



PATCHOGUE-MEDFORD LIBRARY

GENEALOGY RESEARCH GROUP

NEWSLETTER



“To forget ones ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root.”

A Chinese Proverb

Volume: 9 Issue: 3 Editors: Diana Erickson & Carol Proven

Food Editor: Maureen Gallagher

Dates: May and June 2016

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

PATCHOGUE MEDFORD LIBRARY

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 10:00 a.m. and END AT 11:30

Getting Started Help Session: 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Date: Saturday, May 21, 2016 Topic: Long Island Patriots

Guest Speaker: Joseph Vermaelen, President of LI Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Date: June 25, 2016 Topic: Digging into Deeds

Guest Speaker: Marie Scalis

No help session at this meeting



In Memory of “Chris” Christopher L. Harmes, Jr.

Passed away, 7th April 2016

“Chris and his wife Audrey were original members of our Patchogue-Medford Library Genealogy Group. They were both eager and excited to attend our monthly meetings. He enjoyed delving into files and records piecing together his family history. He attended the various PML Genealogy trips into NYC. He and Audrey would go on their genealogy expeditions and we were always ready to hear their outcome. If you had the pleasure of being in his company, you were always in for a good laugh!! A kind and gentle person with an unexpected sense of humor!

Chris and Audrey were members of the German Genealogy Group (GGG). Both were volunteers in assisting with the transcribing of Indexes. He was also a member and did volunteer work for Find-a-Grave.

We Thank You for ALL your contributions; you are a friend and an extended family member of our genealogy group that will be greatly missed. I’m sure he’s already on the hunt to knock down those brick walls and get those unanswered questions solved!

EDITOR’S NOTE: I had the greatest honor in knowing Chris and his wonderful wife Audrey. He was a gentleman, avid genealogist and family historian. I will always remember our trips to NYC, NARA and the city archives. Always willing to help and find the answer to your genealogy question. I will always remember our baseball talks and his love for the Yankees. Chris will be missed. Rest in peace my friend.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



It is with a great sense of admiration I would like to introduce the new consultant of all things genealogical! Kathy Then begins a new journey with us as our consultant for the Patchogue Medford Library Research Group. I have had the pleasure of knowing her for over 12 years and worked with her in other groups and benefited greatly from her knowledge and expertise.

Kathy was born in Brooklyn, and moved to Coram, Long Island when she married. She first began her research when she was a teenager living in Brooklyn and continued on and off through the years as she raised her family. Once her children were in school she devoted more time to her genealogy, even becoming a volunteer for 5 years at the Plainview and Terryville LDS Centers. As a clerk at the Longwood Public Library, it wasn't long before she created a monthly genealogy group there. It was here that I first met her and she told me about the Patchogue-Medford Genealogy Group. She has been running the group at the Longwood Public Library for the past 16 years. For ten years she also worked 2 days a week at the Suffolk County Historical Society helping genealogists discover their roots. Her motto for genealogy research: "Never give up, keep digging and you can find the most elusive ancestor!" WELCOME! WELCOME!

CONTACT FOR GENEALOGY:

Call "Adult Reference" 631-654-4700 and leave message for Kathy Then, our Genealogy Consultant at the library. Or you can email her at kthen@pmlib.org with any questions.

LONG ISLAND GENEALOGY PROGRAMS

Please refer to the calendar of events from the Genealogy Federation of Long Island that is sent out monthly by our consultant.

“AROUND THE TOWN AND OTHER PLACES!”

NEW YORK CITY RESEARCH OPPURTUNITIES! **NATIONAL ARCHIVES at NEW YORK CITY**

**One Bowling Green, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10004**

Toll-free: 1-866-840-1752 or 212-401-1620

Fax: 212-401-1638

Email: newyork.archives@nara.gov

Workshops and Program Schedule:

2016 Finding Family Genealogy Series

Our Finding Family Genealogy Series is offered every Spring (March through June) and Fall (September through December) on the following dates.

The series of workshops are free and open to all interested in learning about genealogical research using records from the National Archives.

History Talks! Series Continues in 2016

The History Talks! Series, a collaboration between the National Archives at New York City and the New York City Department of Education, continues this year with speakers focusing on a diverse series of topics, including the slave trade, early New York City, immigration, Native American history, and the Polio virus.

Each program combines primary sources, pedagogy and renowned historians

discussing their latest works. Every participant receives a signed copy of the book and a packet of related primary sources from the National Archives.

When: This FREE educational program is held on select Thursdays throughout the year (typically 1-2 per month). Programs occur between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Where: These programs are held at the [National Archives at New York City's Learning Center](#) at One Bowling Green in Lower Manhattan. Visit their website for specific topics and dates.

NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
STEPHEN A. SCHWARZMAN BUILDING
Fifth Ave at 42nd Street
New York City, N.Y.

The following programs will be held at the NYPL
South Court Classrooms, First Floor
5th Ave at 42nd St., NYC

Register: www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org (If noted in description)
Or 212-626-6583

Program: The New York Public Library – Milstein Division Fifth Avenue
at 42nd Street New York, NY

<http://www.nypl.org/>

Contact the link above for information on a variety of genealogy topics over
the next few months!

FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION: CALL LIBRARY

Wanted: You! Please share your knowledge and talent. Write an article for our newsletter. We have a large group of researchers with tons of knowledge that needs to be shared. Please e-mail dianamets@msn.com with your articles. For our next newsletter the deadline is August 15th, 2016.

“THE HAPPY RECAP”
THE GENEALOGY LOCK-IN
APRIL 2ND, 2016

By Diana Erickson

GUEST SPEAKER: George G. Morgan

Our annual Lock-In was informative, fun, intriguing and as always a great time was had by all! Our guest speaker, George G. Morgan is an avid genealogist who is the author of 12 books on various genealogy topics. He is also the co-host of *The Genealogy Guys* podcast.

Mr. Morgan presented 4 different topics which kept us interested, alert and ready to continue our research using the tips and techniques he presented. His presentations: *Clues in the News – Genealogy Orienteering – Bring “Em Back Alive – Dissect Obituaries for New Clues* gave us all new views and information to use in our own Family Research. Each presentation came with an outline of the presentation and with additional resources listed. Each topic covered important information for the family researcher/genealogist. Mr. Morgan answered at least a “zillion” question.

After the formal presentation ended at 7:30, we had access to the vast holdings of our favorite library and many people headed to the stacks or the computer to continue their research. I spent time looking for my Canadian ancestors in several books-I hit pay dirt on several of my ancestors in the 16th century! The Lock-In has become a very successful annual event sponsored by the Patchogue-Medford Library and in part by the Friends of the Library.



“GRANDMA’S KITCHEN”

Food Editor: Maureen Gallagher

“Measurements or How Not To End Up With a Mess In The Kitchen”

By Diana Erickson

Life was simple not too long ago-there was a time when a foot was 12 inches and nobody complained. A pound was 16 ounces, a cup was 8 ounces and

teaspoons and tablespoons lived nicely together in the kitchen. This wonderful existence of ounces, pounds and teaspoon and tablespoons is called the English System.

From: <http://study.com/academy/lesson/english-system-of-measurement-definition-history-advantages-disadvantages.html> the following facts emerge-

The English system of measures is a collection of measures for length, volume, weight, area, etc. that have their roots in hundreds of years of history. They were standardized somewhat by the British Weights and Measures Act of 1824, which defined the Imperial Units to be used throughout the British Empire.

Even with this beautiful law-everything has changed!

While the English were busy defining and solidifying the measurements used in daily life, the rest of the world was pushing for the Metric System. The metric system (based on a decimal system-multiple of "10") did not jump out of the oven over night. It took many years for it to become the standard measuring system in the world.

It was not a drastic change-it was slow, driven by the scientific community of the 18th century, mainly in France. But by the mid-19th century it was beginning to take hold in Europe and eventually throughout most of the world by mid-20th century. Today only 3 countries in the world still use the old English System: Liberia, Myanmar and the USA. (Way to go USA!)

So here we are in the kitchen, but have you checked labels? The metric system is creeping in on many if not all food items:

Soda: 2 Liter (2.1 Qt) Package of Pasta: Net Wt. 16oz (454g) Bottle of Ketchup: 32 OZ (2lb) 907g Tuna Fish: 5OZ (142g) Can of Corn: 15.25 OZ (432g) Can of Progresso Soup: 18.5 OZ (1lb 2.5 OZ) 524g.

I doubt if there is a food item in your kitchen that does not have both systems of measurement-English and Metric. That is good-it helps us to visualize amounts-I haven't been the same since the ½ gallon ice cream container went the way of the Dodo bird. By the way a ½ gallon is 1.8925 Liters! The ice cream container is about 56 ounces or thereabouts.

So what does this have to do with “Grandma’s Kitchen?” When your grandmother and my grandmother were cooking-there wasn’t a gram, kilogram, millimeter, or meter in sight! They had it made! Today if you want to use recipes from just about any other country in the world you have to be aware of the measurement maze. A number of websites provide quick equivalence between the 2 systems. I have one such table below from: <http://www.jsward.com/cooking/conversion.shtml>. I have only included one table, but many more are available on their website for just about any conversion problem in cooking.

Liquids (and Herbs and Spices)

Liquids can be converted to liters or milliliters with the following table. Small volumes (less than about 1 fluid ounce or 2 tablespoons) of ingredients such as salt, herbs, spices, baking powder, etc. should also be converted with this table. Do not use this table to convert other non-liquid ingredients.

Volume Conversions: Normally used for liquids only

Customary quantity	Metric equivalent
1 teaspoon	5 mL
1 tablespoon <i>or</i> 1/2 fluid ounce	15 mL
1 fluid ounce <i>or</i> 1/8 cup	30 mL
1/4 cup <i>or</i> 2 fluid ounces	60 mL
1/3 cup	80 mL
1/2 cup <i>or</i> 4 fluid ounces	120 mL
2/3 cup	160 mL
3/4 cup <i>or</i> 6 fluid ounces	180 mL
1 cup <i>or</i> 8 fluid ounces <i>or</i> half a pint	240 mL
1 1/2 cups <i>or</i> 12 fluid ounces	350 mL

2 cups or 1 pint or 16 fluid ounces	475 mL
3 cups or 1 1/2 pints	700 mL
4 cups or 2 pints or 1 quart	950 mL
4 quarts or 1 gallon	3.8 L

Note: In cases where higher precision is not justified, it may be convenient to round these conversions off as follows:

1 cup = 250 mL

1 pint = 500 mL

1 quart = 1 L

1 gallon = 4 L

All tables aside, I will still use a 1/2 teaspoon of ginger in my pumpkin pie. At Times, I will use a pinch of whatever, a smitch of a spice or herb and a smattering of butter on my bread and the metric system be d----d!

GENEALOGY COUSIN

“TO BE OR NOT TO BE”

By Diana Erickson

This is not an essay on Shakespeare or on Hamlet. But it is about one of my many obsessions related to genealogy. I love the world of DNA. I try to read books on subject (those books for nonscientific minds.) I also attend as many local meetings of genealogy groups that have speakers on DNA. Several weeks ago, the Irish Family History Forum had just such a speaker.

Mr. Bennett Greenspan, CEO of FamilyTree DNA was the speaker at the group's April meeting. FamilyTree DNA is one of the world's largest DNA testing company and repositories for matching of family relationships.

I was thrilled with the presentation and the fact that I could have my sample taken right there and it would be off to the lab via the company's president! What did I select? I selected the “Family Finder”, which is autosomal testing and mtDNA testing.

From FamilyTree DNA website for Family Finder (autosomal testing:)

- ***For men or women.***
- ***Matches are related within about the last 5 generations.***
- ***Provides percentages of your ancestral make-up (Native-American, Middle Eastern (including Jewish), African, West and East European)***
- ***Recommended for genealogists.***
- ***Includes matches with predicted relationship ranges.***
- ***Great for confirming close relationships regardless of gender.***

I also have always wanted to know what “daughter of Eve” I was descended from. I haven’t been the same since I read Bryan Sykes book, “The Seven Daughters of Eve.” Every woman living today (men also), who is of European ancestry, can have their DNA (mitochondrial DNA: mtDNA) analyzed to show that they are a descendant of one of 7 women who lived during pre-historic times and before, during and after the last ice age. These genetic matriarchs or clan mothers are called by name in his book: Ursula, Velda, Xenia, Helena, Tara, Katrine and Jasmine. This is such an awesome fact-that their mtDNA has been passed down through thousands of years to anyone of European ancestry and to me. It is like the past calling out to me. I find it absolutely fascinating. I should have been an anthropologist!

I can just see my clan mother, dressed in bear skins, coming out of the cave with a big deer steak on the end of a stick and heading to the camp fire for a barbecue! I will finally know my 10,000 or better great grandmother! How is that for solving “brick walls”!

The specifics on the mtDNA testing from FamilyTree DNA website are:

- ***For both men and women.***
- ***Highest level mtDNA test.***
- ***Tests both HVR1 and HVR2 (Hypervariable Regions 1 and 2) and the Coding Region. This is all of the mtDNA.***
- ***Provides most recent ancestral origins.***
- ***Includes HVR1, HVR1+HVR2, and FMS matches.***
- ***FMS matches are related within the past 16 generations.***
- ***Recommended for confirming a relationship on the direct maternal line.***

Your matches and ancestral origins depend on how your DNA compares to our database. With the largest DNA database in the world, you have the

greatest chance of finding close relatives by testing with us. However, if your maternal line is rare, it is possible you will not have matches or ancestral origins information right away. As our database is constantly growing, you may have matches over time, and we will send you e-mail notifications about any new matches.

It takes time to complete the testing and I already have a problem-they took my mtDNA sample, but I have not received any acknowledgement. I have received acknowledgement for the autosomal testing. So I am in contact with them. I will keep you informed and in the fall I hope to have a picture of my “clan mother” from the last Ice Age and prove I have more than 50% Irish DNA! If I don’t, I will be sad. But I will still celebrate St. Patrick’s Day!

GENEALOGY RESEARCH

How I found My Family’s Village in Italy

Through Critical Thinking - An Important Skill for Genealogy

By Carol Proven

Genealogy is my passion. I started my genealogy research twenty years ago this year. I didn’t plan for it to take me over as it did. I started with a purpose. Originally my plan was to write a book that I could leave for my four children. A book that would contain memorabilia, photographs, short stories, nostalgia, traditions, recipes and some family history. I never thought it would open paths for me that I never imagined. Genealogy has seen me through two careers. It first met me when I was a medical office manager for many years. Back then I didn’t have much time for research. I stayed up late on weekends searching on the internet. Sometimes, I went to the archives on days off. I remember when I found my paternal grandmother on a ship’s manifest. It took a very long time to find her. I searched for endless months, wondering how she got here. Did she sneak into the country? My husband had fallen asleep watching TV one night while I was searching on www.ellisland.org. It was about two o’clock in the morning. And there she was. She was listed under her maiden name (which was spelled wrong) and her first name was listed as “M. Giovanna”, which complicated the search. I jumped from my chair and flew down the stairs screaming “I found her, I found her.” I did not know that my husband had fallen asleep. He jumped up from his sleep and said “you found who?”

Years later, while owning and running my own business, I would take the opportunity every time I could to research. It was through a business

networking meeting that I literally fell into teaching Genealogy. I met an Assistant Dean of a college who saw in me something that I didn't know I had. What I thought was a conversation turned out to be an interview. And that led to several more interviews with another Dean from another college. I was asked to teach Genealogy. I said I'm not a teacher. The Dean felt I had enough knowledge on the topic and she also saw my passion. So here I am. I have been teaching Genealogy for the past 8 years. Why? Because I love to help people get interested in finding their past. We live in such a mobile society that it is important to retain some of our families' traditions and customs. I feel it is important to pass down the knowledge of our ancestors to our descendants. I feel it is important to keep their memory alive.

I did start my book and that was fun to do but I have not finished yet. It's not that I don't have an ending. My ending was easy. I can't finish the book because I keep finding more and more information that I want to put in the middle of the book. Genealogy has given me a whole new family of friends. We all have so much in common. We are all hooked on the dead.

That brings me to why I'm writing this article. When I present the class "Getting Started in Genealogy", I always stress the eight skills to develop when researching genealogy. One of them is *Critical Thinking*. *Critical Thinking* is very important to maintain in your research. *Critical thinking* is an analysis of the situation. It will help you make a clear reasoned judgment. Your ideas should be well thought out and judged. The critical thinking skill includes observation, interpretation, analysis, evaluation and explanation.

Here is one of my examples: I knew my Grandpa was born in Italy. He lived to be 96 years old. One day I asked him "Grandpa, where in Italy did you come from?" He looked at me and said, "Naples". But it ended there. Years later, after Grandpa past away, I started my research. I found out that he did not come from Naples. He was born in a small commune or village on a mountain top in Salerno named "Sanza." What my Grandpa was telling me years before is that he left Italy on a ship through the port of Naples to come to America.

When I presented this to cousins, most did not know where he came from. The youngest cousin said she heard the name Sanza spoken in the family. Well, if the family did not know where he was born than how did I find out this fact? Where did I find out information on Grandpa? Through *Critical Thinking*, I knew my father was living in 1920 and he was born in the U.S. so this would be a good place to start. I researched the 1920 U.S. Federal Census. Although it gave me plenty of information about Grandpa in America, it only stated that Grandpa's

place of birth was Italy. It did not tell me where in Italy that he was born. But the 1920 Census is the only census that asks the year of immigration to the U.S. It was here that I learned that Grandpa immigrated in 1907. I could have stopped there. But I didn't. With this important date, I felt a burning desire to find out more so I looked into investigating the ship's manifest. I went to www.ellisland.org. There I found at least 300 people with the same name as Grandpa. But he did say he came from Naples. So I tried to investigate those who left from Naples and who were about the same age that coincided with information on the U.S. Census. Finally after much examination, I found my Grandpa arriving on the S.S. Nord America. The ship's manifest gave me a lot of information about Grandpa. It included that his voyage to America was paid by his brother. The address of his brother's house in Brooklyn was where Grandpa was going to. The manifest stated that Grandpa had \$10 in his pocket upon arrival. It stated that Grandpa lived in Italy with his wife and gave her name (my Grandma) which helped verify it was the correct person. It gave the color of his hair and eyes and his height. And most important, it stated that he was born in Sanza, Italy.

By analyzing and pursuing, I was able to establish where my family came from. With critical thinking, I was able to visit my family's commune. With critical thinking, I was able to return again to Sanza with cousins to visit our Grandpa's little town. It was with critical thinking that made me fall in love with this part of Italy and plan to return again.

Sanza, Salerno, Italy –May 2015



(This article is a prelude for the fall issue. We plan to do a segment on Italy. If any of our Italian members would like to contribute, please let me know.)

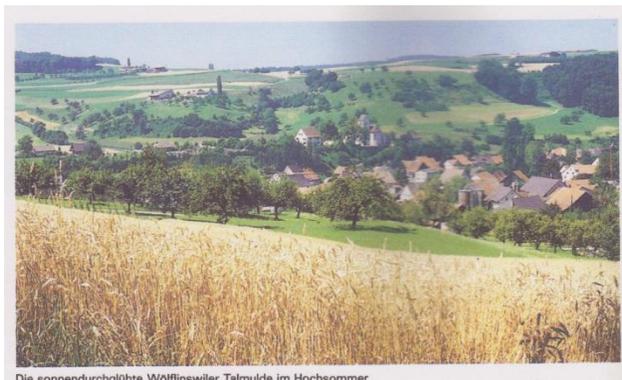
PHOTO PARADE

**Lifetime of Photos of Peter Bercher
1847 - 1930**

By Carol Proven

Here's a new article that I thought would be interesting. It is a photo display of the life of someone in my tree. Can anyone relate to the photos? Does it spark a memory of your relative? Perhaps, someone may know these people.

This is Peter Bercher. Some of you may have remembered me referring to him in the past. He is my husband's great grandfather. I thought I would display a lifetime of photos.



Die sonnendurchglühte Wölflinswiler Talmulde im Hochsommer.

He was born in Wolfinswiler, Switzerland. He was one of eight children and the only sibling to leave Switzerland. He made his way to England. There he boarded the S.S. Wyoming and arrived at Castle Garden, New York in 1871.



In 1874, he married Mary McLaughlin in the town of North East, New York. Mary had been married once before and had a son. Both her first husband and son died in 1870. Mary was born in Northern Ireland and later moved to Scotland with her parents. She came to America with her brother John. John served in the Civil War. She lived with her sister Sarah who was married and living in America before they arrived. Peter and Mary had four daughters. One died very young.

Daughters: Mary, Kate and Clara



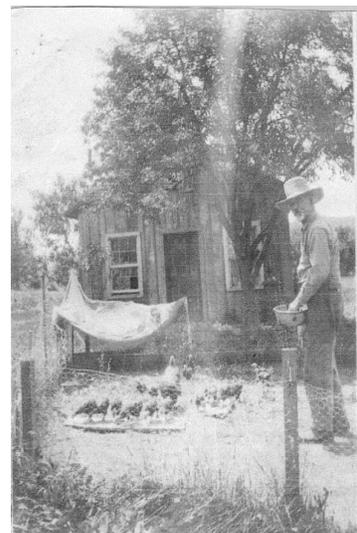
Thought to be Mary and Peter's wedding photo - 1874



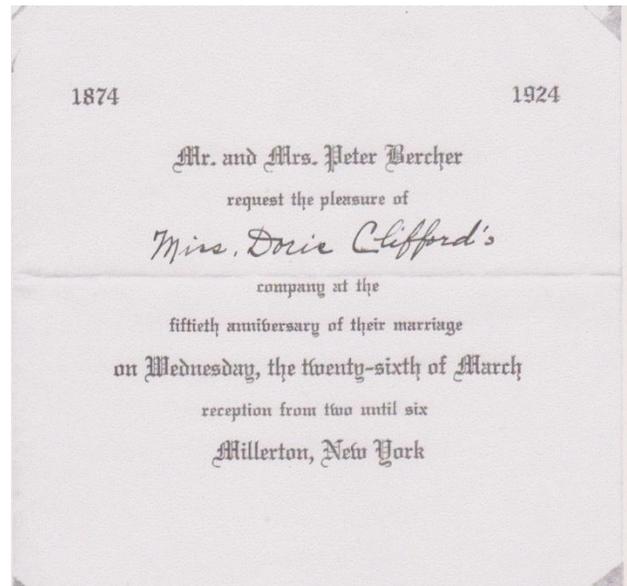
The picture is of their first house in North East, NY.



Peter was a farmer. In this photo he is feeding the chickens on his farm.



They were married for 54 years. Here is an invitation to their 50th wedding anniversary party.



This is Peter and Mary in later years.



The family is buried in Irondale Cemetery, Millerton, N.Y.



THE BOOK CORNER

By Diana Erickson

“Brooklyn Then and Now”

By Marcia Reiss



THE FAMOUS BROOKLYN BRIDGE

This book is not your usual genealogy book. Rather it is a photographic essay of my favorite part of New York City-the borough of Brooklyn. The author has taken Brooklyn and divided it into the very unique neighborhoods that make up the City of Brooklyn and provided lavish photographic evidence of the vibrant neighborhoods and the people who lived there.

The photos show the growth of the city, the lasting history that photos can provide. The photographs give us a glimpse of life on a particular day in a very specific location and blend it with the now of the 21st century. If you look carefully, maybe you can imagine your ancestor walking down Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Ave in 1913.

I need to spend hours to view each page and look carefully at the pictures and compare them - then and now. The book belongs to a friend of mine and she had it on her coffee table in the living room and I asked for a loan-for a long time, so I can view the history of one of America's most famous cities, Brooklyn N.Y.

Our favorite library does not have this book-but the author has written a book about New York City and this is the synopsis from our library's website for this book:



“Lost New York”

Profiles places in New York City that have been destroyed, altered, and demolished during the twentieth century, with photographs of the original structures, background information, and stories about memorable individuals.

I look forward to reading the book about NYC, as my ancestors walked the streets of Manhattan before they crossed the Brooklyn Bridge. These books make the world of our ancestors very relevant as we can see what they saw. I would highly recommend the book about Brooklyn and I am sure the one about Manhattan has the same dynamic images to make the city feel alive many years ago. They will also dress-up your coffee table and become the center of attention at your next social gathering....especially if you have some family researchers among your guests!

Happy reading for the summer.

THE END