

April 2012

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 418 • West Springfield, MA 01090

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/index.html>

E-Mail: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### News

Greetings,

Spring has arrived, and it's a great time to start traveling again to do your genealogy research. We are excited that our April meeting will be held at the Family History Center at 584 West Street in Ludlow, Mass.

New this month:

- We are seeking nominations for officers of our society. In particular, we need someone to fill the role of Secretary. (Page 4)
- Do you think you're an expert on the 1940 Census? Take our Pop Quiz starting on page 4.
- Our Surname List has been updated. (See page 5 for details.)

#### **Mark your calendar for our upcoming meetings:**

<b>May 2, 2012</b>	Election of officers; Denise Martinez from Chicopee City Clerk's Office will speak
<b>June 6, 2012</b>	Last monthly meeting: open mic and "Pot Luck Dinner"

Please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address. We want to make sure that you continue to receive all of our updates, meeting reminders and electronic newsletters. Just send your name and new e-mail address to us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

© 2012 Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. All rights reserved.

## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, April 4, 2012

The monthly meeting for the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the **Family History Center located at 584 West Street in Ludlow, Massachusetts.** **Please note the change in location for our meeting this month.** The meeting is free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring a friend.

Pat and Ralph Welliver will make a presentation and we will tour the facility. Afterwards, members can use the microfilm room. **Note:** If there is something in particular you want to research, please be sure to order the microfilm a month or two prior to our April meeting.

### Thursday, April 12, 2012

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer workshop. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Workshops 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 19, 2012

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer workshop. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Workshops 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.

### Wednesday, May 2, 2012

We will hold our election of new officers. Denise Martinez from the Chicopee City Clerk's Office will speak and then answer your questions on the Massachusetts Vital Records.

### Wednesday, June 6, 2012:

Last monthly meeting: "Open Mic" and "Pot Luck Dinner." Have a good summer and see you in September.

*Do you know of an upcoming genealogy event? If so, let us know, and we'll include it in our newsletter.*

# National Archives

## Free Genealogy and History Lectures

Mon. Apr 2, 2012	9 A.M.	The 1940 Census is Released Today!
Tues. Apr 3, 2012	2 P.M.	Introduction to Genealogy
Wed. Apr 16, 2012	10 A.M.	History for Kids (Gr. 3-8 & chaperones): Patriots' Day
Thur. Apr 19, 2012	6 P.M.	Patriots' Day. Author William Fowler: American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years 1781-1783
Tues. May 1, 2012	2 P.M.	Genealogy Research: What's Online; What's Not Online
Thurs. May 17, 2012	6 P.M.	Navigating the US Census, 1790-1940

The workshops take place at the National Archives in Waltham, MA. Reservations Required. Call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail [boston.archives@nara.gov](mailto:boston.archives@nara.gov) to register.

For more information, please see their website:

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

**Thursday, March 29, 2012, 6:30 PM**

## **Spring Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts**

### ***How to do genealogical research in Poland***

Tim Firkowski, also known as The Genealogical Assistant, will share his experiences researching in Poland. He has visited churches, dioceses and state archives for records for numerous clients who require extensive research. In particular he has done client research in the area of Tarnow and Rzeszow area including the villages of Stryszów, Pstrągowa, Krośno, Niewodna, Fryszak and more. Bring your questions and problems. **FREE.** Bring a friend.

Location: Polish Center of Discovery & Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee.

**Directions:** Take exit 12 or 12a off Rt. 91 to Rt. 391 and follow signs for Elms College to the right up the hill. This will be South Street. Look for brick building next to the church. There is ample parking on site, just beyond the building. We will meet in the first floor meeting room. The center is handicap accessible. Come early to visit the display and our Genealogy Room.

## Election of Officers

At our upcoming meeting on May 2, 2012 we will elect the 2012-2013 officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). Any member of the WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. In particular, we need a volunteer for the position of Secretary. The primary duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at our meetings; coordinate the monthly newsletter for members without e-mail; and handle correspondence for the society.

If you are interested in working as an officer, in particular as Secretary, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting on April 4th, or contact us via e-mail at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

## Pop Quiz – 1940 Census

By Susan Leverson

Maybe you consider yourself an expert in the field of genealogy, or perhaps you're just getting started. Either way, test your knowledge by taking the following quiz on the 1940 Census. You can check your answers on the following page.

1. When will the 1940 U.S. Federal Census be released to the public?
  - a. Sunday, April 1, 2012
  - b. Monday, April 2, 2012
  - c. Tuesday, January 1, 2013
  
2. Where can you access the 1940 Census once it is released?
  - a. On-line at [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)
  - b. On-line at [www.Familysearch.org](http://www.Familysearch.org)
  - c. On-line at [www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov)
  - d. All of the above
  
3. What information will you need to locate your ancestor on the census?
  - a. Ancestor's last name
  - b. City
  - c. Enumeration district
  - d. All of the above

## Answers to the pop quiz – 1940 Census

**Question 1:** When will the 1940 U.S. Federal Census be released to the public?

Answer: b According to the National Archives website, the 1940 census will be released on Monday, April 2, 2012, at 9:00 AM (Eastern Daylight Time).

**Question 2:** Where can you access the 1940 Census once it is released?

Answer: c At 9:00 am on April 2, 2012, you can access all of the digital images of the 1940 census on-line at [www.1940census.archives.gov](http://www.1940census.archives.gov).

Ancestry.com reports that at midnight on April 2, 2012 the National Archives will turn over the 1940 census records to ancestry.com. Ancestry.com will then work around the clock to get each census page online for viewing. Therefore, not all census record will be available on April 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. on ancestry.com.

Tip: If you know the state your ancestors were living in, ancestry.com can notify you when the census for your state(s) becomes available. Click here to sign up. <http://www.ancestry.com/1940-census>

**Question 3:** What information will you need to locate your ancestor on the census?

Answer: c Although all of the digital images of the census will be available on April 2, 2012, there will not be an index with names available on the first day. Therefore, you will need to know the enumeration district of your ancestor. For help determining the enumeration district, reference Steve Morse's website: <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>

To print a blank copy of the 1940 Census:

[http://c.mfcreative.com/email/1940/1940\\_US\\_Census\\_FINAL.pdf](http://c.mfcreative.com/email/1940/1940_US_Census_FINAL.pdf)

## Surname List Updated

With so many new members, our Surname List is growing. Be sure to check out the updated Surname List on our website. As always, if you have any updates, please let us know. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/updates.html>

# Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

The following information comes from the Family Tree Magazine that I subscribe to. This month's issue discussed the following website with the expectations of the 1940 Census being released on April 2, 2012. The actual website is [www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) and the link to the census appears to be <http://www.myheritage.com/FP/UsFederalCensus1940.php> This is another alternative to view the 1940 census and the Founder states it will be free. I have no knowledge of this new website connection so I can't really offer any helpful hints other than the website.

The discussion: MyHeritage Founder and CEO Gilad Japhet states that genealogy site and family network [MyHeritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) will offer the 1940 US census for free after the National Archives releases the records April 2. MyHeritage is a company based in Israel and has a US office in Provo, Utah. They will provide the 1940 census free at [myheritage.com/1940census](http://myheritage.com/1940census), [www.familylink.com/1940census](http://www.familylink.com/1940census), and [www.worldvitalrecords.com/1940census](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/1940census). (MyHeritage acquired FamilyLink and its WorldVitalRecords site last November.) As on other websites planning to offer the 1940 census, you'll be able to browse the record images by place as soon as they're added to the site.

A searchable index will be added throughout the year, as data from each state are transcribed. The MyHeritage 1940 census index will be created separately from both the FamilySearch/Archives.com/brightsolid [1940 Census Community Project](#) and the [Ancestry.com index](#). A company that specializes in historical transcription will develop the index, which Japhet says will be highly accurate. Once MyHeritage has launched the index for a given state, you'll be able to search it by multiple criteria using the MyHeritage SuperSearch, a fast and sophisticated new search engine to be released in April. All searches will take less than half a second.

The search engine will support 38 languages; the only 1940 census site to offer this feature. You'll also be able to search the records using the [MyHeritage mobile app](#). If you have a family tree on MyHeritage.com, the site will automatically match it to 1940 census data as indexes are added and notify you about relevant results. This reduces the need to constantly repeat your searches to see if the index for your ancestor's state has been added. The 1940 census is the first of additional historical content to come on MyHeritage. "This is the first serious signal from MyHeritage that it is strongly entering the historical records market," Japhet says.

# Genealogy Hint:

By Fran Malone

This month's hint is using the message boards to help with your genealogy search. There are two boards that are checked daily by genealogy researchers like you. The first one is the rootsweb message board and can be found by going to [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com) Click on message boards tab when the page comes up and you'll discover that you can search by surname, state, or country. If you choose surname then just type in the surname you want to search. I will refer to my surname Malone as the name of interest.

1. Surname - Typing the surname Malone will give me all the researchers looking for the name so you might want to shorten the search by selecting a first name. My Great Grandfather was Patrick so I would type Patrick and keep the search with Malone and now I have all the inquiries pertaining to Patrick. You can also add different search words such as the state, city, county to try to get your best results.
2. States - Select the state you want to look at and my search would be Massachusetts. By clicking Massachusetts I have two options: Unknown which gives you the message by researchers that are not sure where their ancestors lived in the state. The option is selecting a county and mine would be Hampden and I can break it down even more by selecting Malone for inquires on Malone's in Hampden County.
3. Country - The search for the country works basically the way the state does. It will give you the options to choose a county and then you can shorten the inquiries by putting the name. If I was to search here I would select Ireland, County Kerry, and add the Malone to shortened list.
4. After you've done your searches for your ancestors then you can make your own inquiry by posting a message asking for assistance on your ancestor or if there is anyone else searching this person.

The second message board is [www.genforum.com](http://www.genforum.com) and it operates the same as rootsweb with a surname board as well as state or country. In each case you have to type in your surname Malone, state Massachusetts, or country Ireland.

Message boards can be a helpful tool in locating missing ancestors and sometimes finding new cousins. Remember we want to hear from you so please contact us with your hints and your websites.

What has worked for you in your research? We would like to hear from you with your hints, which could be posted here to help others. Contact us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

## Membership Update

We are so pleased with our membership drive for the 2011 - 2012 year. Most members have already renewed their memberships. We are happy to report that at last count, we have added 26 brand new members this year. Thank you to all of our members for making our society a success.

There's still time to join. You can turn in your dues at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 4th. Can't make it to our next meeting? Use the coupon below to send us your payment. We appreciate your continued support.

---

### Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership Renewal 2011-2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP TYPE:** (Membership fees are listed below. Please select one.)

*Annual dues period is from September 1 to August 31.*

**INDIVIDUAL, \$20** or  **INSTITUTION, \$25**

Please make check payable and mail to:

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 418

West Springfield, MA 01090

## New Members

Please welcome the following individuals who joined our society:

**Joseph Fontaine**  
**Mary Vazquez**

**Edward Hamel**  
**Gail Vogel**

**Lauren Lynch**  
**Mark Wing**

## 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 workshops 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 April 2012. Please forward your information by April 20, 2012 to Susan Levenson and Fran Malone at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2011-2012 Executive Board Members**

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Beckie Cross  
Co-Secretary: Jane Okscin  
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers  
Treasurer: Susan Levenson