



Vol. XL, No. 3

Darien, Fairfield County, CT

September, 2024

President's Message

What did Sara do on her summer vacation? This prompt is given by elementary school teachers at the beginning of the school year. I've been thinking a lot about elementary school. My daughter, Maggie, has chosen this path for her career. I've visited her several times over the summer, including a visit to help her set up her classrooms.

One trip had me driving cross country. I drove from Chicago to Texas along the famous Route 66. My path had me stopping in the Land of Lincoln. First his home and second his tomb.

I keep my family tree in my pocket with my locations mappable at the touch of a button. I opened my Ancestry App and clicked the map function. Then I zoomed in on Springfield, Illinois. I have 53 records in this location. Census, Birth record, Death record, and address books.

I was able to spend a morning driving around Springfield, Illinois finding street addresses spanning from 1896 through 1936. So much time has passed from that first address to today. Nothing stays the same. So, for them it may have been a small country town, today it's a neighborhood in transition. What tools do you use to learn about an area where your family lived? Do you use the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps on Loc.gov? You can overlay the fire map with a modern map or use your Ancestry Tree map feature to compare a fire map area to the addresses you have marked in your tree.

Town Histories: what comes up when you google the town name? Springfield has several sites. The town of Springfield history, state historic preservation, the newspaper has an images section. Wikipedia.org says the town was "settled by European-Americans in the late 1810s, around the time Illinois became a state." With this knowledge and my family tree I see my first residents to the state of Illinois came in the early 1830s.

For this being a young state when my relatives arrived, what was the draw? A quick google search returned 1818 for the founding of the state, with the northwest territory designation coming first, that the entire state is accessible by water routes to the Gulf of Mexico and to the Atlantic through the Great Lakes. Settlers would have come for the agriculture and been able to travel from Ohio by river.

Then a trip to a cemetery, always a spot for the genealogist. Look for the cemetery office to get a map and ask questions about your ancestors. I showed up to the Oak Ridge Cemetery. For you history buffs, yes, this is where President Abraham Lincoln was laid to rest, twice! Down the back side of the hill is where my family members were laid to rest.

I had known they were buried in Springfield because I put the records in the tree. What I didn't do was to look up the cemetery to see if anyone else from history was also there. Do you have a famous person buried near your relatives?

Driving down Route 66 watching the towns roll past. I'll save some more stops on my travel for another month.

This year we will meet 5 times. Our first meeting is in Oct. My plan for this year is to look carefully at records to gain as much information for our timelines as possible. DNA is also an area I would like to focus on. We will start with the basics and move into more advanced skills.

Sara

**MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2024
OFFICERS &
BOARD MEMBERS**

Sara Zagrodzky	President & Programs Director
Open	Vice President
John Driscoll	Treasurer & Newsletter Ed.
Peter Biggins	Secretary & Webmaster
Pamela Shea	Past President
Robert E. "Pete" Kenyon	Past VP Programs
Leonard Christie	Past VP Programs
Joan Killian Gallagher	Member at Large

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 publishes a quarterly newsletter (ISSN 1936-3494) and co-sponsors, with Darien Library, at least four meetings with a program and speaker during the year. Annual membership dues vary from \$25 for 1 yr. or \$45 for 2 yrs. per individual and \$30 for 1 yr. or \$55 for 2 yrs. per couple or family. Original notices of genealogical interest and queries are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Middlesex Genealogical Society
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MGS News

**Save the Dates October 5 and
November 2, 2024**

MGS presentations will be held in the Darien Library Community Room at 2:00 PM

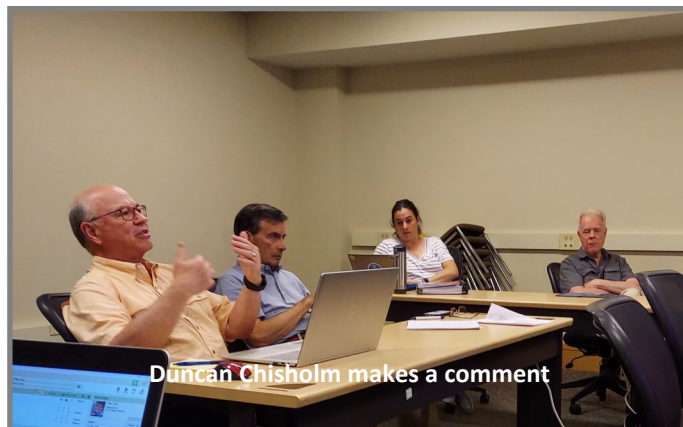
Speakers and subjects to be announced.

Look for an email and check our website:

www.mgsdarienct.org

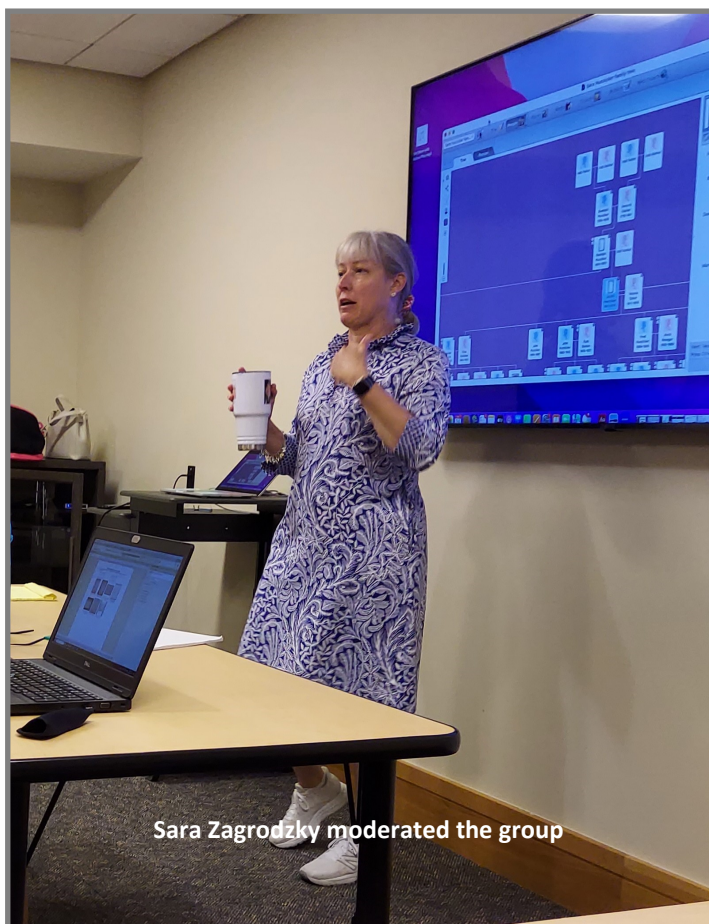
Arrive at 1:00 PM and socialize with your fellow members

Inspired by Mark Olsen's April 29th presentation on Family Tree Maker, MGS hosted a special interest group (SIG) over the summer for users of the Family Tree Maker program. They



cial interest group (SIG) over the summer for users of the Family Tree Maker program. They

met on four Mondays at the Darien Library in the lower-level tech classroom from 6:00pm.-



Sara Zagrodzky moderated the group

7:15pm. Participants brought their laptops with their trees. The sessions were moderated by MGS president Sara Zagrodzky and the group shared their knowledge, problems and experiences with other users.

If you have ideas for future SIGs please email them to mgsvolunteer@gmail.com

2024 New York State Family History Conference

Join the NYG&B and other genealogy experts for New York's largest statewide family history conference:

September 20–21, 2024 (Livestreamed from Syracuse, NY)

September 20–November 1, 2024 (On-Demand Access)

This year's theme is **Connect at the Crossroads** and will feature livestreamed presentations in Syracuse, New York, as well as on-demand sessions to watch at your own pace. Can't join us in person? No problem! All in-person events will be livestreamed and subsequently made available on demand. From the essentials needed for navigating New York research to using maps, newspapers, letters, and journals on your historical journey to understanding immigration and migration patterns, the conference offers a rich array of sessions to help participants hone their skills.

The livestreamed portion of the conference will be held on **Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21, 2024**, at the **Erie Canal Museum in downtown Syracuse** (318 Erie Boulevard East, Syracuse, NY 13202). All the conference programming and sessions will be available to registrants for on-demand viewing through November 1, 2024.

More than **20** of the top voices and experts in the genealogy field to lead sessions and answer your questions, including **Michelle Tucker Chubenko, Skip Duett, Annette Burke Lytle, Jeanette Sheliga, Jane E. Wilcox**, and more.

A total of **34 sessions and events** (13 in person/livestreamed and 21 on demand) all for **less than \$10 a session**.

A rich array of programming—whether it's mastering the basics or refining research to break through brick walls—on a variety of crucial resources like New York records and repositories; methodology; migration and settlement; immigration and immigrant communities; New Yorkers of color and others whose stories have been historically underrepresented; and much more.

Learning opportunities with the wider genealogy and family history community.

Click [here](#) for details



Early American Sources is a valuable resource for researchers interested in the history of the Americas from approximately **1500 to 1900**. Here's what you need to know:

Archives and Research Libraries: The website provides information on archives and research libraries in the United States that house significant collections of early American materials. [If you're looking for primary sources, this is a great place to start.](#)

Digitized Collections: Early American Sources also offers links to digitized collections related to the early United States. [These digital resources provide access to historical documents, images, and other materials online.](#)

Online Databases: If you're seeking both qualitative and quantitative information, the website lists various online databases specializing in early American history. [Some of these databases offer raw statistics, while others provide digitized documents from different institutions.](#)

Published Sources: For printed primary sources related to the colonial and early national histories of the United States, check out their lists of published sources. [Many of these volumes have been digitized and are available either online or in physical form at larger research libraries.](#)

Content Creators: Early American Sources also curates lists of blogs, podcasts, and YouTube channels with early American con-

tent. [These platforms can provide additional insights and perspectives for your research.](#)

Whether you're a seasoned scholar or just starting out, Early American Sources aims to connect researchers with the primary materials they need for historical exploration. Feel free to explore their website and discover the rich history of the Americas!

[For more details, visit the Early American Sources website.](#)

Attached, is a list of printed primary sources related to colonial and early national **Connecticut**, [Click Here](#). Although not exhaustive, this list contains some of the more prominent and voluminous collections of published sources related to the Constitution State. Additional printed collections can be found in historical journals such as the *Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society* and the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. Connecticut's vast colonial print culture is well captured in the bibliographies of Richard L. Bushman, *From Yankee to Puritan: Character and Social Order in Connecticut, 1690 - 1765* (Cambridge, 1967) and Christopher Grasso, *A Speaking Aristocracy: Transforming Public Discourse in Eighteenth-Century Connecticut* (Chapel Hill, 1999).

Finding Published Sources

Published sources are easy enough to come by. Printed volumes of presidents' papers, collections of federal records, and many other document collections can be found in most research libraries. If your local library does not carry something you need, consider an interlibrary loan (ILL).

Many collections of published sources are freely available online, especially those printed in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Consult our [Finding Published Sources](#) page.

The MGS Social was held at Pin-stripes in Norwalk on Wednesday June 19th. Drinks, appetizers and light conversation were the norm. New members, George and Sally Brown were introduced to the group.



Member Recommended Book

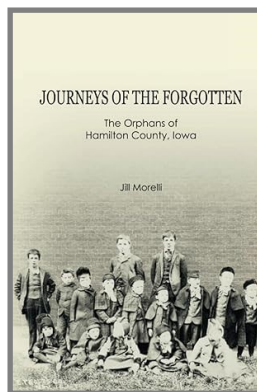
Middlesex Genealogical Society Members' Suggested Books

Please email your book recommendations to
newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com

Journeys of the Forgotten: The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa by Jill Morelli

Forty-six orphans from New York City arrived in Hamilton County, Iowa in the fall of 1890. All were unnamed. The farmers expected all boys to labor in the fields; eleven girls arrived as well. The contrast between New York

City and the rural farm life of Iowa couldn't be more stark.



Contemporaneously labeled as Orphan Train Riders, in the 1800s this process was called out-placement. Thirty-five of the forty-six children have been identified and tied to their foster parents. Twelve have had their New York City parent(s) identified. Biographies of each identified orphan and analysis of the whole completes the work.

Jill Morelli is a certified genealogist, educator, lecturer, and author. She co-founded the Applied Genealogy Institute as well as the Certification Discussion Group, an online class series demystifying the certification process. She conducts lectures nationally and has written articles for publications such as *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Swedish American Genealogist*, and *NCGS Journal*. Currently based in Seattle, Washington, Jill regularly writes about individuals of the past whose stories deserve to be told.

Averting Genealogical Disaster

By John Driscoll

I have been studying my family history for about 23 years. I began using Family Tree Maker version 11 and upgraded with each new version. The FTM program is an excellent way to keep track of all individual events for everyone in the family. The "Person" section has areas to keep facts, media, notes, tasks and web links. Unlike many who upload their trees online, I keep my main file on my computer. I enter each and every fact by typing it in and never merge any found sources. I would rather make typos than let an algorithm enter info. Since I began this on my own, before I knew there was a proper way to cite sources, I have a different way of citing mine. I make a digital copy of every source and keep them in folders labeled Censuses, Births, Deaths, Directories, Family Stories, etc.

Because I enter everything myself and do not have my main tree online, I often make backups on my computer and two portable hard drives.

In April of this year, I happened to notice that a number of "Residence" facts disappeared from my GG grandfather. The facts did *not* disappear from his wife or children who shared those residences and were added from the same sources over the years. In total 39 residence facts disappeared. The only residence left and apparently the last one I entered, appeared on a separate file. This is when the problem occurred.

There were now two separate files of different sizes rather than one. The files seemed to contain all the information if added together, but not "half" each and more of the original file. The two files contained: people 5075 vs. 4313 sources 4314 vs. 2945 and media 10695 vs. 7311 The original file had 5090 people, 4395 sources and 10682 media files. The merged file contained

5090 people, 4395 sources and 14,032 media files. (jpgs pdfs and docs.)

Since I work on one person at a time and had not entered anything for my GG grandfather in a

Residences from Requiem Mass to Undertaker on File 1

Requiem Mass	09 Mar 1883	St. Paul's R.C. Church
Residence	1848	128 Monroe St. New York, NY; S
Residence	31 Jul 1850	City of Brooklyn, 3rd Ward
Residence	Bet. 1851-1852	DeGraw and Van Brunt, Brooklyn
Residence	Bet. 1852-1853	17 Harrison, Brooklyn, NY; (17 H
Residence	01 Jun 1855	Twelfth Ward, Brooklyn, - Brick b
Residence	1856	Huntington St. near Court St., Br
Residence	Bet. 1856-1857	Luqueer near Clinton, Brooklyn, I
Residence	1857	Luqueer St. near Clinton, Brookly
Residence	Bet. 1857-1858	Luqueer near Clinton, Brooklyn, I
Residence	1858	Luqueer St. near Clinton, Brookly
Residence	Bet. 1858-1859	Smith and Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1859	Cor. Smith & Nelson, No. 1, Broo
Residence	Bet. 1859-1860	Smith and Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	Bet. 1860-1861	Smith and Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	11 Jul 1860	2nd Dist 12th Ward Brooklyn City
Residence	1862	Smith near Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1863	Smith corner of Nelson, Brooklyn
Residence	1863	Smith and Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1863	Smith St. 2nd house South of Ne
Residence	1864	Smith and Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1864	Smith near Nelson, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	13 Feb 1865	Corner of Smith and Nelson stree
Residence	1866	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1867	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1869	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1870	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	12 Jul 1870	Kings County Nursery, Flatbush,
Residence	1871	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1873	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1874	Nursery, Flatbush Brooklyn, NY
Residence	01 Jun 1875	331 Smith St. Brooklyn NY, 9th E
Residence	1876	331 Smith, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1877	331 Smith St. Brooklyn, NY
Residence	Bet. 1877-1880	331 Smith
Residence	01 May 1879	331 Smith St. Brooklyn, NY
Residence	05 Jun 1880	354 Smith St. Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1881	354 Smith, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	1883	350 Baltic, Brooklyn, NY
Residence	07 Mar 1883	350 Baltic St. Brooklyn, NY
Undertaker		J H Newman, 181 Court St.

Residences from Requiem Mass to Undertaker on File 2

Requiem Mass	09 Mar 1883	St. Paul's R.C. Church
Residence	28 Aug 1854	City of Brooklyn
Undertaker		J H Newman, 181 Court St.

while, I did not notice this error for months. Compounding this oversight, I continued to back up my files as usual, deleting older back-ups.

At this point I thought I may have lost almost a quarter century of my work. It was like a thousand-piece jigsaw puzzle that was almost completed and then dropped!

After using online Chat with FTM, I was told that very rarely a file may become corrupted and this is probably what happened. He told me to look at the “Change Log” which shows the last 1000 changes made. Since I did not discover this for months, there were more than 1000 changes made since the corruption. It was suggested I merge the two files and he showed me how. When I did this, it seemed to restore the number of people, but it also doubled quite a bit of the media files and notes. Of the media files, many were not found by the FTM program and our resident tech guru, Sara Z. helped me. She explained where these files may be located on my computer or One Note and the program did not know where to look for them. I then realized I did not want to find them but wanted to remove the extras.

A second Chat with FTM informed me there is no program to do this. I had to go through the 14032 media thumbnails and delete the 3350 doubles the program could not find.

I have since noticed there are apparent random doubling of some facts. One person had two immigration and two naturalization facts doubled and nothing else. It has also attached sources to facts that don’t belong. For my GG Grandmother, Catharine Ryan, I have 17 different names supported by 53 sources. The program changed Catharine **Eliza** Ryan’s one source to five. The other four belonged to and were still attached to Catharine **M.** Ryan (see chart, which has been corrected.) Being able to compare names and facts helps determine which is the most correct. FTM allows you to

choose your preferred fact to use in whatever charts or publications you may want to produce.

CATHARINE’S NAME FROM FTM FILE		
FACT	NAME	SOURCES
Name	C.M. Driscoll	1
Name	C.M. Driscoll	2
Name	Cath N. Driscoll	1
Name	Cath Ryan	1
Name	Cath. Driscoll	4
Name	Cath. M. Driscoll	3
Name	Catharine Driscoll	10
Name	Catharine M. Driscoll	6
Name	Catharine M. Ryan	4
Name	Catherine Driscoll	1
Name	Catherine Eliza Ryan	1
Name	Catherine M Driscoll	3
Name	Catherine Ryan	11
Name	Cath’ne Driscoll	1
Name	Kate	1
Name	Mary Driscoll	2
Name	Mother of Thomas	1
Person ID	290	0
Sex	Female	0

How many more changes will I find as I go forward? I figure it is better to have too much information than missing some. Every time I open my program from now on, I will check to see if it has been changed.

On May 11, MGS President, Sara Zagrodzky gave a talk that relates directly to this kind of problem, “*Untangling the Fishing-line Mess of Your Family Tree or a “Do-Over” Process.* With a tree my size, she recommended “weeding the tree.” This is what I will be doing for the foreseeable future. Beginning with myself, I will be reviewing facts and notes, then move to my parents and beyond, making corrections as I go. I will untangle this fishing line one knot at a time.

Thanks to all our members for supporting MGS in 2024

ROBERT ABERCROMBIE - IRENE ADSUAR - ANN MARIE BELLO - PETER BERG - PETER BIGGINS - JANEEN BJORK - GEORGE BROWN - SALLY ANNE BROWN - RALPH BURKE - SUSAN CALLAHAN - MARY JANE CAMERON - WILFRED CAMERON - DUNCAN CHISHOLM - LEONARD CHRISTIE - CHRISTOPHER CLARK - LISA D'ALTON - HELEN D'AVANZO - GEORGIA DOWNEY - SHARYN DRAPALA - JOHN DRISCOLL - JANET DUFFY - RICHARD FARRELL - TERENCE FITZGERALD - TARA FORSCHINO - JOAN KILLIAN GALLAGHER - CAROL HEUBECK - LAURA HUNT - SHEILA JOHNSON - KATHLEEN KENYON - ROBERT (PETE) KENYON - JUDITH LASLO - ROBERT MARTINELLI - SUE MCCLENACHAN - GLORIA MURPHY - VIRGINIA OTIS - JAMES PRIHODA - JOHN RICE - PETER RIORDAN - KATHLEEN RUTHER - AMY SAVAGE - PAMELA SHEA - CAROL WILDER TAMME - KATHLEEN TURNER - BARBARA VAN DEMARK - CAROL WEED - THOMAS WILLIAMS - SARA ZAGRODZKY

*Welcome
New Members
Sally Anne Brown
George W. Brown*

LEAVE THEM SMILING



**NEXT MEETING
OCTOBER 5,
2024**

Middlesex Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 9
Darien, CT 06820