.org>

#### October 18, 2015 Fairfield Connecticut

The Gaelic American Club's Fréamh Éireann Genealogy and Language groups are proud to host the 13<sup>th</sup> lecture in a series on Irish History on October 18, 2015 from 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the Fairfield Gaelic American Club, 74 Beach Rd., Fairfield, CT.

The lecture is entitled "The Men Behind Patrick Pearse and 1916" presented by Dr. John Roney, Professor of History, Sacred Heart University.

Patrick Pearse is generally recognized as one of the most important leaders of the Uprising of 1916 that eventually led to Irish freedom.

In 1915 he published a tract called *Ghosts* that urged separation from Great Britain. He claimed: "The conception of an Irish nation has been developed in modern times chiefly by four great minds. .... Theobald Wolfe Tone, Thomas Davis, James Fintan Lalor, and John Mitchell."

This lecture will investigate what exactly was proclaimed by earlier calls for separation that led Pearse and others to come to the point of open rebellion in 1916.

Help us plan seating and refreshments by registering in advance. Register on-line at: [mar-](http://mar-)

[royo@optonline.net](mailto:royo@optonline.net) , subject: "Irish History" and mail your check for \$5.00, payable to "Feile, Inc." to: Mary Adams-Arroyo, 221 McGrath Court, Stratford, CT 06615. Please provide name, address, phone and email. For more information, call Mary at [\(203\) 377-2346](tel:2033772346).

This event is sponsored by Feile, Inc.

## Massachusetts

**November 7, 2015 at the Marlborough Country Club, 200 Concord Rd., Marlborough, MA, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

Join us as Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. (MSOG) celebrates its 40th anniversary with 3 great speakers, vendors, exhibitors, door prizes and more.

**Scott Andrew Bartley** on *How to Organize and Preserve Your Genealogical Papers* **Barbara Mathews, FASG, CG** on *Getting All Sherlock: Using Your Sources as Evidence* and **Thomas MacEntee** via live webinar on *7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists*

Our grand raffle prize is a set of 3 DNA kits, one each from AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA and 23andMe, a \$300+ value. Tickets are \$5 each/5 for \$20, available at the event.

The program includes a buffet lunch, coffee breaks and dessert. Parking is free and the Marlborough Country Club is handicap accessible.

Member registration is \$35; non members is \$70. Consider joining for \$25 and saving some money. Go to <http://www.msoginc.org>.

## New York

**October 24, 2015 - Buffalo, New York**

Western New York Genealogical Society *presents* ."Genealogical Research at the Genesee

County History Department: Opportunities and Resources with County Historian Michael J. Eula, Ph.D., J.D." *Time:* 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. *Location:* Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, Central Library, Central Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

Free to attend. Public Welcome.

Join us as Dr. Michael J. Eula, the Genesee County Historian, presents "Genealogical Research at the Genesee County History Department: Opportunities and Resources."

The Genesee County History Department has a number of genealogical resources available to the general public. These resources include collections on specific families, New York State Censuses for various years, cemetery records, military records, obituary records, and church records. In this talk, Dr. Eula will discuss the specifics regarding what is available and how County staff can be of service. He will also discuss what is available not only for in-person research, but also what is available online via the History Department website.

Visit the [Society's website \(http://wnygs.org\)](http://wnygs.org) or WNYGS Facebook Group for the most up-to-date information on this and other upcoming events.

## New Jersey

**Oct 6th, 2015 - Whippany, NJ**

The Morris Area Genealogy Society (MAGS) invites the public to a free presentation, **Researching Revolutionary War Soldiers**, to be held Tuesday, October 6th 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the large public meeting room at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Avenue in Whippany. Did my ancestor serve in the American Revolution? How do I find him? What did he do in the war? The Revolutionary War lasted for eight long years, from 1775 until 1783. Bob Mayers will answer these questions by exploring existing public

and military records of soldiers who served in the Revolutionary War. Learn how to locate your soldier in the National Archives, lineage societies, state and local records and dedicated collections; and then how to follow your soldier's adventures during the Revolutionary War. See [www.revolutionarydetective.com](http://www.revolutionarydetective.com) for more.

Bob Mayers is a dedicated and proficient genealogist. He is an active member of ten historical and genealogical societies and a frequent speaker and contributor to publications. His new book *The Forgotten Revolution* depicts battlefields, encampments and sites of many critical events of the American Revolution that have been lost or neglected by history.

Come at 6:30 p.m. for refreshments and to look through the discarded genealogy materials that are free to new owners. More information can be found on the MAGS website, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/).

The Morris Area Genealogy Society is a non-profit organization and meets the first Tuesday of each month during the months of September thru May. In case of inclement weather, please check the MAGS website, [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/), or call the library at (973) 285-6930.

### **VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

7:00 PM Program  
6:30 pm refreshments  
Morris County Library  
30 East Hanover Ave  
Whippany, NJ

**for inclement weather** call library or check website <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~njmags/Meetings/Schedule.htm>

**October 24, 2015 - Somerset, NJ** Nashi Predky - Our Ancestors, Ukrainian Family History Group - Second Annual All-Day Conference.

Expert speakers Justin Houser, Kirill Chash-

chin, Shelly Morehead, Gail Hahn, and Michael Andrec will present talks on a variety of topics related to Ukrainian and Eastern European genealogy from the introductory to the advanced. Topics will cover a wide range of time and geography, including deportations of Lemkos from Poland, the US Federal Census, understanding DNA testing, and (for the first time) an in-depth presentation on researching Central and Eastern Ukrainian ancestors!

TIME: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

PLACE: Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873

Registration information available here: <https://www.ukrhec.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=22>

### **How To Find Cemetery Records**

**Reprinted from [recordsproject.com](http://recordsproject.com)**

To find any type of records in Connecticut, including cemetery records, there is a website that makes it really easy. When you visit [www.recordsproject.com](http://www.recordsproject.com), you have access to many lists of resources and locations for cemeteries all across the state. There are a few things to remember when you are looking for this type of information. For one thing, even though Connecticut is a small state, there are still a lot of cemeteries, especially in the rural areas. It will really help you if you have an area to start searching, and you can begin your search in that particular county. One of the first things you should do to find Connecticut cemetery records, if you know where the person in question was buried, is to start at that cemetery. You can also get in touch with the state cemetery association, which not only is responsible for the upkeep of state cemeteries, but also for keeping records of all of the cemeteries in the state, and this is a really great way to get up-to-date information. If you are looking for infor-

mation about military veterans, remember that Connecticut is one of the few states that does not have a military burial site.\*

Another option is to contact the state funeral directors association in Wethersfield, which has been instrumental in helping funeral directors keep more accurate records. You can order these records, which will contain a lot of the information you are looking for. Once you get this information, it is going to help you on your search for even more infor-

#### Early Reminder

Dues are due on January 1, 2016

Dues are \$25 Individual or \$30 Couple/Family

Please go to our website for details.

Please consider making an extra donation to help with the expense of our presentations.

mation about your family ancestry, and you will be able to complete your family tree in no time.

Starting your research for your family tree does not have to be difficult. You just have to know how to get started, and where to start looking. Cemetery records are an ideal start, and they are easy to find. You may have to pay a small fee, but if you really want the information, it is worth it.

\* *Federal , there are State cemeteries.*

#### Send in Your Stories

All genealogists are detectives. Most of us have followed leads that ended with a discovery. Share your sleuthing efforts with the other members of the MGS. Send in a story of how you found a long lost relative, or how you broke through a brick wall.... Or didn't yet. Maybe someone has had a similar experience and can help. Send in your research tips.

DARIEN LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 3 RD  
MEETING

Middlesex Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1111  
Darien, CT 06820-1111