

April 2011

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



*Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society*

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## News

Greetings,

Happy Spring! Finally, the mild weather has arrived.

Fran Malone will represent the WMGS at the NERG conference on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. We are seeking two additional volunteers to assist Fran at the conference. If you can help out, please e-mail us, or see Fran at our meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome aboard Beckie Cross who agreed to serve as Vice President of our society. Beckie will fill in for June Cook, who can no longer serve as our Vice President. Thank you, June, for all of your past work. We will miss you as an Executive Board Member, but hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

Congratulations to our treasurer Susan Levenson and her husband Eric, who recently added a new member to their family tree. Jack Ryan Levenson was born on March 25<sup>th</sup>. He weighs 8 pounds, 7.4 ounces and is 21.5 inches long.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at the Agawam Senior Center.

## Calendar of Events

### April 6, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Bob McGovern will be our guest speaker this month.

### April 7, 2011:

The Spring meeting of the **Polish Genealogical Society of MA** will feature a lecture by David S. Ouimette, CG. Mr Ouimette comes from Salt Lake City, where he manages Content Strategy at the largest free on-line source of genealogical information, [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org), prioritizing historical records for acquisition and online publication for family history research. Mr. Ouimette has local roots in his maternal line, Czelusniak of the local funeral homes, having ancestors who immigrated to this area from Wojtowa in southern Poland.

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 7, 2010, 6:30 PM at the **Chicopee Public Library**, at 440 Front Street, Chicopee. The talk is free and open to the public. Mr. Ouimette specializes in records of New England, Quebec and Ireland. He lectures at the Samford Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. He will describe his efforts using original manuscripts and genetic techniques to prove the parentage of John Bettis (b. 1773) a French Canadian who lived in Vermont and who family lore said was the French Caribbean pirate Jean-Baptiste Perrin. His method utilizes manuscript sources from the Lake Champlain region and DNA samples from six descendants in US and Canada.

Mr. Ouimette is in the region for the New England Regional Genealogical Conference taking place in Springfield April 6-9.

### Thursday, April 21, 2011

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer class. Classes are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. Classes are free for members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

### **Thursday, April 28, 2011**

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer class. Classes are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. Classes are free for members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

### **Friday, April 29, 2011 and Saturday, April 30, 2011**

The fourth annual Worcester Public Library Free Genealogy Conference is scheduled for 29 -30 April 2011. New for this year are some one-on-one sessions with a genealogist who can help you break down your brick wall. The Library expects to have the registration form on line by 8 April 2011.

### **May 4, 2011:**

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Monthly meeting and the election of new officers. Jean Nudd from the National Archives at Pittsfield will be our guest speaker.

### **Genealogical Workshops at the National Archives at Pittsfield**

<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/pittsfield/public/workshops.html>

- April 4 2:00 p.m. Beginning Your Genealogy Research at the National Archives
- April 11 2:00 p.m. Using Federal Census Records
- April 13 2:00 p.m. Finding Family Information in Military Pension Files
- April 14 10:00 a.m. Researching Polish Ancestors

The workshops will be offered at the Regional Archives building, located at 10 Conte Drive in Pittsfield MA. The workshops are free and are approximately one hour in length. Call (413) 236-3600 to register.

## **Election of Officers**

Volunteers Wanted: At our upcoming meeting on May 4, 2011 we will elect the 2011-2012 officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). If you are interested in becoming an officer, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, or contact us via e-mail at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com) Any member of the WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

# Genealogy Hint

By Fran Malone

## BEING YOUR OWN DETECTIVE

This month's genealogy hint sort of goes back to two of my previous discussions pertaining to the "Paper Trail." It also gives me the opportunity to pass on a little story with a happy ending.

I try to tell everyone there is always a "paper trail" which will lead you to the one you're looking for. That goes for going backwards in your family history or forward to find maybe a new cousin or the rightful owner of a Family Bible.

In late February we received an email from the Springfield History Museum, Genealogy Section pertaining to a package delivered in December to them. The package was addressed from C. L. Dean in Trabuco, California and it was for the Western Mass. Genealogy Society. I picked up the package, opened it, and found it to be a Family Bible belonging to the Lefebvre Family. There was no explanation to why it was sent to us and no explanation to who C. L. Dean was.

Many of you who attended the March meeting saw the Bible when I presented it and asked if anyone knew of the family. We had a few suggestions on transcribing the information for our own publications and then donating it to a higher resource such as the New England Historic Genealogical Society. I thought about it after the meeting and felt if the family can be found then they should have it. During the past month I searched the internet, ancestry's public records, and finally Facebook for the three children listed in the Bible as being born in 1939, 1945, and 1952. I finally found the three children located in North Carolina and set up communications with them through Facebook. I also found through the internet that C.L. Dean turns out to be Cynthia L. Dean and she is listed on a Random Acts of Genealogy Kindness website in California. She has since told me that she found the Bible on the internet and when she discovered the names went to our local area she returned the Bible here. The three Lefebvre children listed in the Bible are grateful for the Bible being returned to the family and they said they have no clue on how the Bible ended up on the internet.

This work of being your own detective showed what the paper trail and the internet can do for you.

## Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

<http://www.mocavo.com>

This is a new website and was introduced on the New England Historic Genealogical Society's website. I looked at it and it appears to be quite simple to use. The following paragraph explains it and in the search block just enter names, places, years, etc.

The world's largest free genealogy search engine Mocavo.com provides genealogists access to the best free genealogy content on the web including billions of names, dates and places worldwide. Mocavo.com seeks to index and make searchable all of the world's free genealogy information. While Mocavo.com discovers new sites every day, some of the existing sites searchable on Mocavo.com include genealogy message boards, family trees, state and local historical societies, the Library of Congress, National Archives, Ellis Island, Find A Grave, the Internet Archive, various U.S. state archives, and many tens of thousands of genealogy sites built by individuals. Similar to other search engines, Mocavo.com honors site owners by linking directly to their content.

## Membership Update

Just a reminder: Dues can be submitted at our next meeting on April 6th, or mailed to our PO Box listed on the Application for Membership.

Please be sure to submit an "Application for Membership" with your dues. This will ensure that we have all of your current information on file, especially those ever-changing e-mail addresses.

The "Application for Membership" can be printed from the "Join" tab on our web site. Or, follow this link to print your application:

[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/images/WMGS\\_application.pdf](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/images/WMGS_application.pdf)

## About Us

### Meetings

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, September through June from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts.

Our genealogy computer classes are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center.

### Membership information

Annual membership runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. Individuals may purchase a membership for \$20, while institutions may purchase a membership for \$25. Applications for Membership can be found on our website.

## Newsletter Deadline

Did you enjoy reading our newsletter? Do you have suggestions for articles, or have an article you would like us to publish? Our next issue of the newsletter will be May 2011. Please forward your information by April 20, 2011 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2010-2011 Executive Board Members**

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Beckie Cross  
Co-Secretary: Elsie Hamilton  
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers  
Treasurer: Susan Leverson