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Darien, Fairfield County, CT

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## President's Message

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” A score is another way of saying 20, so Lincoln was referring to 1776, which was 87 years before 1863. President Lincoln said this to our ancestors. Can you identify where your ancestor was at the time of this speech? Would they have learned of it by being there or from someone who was? The newspaper? Months later when news reached the old country?

Join us at the library in July for a genealogy share. Come to ask questions or share your brick wall or family story. Please email [mgsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:mgsvolunteer@gmail.com) with your weekday availability and preferred time block (morning, afternoon or evening).

### FTM SIG

We hosted Mark from Family Tree Maker on Monday April 29, and we had a large user turnout. Following that evening, we committed to creating an FTM Special Interest Group (SIG). We will meet four Mondays this summer at the Darien Library in the lower level tech classroom from 6-7:15pm. The first meeting was 20 May, and our next meeting is 24 June. We are currently checking our calendars for July and August. Please email [mgsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:mgsvolunteer@gmail.com) with suggested Monday dates.

At the first meeting, we talked about best practices for entering locations into our trees. Sara is a follower of Crista Cowen of Ancestry, who says to identify any geographic location (e.g. a town or village) with the modern name used on today's maps but also include any historical place names as an alternate fact in your tree.

We talked about backing up your tree. This is something that occurs when you close your tree each time, and also when you compact the program. We spent some time talking about cloud computing. Some people are having trouble locating their records with Family Tree Maker when their system has moved files to a new cloud drive. Check where your computer is saving your FTM files.

We talked about using the chat feature when needing assistance. FTM only operates in chat on their website, <https://www.mackiev.com>. If you are on FaceBook, you could follow the Family Tree Maker Users group. Nanci Crisp is the head moderator. The chat is also informative. In addition, you can see the user guide if you didn't get a print copy.

We will be open to any and all levels of questions at our meeting on 24 June from 6-7:15pm.

### Reminder about the Social

We are planning our summer social on Wednesday night 19 June at 6pm. Please RSVP to [mgsvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:mgsvolunteer@gmail.com) if you would be able to attend. Location will be determined the week before.

Sara

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### MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2024 OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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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 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**  
**P.O. Box 9**  
**Darien, Fairfield County, CT 06820**  
**Website: [mgsdarienct.org](http://mgsdarienct.org)**

## MGS News

**Tara Foschino**, Social Director and Communications expert, and past co-president, will be resigning her current board positions as of June. We thank her for all she has done to help MGS in the past and wish her good luck in her endeavors.

**On March 6<sup>th</sup>** our own Joan Killian Gallagher told us about how she acquired The Killian farmhouse in Fermoy, County Longford, Ireland and created The Killian Homeplace Family History Centre. It was the fulfilment of lifelong dream of owning a stone cottage.

The property was originally purchased by her 82-year-old widowed Great, Great Grandmother Anne Furey Killian in 1893 and was up for auction in 1998. Joan was the successful, mystery bidder at a land auction in the town of Longford, Ireland. She purchased the 24 acres of farmland and a derelict cottage where her great grandfather was raised. Two years later she purchased the other half of the Killian Homeplace. The original farm has been made whole again, and it once again encompasses the nearly 50 acres of farmland that the Killian family has worked for the last two hundred years. It took thirteen long years of restoration before the farmhouse was completed.

The Killian Homeplace has been named winner of the 2013 All Ireland Pride of Place in the Diaspora category. In June of 2023, The Irish Family History Foundation announced that newly created TKH Family History Centre had become the official home of Roots Ireland in County Longford. The first anniversary will be celebrated on June 21st with a community open day featured on Nationwide, a prime-time program on RTE, the Irish television network.

**On April 29<sup>th</sup>** We had the return of Mark Olsen, Genealogy Community Ambassador for Family Tree Maker genealogy software. Last June, Mark gave us an orientation on the Family Tree Maker program. This time the presenta-

tion was "Customizing! A very important often unused feature of Family Tree Maker." It was a Zoom event with Mark on Zoom to a live audience at the Darien Library. He explained how to rearrange the "Person" view on the right side of the screen and how to add or create custom facts such as DAR and SAR patriot numbers, names in different languages that have special characters or even adding alternate language keyboards.

Mark also reiterated the advice "Don't be afraid to click!" and went over all the ways to click on FTM to edit, merge, sync, publish, add facts and backgrounds etc.

He went over the newest version of the program, FTM 2024 and presented a door prize to Carol Tamme of a Family Tree Maker program.

**On May 11<sup>th</sup>**, MGS held its final presentation of the season. MGS president Sara Zagrodzky presented "Untangling the Fishing-line Mess of Your Family Tree or a "Do-Over" Process."

During our social hour, Sara shared a research discovery that led her to find two distant cousins, one of whom is an MGS member. Many years ago in a genealogy class, Sara pulled up a Connecticut relative. The husband was well documented with a line she knew. The wife was a different matter. A student in the class recognized the surname as a founding Norwalk Colony family. At the time, Sara wasn't using all her genealogy skills. She laughed and said, "No way could they have met - the distance was too great for foot travel!"

Well, a few weeks of research later, she knew the Norwalk lady did meet and marry a man from Guilford. It's not just a place but also how they could have covered such a great distance in the 1700s. The answer for them was Long Island Sound. Guilford Colony would travel to New Haven Colony to trade. Norwalk Colony would travel to New Haven Colony to trade. A rule of thumb is to always ask Who, What, When and How. Who were they, What did they do, When did they live, How did they get around.

The main topic followed. Many of us may have trees on programs with many mistakes and duplications, from either confusing relatives with the same name but different time periods and adding them to the wrong tree, to merging the wrong people. Sara recommended you might want to start over completely if you have a small amount of people in your tree, less than 100 people. To do that, use your program and start a new tree. Start with yourself and work back, following the same process for those with bigger trees.

For large trees, we are going to Weed the Tree. Start at the beginning; You. In your existing file go to yourself. Review what you have. Make additions for life events that you have not recorded. Make sure when you add a fact you are also adding a source: school year books, newspaper articles, events. For certificates that are in your personal collection DO NOT upload them to Ancestry or Family Search or similar. Make a note on the fact "personal file of SZ." You do not have to be any more specific than that as long as you know what it means.

Sara also suggested having paper next to you so you can jot down people or events that need to be added to others when you get to them.

Her one step, one person at a time approach has you looking at your tree with fresh eyes. One person - you to one family - your parents then your siblings. After that, go back to your grandparents. Be methodical and work a pattern you can remember. Go over your facts and sources, making corrections and additions as needed. Father then mother then your father's parents - father then mother and siblings. Mother's parents - father then mother and siblings. Cousins fall in where you have them added. If you have them, do their check after your siblings. If you did not add them previously wait and add them with their parents.

Keep climbing back as far as you have people. Keep track of where you are as you get wider back in the tree. This pattern will have you working one generation at a time across the fan chart of your tree.

## They Died of What?

By

Kimberly Powell  
Genealogy Expert

Certificate in Genealogical Research, Boston University  
B.A., Carnegie Mellon University

Kimberly Powell is a professional genealogist and the author of *The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy*. She teaches at the Genealogical Institute of Pittsburgh and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy.

Two centuries ago doctors were dealing with medical conditions such as burns, asthma, epilepsy, and angina that are still familiar today. However, they were also contending with deaths caused by such things as **auge** (malaria), **dropsy** (edema), or **spontaneous combustion** (especially of "brandy-drinking men and women"). Death certificates from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries often include obsolete medical terms which may be unfamiliar or unexpected, such as **milk sickness** (poisoning by drinking milk from cows that have eaten the white snakeroot plant), **Bright's disease** (kidney disease) or **consumption** (tuberculosis). A newspaper account attributed the 1886 death of fireman Aaron Culver to drinking too much cold water. It also wasn't uncommon during the Victorian-era to see an official cause of death noted as **visitation by God** (often another way of saying "natural causes").

Numerous health conditions that led to death prior to the early twentieth century have all but disappeared today thanks to drastic improvements in hygiene and medicine. Hundreds of thousands of women died needlessly during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries of puerperal fever, an infection caused by bacteria introduced by unwashed hands and medical instruments. Prior to the middle of the twentieth century and the widespread use of vaccines, diseases like smallpox, polio and measles killed thousands each year. Yellow fever was the noted cause of death on the majority of 5,000+

death certificates issued in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, between August 1 and November 9, 1793.

Many once common medical treatments have fallen by the wayside as well. The use of maggots to debride dead tissue from infected wounds was commonplace well into the twentieth century, prior to the widespread introduction of penicillin during World War II. Leeches were popular with doctors for blood-letting to "balance" the four humors (blood, phlegm, black bile and yellow bile) and bring an ill patient back into good health. And while there really is such a thing as medicinal snake oil, there were also many quacks who peddled the health benefits of unproven patent medicines and elixirs.

### List of Old or Obsolete Diseases and Medical Terms

- **Ablepsy** - Blindness.
- **Ague** - Used to describe intermittent fever and chills; usually, but not always, associated with malaria. Also called *febrile intermittens*.
- **Aphonia** - A suppression of the voice; laryngitis.
- **Apoplexy** - A disease in which the patient falls down suddenly without other sense or motion; stroke.
- **Bilious remitting fever** - Dengue fever.
- **Break-bone** or **Break-heart fever** - Dengue fever.
- **Biliousness** - Jaundice.
- **Bloody Flux** - Dysentery; an inflammation of the intestine causing diarrhea with blood.
- **Brain Fever** - An inflammation of the brain, used to describe one of several different brain infections including encephalitis, meningitis and cerebritis.
- **Camp Fever** - Typhus.
- **Chlorosis** - Anemia; also called green sickness.
- **Cholera infantum** - Infant diarrhea; sometimes called "summer diarrhea" or "summer

complaint."

- **Catarrh** - This term is still in use today to describe excessive buildup of mucus in the nose or throat, associated with inflammation of the mucous membrane. However, in the 19th century the term was used more generally to describe upper respiratory ailments such as bronchitis or the common cold.
- **Consumption** - Tuberculosis.
- **Creeping paralysis** - Syphilis.
- **Debility** - Used to describe "failure to thrive" in infancy, or in old age due to loss of weight from undiagnosed cancer or other disorder.
- **Dropsy** - Edema; often caused by congestive heart failure.
- **Dyspepsia** - Acid indigestion or heartburn.
- **Falling sickness** - Epilepsy.
- **French pox or French disease** - Syphilis.
- **Green sickness** - Anemia; also called chlorosis.
- **Grip or Grippe** - Influenza.
- **Marasmus** - A wasting of the flesh without fever or apparent disease; severe malnutrition.
- **Milk sickness** - Poisoning from drinking milk from cows that have eaten the white snakeroot plant; found only in the midwest United States.
- **Mortification** - Gangrene; necrosis.
- **Nostalgia** - Homesickness; yes, this was occasionally listed as a cause of death.
- **Phthisis** - The French word for "consumption"; tuberculosis.
- **Quinsy** - A peritonsillar abscess, a known complication of tonsillitis.
- **Scumpox** - Skin disease; usually an infection caused by the herpes simplex virus.

Powell, Kimberly. "They Died of What? Historic Causes of Death." ThoughtCo, Aug. 27, 2020, [thoughtco.com/historic-causes-of-death-4034067](https://www.thoughtco.com/historic-causes-of-death-4034067).

### Additional Sources for Historical Medical Terms & Conditions

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## Two American Ladies visit Bermuda

By Carol Wilder-Tamme and Sara Zagrodzky

Grip the pail tightly again, dip it fully into the black water, pass it along, try to straighten your



back, and shake out your cramping hands and arms while waiting for the empty pail to be passed back.

After three days and four nights of bailing, the ship seemed no closer to righting itself. Then, a cry of "Land ho! Land ho!" rang out from the Rigging Monkey. Finally, that tribulation had come to an end.

"A storm at sea. Waves swelling higher than the ship's deck and wind like an ax chopping off their caps and throwing water at the heavens. So much seawater is in the air, it seems it will drown the lightning. The sky pours down "stinking pitch" sulfurous smell, and thunder. A "brave vessel" full of "noble creatures" climbing the waves and sliding into troughs, its seams barely holding together." This was the opening



of William Shakespeare's *Tempest* at London's Blackfriars Theater in 1611. The *Sea Venture* had split apart two years earlier, yet all souls on board survived. It was a shocking and almost unbelievable story; rumors of it had been circulating in the streets of London, but many thought it was merely a sailor's tale.

On 12 June 1609 seven ships set sail from Plymouth, England, the third voyage across the ocean bringing people and provisions to Jamestown Colony.

Among the 150 people onboard the 300-ton flagship, *Sea Venture* were a host of London Company officers, a future governor of the colony, and a variety of skilled individuals who could navigate, minister, build, farm and populate the colony. Oh, and one dog, too.

**Notable names included:**

**Christopher Newport**, *Sea Venture* Captain

**Sir George Somers** Admiral, Agents of the London Company,

**Sir Thomas Gates**, Lieutenant General and future Governor of the colony

**William Strachey**, Secretary and friend of William Shakespeare.

**John Rolfe** and his first wife, **Sarah Hacker** (his wife before Pocahontas)

**Rev. Richard Buck**, his wife and their two daughters

**Stephen Hopkins**, Psalm Reader (before the Mayflower)

**Namontack** and **Machumps**, Two Powhatan Native People

**James Davis**, a captain with shipbuilding skills  
**Richard Frobisher**, lead carpenter of the *Deliverance*

**Christopher Carter**, future three Kings of Bermuda

**Edward Chard**, future three Kings of Bermuda

**Robert Waters**, future three Kings of Bermuda

They became shipwrecked three quarters of a mile offshore on the reefs at the future Gate's Bay on 3 August 1609, having been at sea almost seven weeks.



*Wreck of the Sea Venture off Bermuda in 1609*, Oil painting by Christopher M. Grimes

[Christopher Grimes - Art for Sale | Fine Art America](https://www.fineartamerica.com/featured-artists/Christopher-Grimes)

An announcement of a historic tour of Bermuda in the 'Jamestowne Society Magazine' gave me an opportunity to learn more about the Jamestown resupply ship shipwreck, and about my ancestor, Stephen Hopkins. I

wanted to see where he was shipwrecked in 1609 and hopefully deepen my understanding of why he was accused of mutiny, and what other challenges he faced as a castaway while trying to build a new ship on the uninhabited Island of Bermuda. I had read that the survivors had plenty to eat, including cahow birds, sea turtle eggs, fruits and hogs that had gone feral after being dropped there by Spanish explorers years before.

Landing at the beginning of August, the focus was on food and shelter. They were positive someone from the Virginia Colony would come for them. By November they had started to build the *Deliverance*. We visited the building bay where the construction took place. Between re-using parts of the shipwreck and new cedar,

which was harvested from Bermuda, the men were able to build two ocean-worthy vessels.

The group of castaways struggled to agree on how to conduct and govern themselves. This is what led to the accusation of mutiny against Stephen Hopkins. The conversations among the islanders shifted during this time. It was how fabulous Jamestown Colony was for the new settlers. Then the stories of the seasoning time started to come out. The seasoning time was the season of damp chill with no crops, lasting until the rainy season of mosquitos and the humidity of summer. All of these seasons brought on different incurable maladies that often caused death. This contrasted with the sun, clear skies, breezes and fresh meat and fruit of



*Sara and Carol with their guide, Peter Frith*

the island they now called home. This led three men with the blessing of Sir George to remain on Bermuda to establish it as a British Colony north of the Spanish Caribbean. Carter, Chard and Waters became the three Kings of Bermuda. White limestone homes and fresh water gathering off the roofs into a dark cistern, kept fresh and potable by remaining out of the light, were some of their early contributions that can be seen to this day.

Those who sailed away from the island arrived in Jamestown on 24 May 1610, just a few weeks shy of the one-year anniversary of their departure from Plymouth, England.

On this adventure our tour guide was Peter Frith, a Bermuda Native and descendant of one of the 3 Kings, Christopher Carter. Thank you Peter.

### Summer Reading List:

*The Shipwreck that saved Jamestown*, by Lorri Glover and Daniel Blake Smith

*Marooned*, by Joseph Kelly

*A Stranger Among Saints*, by Jonathan Mack

### Tip

**Do you have a tip to share with your members? Send it to:**

**[newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com](mailto:newslettermgsdarien@gmail.com)**

**and have it printed in the MGS newsletter.**

Check your backups each time they are done! I use Family Tree Maker software. The program backs up my data each time I close my file. I also make periodic backups to separate portable drives. At some point in the past year, apparently there was corruption in the file. I noticed a number of my "Facts" disappeared from one ancestor. I also noticed my file, which I always worked on was now two files of different sizes. I did not notice this before because I always open my file, do my work and close it and back it up. Since this corruption happened quite some time ago, it is no longer in my "Change log." The moral of this story is **check your file carefully, each time you open it.** This, I am sure was a rare occurrence, but it only has to happen once to destroy decades of work.

## MGS Needs Board Members!

Please consider joining the MGS board to help direct the future of your society.

There are a few openings for board members available that need to be filled: Vice President, Social Director and Communications.

*Welcome  
New Members  
Tom Williams  
Helen D'Avanzo*

### LEAVE THEM SMILING



**NEXT MEETING  
OCTOBER 5,  
2024**

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