

April 2014

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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News

Greetings,

Spring is officially here, and warmer weather is on the way. That means many of us here in New England will be heading outdoors to start our yard work. Be sure to schedule time to continue building your family tree. Here are some items in our Newsletter this month which can help you with your genealogy research:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-3)

- Dave Robison's Articles:

Webinar Wednesdays with Legacy Family Tree (page 4)

How will they find them a hundred years from now? (pages 5-6)

- Election of Officers in May (Page 6)
- Sneak Preview: Upcoming Speakers (Page 6)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, April, 2014 at the Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 2, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

The Gravestone Girls will present on cemetery documentation and art.

Thursday, April 17, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a Genealogy Research Clinic. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Clinics 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. Clinics are free for members. There is a \$10 fee per class for non-members.

Thursday, April 24, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a Genealogy Research Clinic. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Clinics 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. Clinics are free for members. There is a \$10 fee per class for non-members.

Wednesday, May 7, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

We will hold our annual Election of officers followed by speaker Kerry Hotaling: "What They Endured-What They Wrought" (rescheduled from our February meeting)

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2013-2014 events for the WMGS:

June 4, 2014 – Last monthly meeting and dinner

Genealogy Research Clinics

Join Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Treasurer of WMGS and owner of www.oldbones.co for “Genealogy Research Clinics.” Spend some time with genealogy researchers with years of experience using the internet to help get the answers you’re looking for. Time saving research strategies using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Google and SteveMorse.org among other sites.

Sessions will be held on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center. There are only a few remaining sessions left, so mark your calendar for the following dates:

April 17 and 24

May 15 and 22

June 19

Genealogy with Dave Robison

Open Lab and Genealogy Research Clinics

Thursdays from 9:00 – 4:00 at the Chicopee Public Library

“The ABC’s of Genealogy”

April 9, 2014 at the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center

“Pulling the People form the Paperwork”

Tuesdays in April at The Yellow House Community Center for Learning

“The ABC’s of Genealogy”

April 28, 2014 at the S White Dickinson Memorial Library in Whately, MA

“Pulling the People form the Paperwork”

Tuesdays in May at the Hitchcock Free Academy in Brimfield, MA

For full details about these events, as well as Dave’s summer events, please visit:

<http://www.oldbones.co/upcoming-events.html>

Do you know of an upcoming genealogy event? If so, let us know, and we’ll include it in the WMGS monthly newsletter.

Webinar Wednesdays with Legacy Family Tree

by Dave Robison, Old Bones Genealogy of New England

This month's article is mainly a way for me to introduce you to Legacy Family Tree webinars (<http://www.familytreewebinars.com/>). They're referred to as "Webinar Wednesdays" and this week's subject is "7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists" with Thomas MacEntee. The broadcasts are free and are archived to access for free for one week. There are membership options that allow you to access the complete archive of the hundreds of broadcasts done over the past few of years. Attendees/members who stay till the end are treated to the opportunity to win "door prizes".

Legacy Family Tree offers many services including their family tree building software. The product is really quite good and is updated with reasonable frequency. There's "standard" edition that you can download for free from a link on the website's homepage. There are also links to purchase other products that you may find useful.

But to get back to the webinars for a minute, the moderator is Geoff Rasmussen who introduces the guest of the week. The subject matter is always in the field of genealogy and attracts some very well-known genealogy personalities, such as Judy G Russell. Judy is an attorney, a genealogist and a speaker with a national audience. You should take a look at her blog, "The Legal Genealogist" (www.legalgenealogist.com). She writes in "English" rather than "Lawyer Speak" so you'll get her message rather than a headache trying to figure out what she's writing about. Follow her blog and you'll get a daily notice of that day's blog. How she finds the time is beyond me!

Register for this week's broadcast, at www.familytreewebinars.com and let us know what you think!

Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England

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How will they find them a hundred years from now?

by Dave Robison, Old Bones Genealogy of New England

Believe me, I had enough trouble when I first met some people back in the 70's who were using hyphenated names. I mean, you got married, the woman took the husband's family name, the family name was passed down to the children and all was right with the world. This isn't necessarily a rant about various cultures and their [naming conventions](#). As a matter of fact, I respect naming conventions....when they are conventions! Conventions such as a Swedish son taking the name of his father with the word "...son" appended: Anderson, Erikson, etc. I can understand that. Or the Spanish child with the father's surname first then the mother's surname hyphenated: Gonzalas Y Lupez. No problems! If I know the convention, I can understand where the names come from.

Without getting into anyone's personal details, I'm amazed at the fact that there are hundreds and more than likely thousands of families that use whatever is convenient or sounds cool. My wife works in a field where she has a great deal of contact with kids in the 1st to 4th grades. She tells me many stories about kids this age who don't yet know their own names! Or they register for the programs under one name but the parents insist that the child is called by another name. I'm not talking about calling "Thomas" "Tom". It's more like calling "Jeremy" "Louis"! This is not a case of using the middle name rather than the given name. These "Names of Convenience" are nowhere to be found on any documentation at all! Then there are the cases where a child is given an unpronounceable name with symbols integrated within the spelling! I'm not kidding! Using the "Thomas" example, she might see "Tom#as". Or "Anna-marble." I'm not sure how the "Thomas" name would be pronounced (I could ask my wife before I post this) but I know that the second one is "Anna Dash Marble". Anna Dash Marble?? Who???

And it doesn't stop there. There are families that seem to change their family names on a whim. That alone will cause more genealogical brick walls than you can count. But it will bring a fresh new meaning to the mantra "Speeling Duzn't Cownt"!

I'm glad I'm researching 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th century people in the 21st

century. I pity the genealogists of the 22nd century! Break out the DNA kits...

Now if there's any reason for this generation to put together their own family histories, this is it. If we can today put together solid family trees with proper citations, reasonably exhaustive searches and proof arguments, then perhaps the genealogists of the future will only have to deal with a generation or two. They may only have to work back to this generation, when genealogy and family research was easy!

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Election of Officers

At our upcoming meeting on May 7, 2014 we will elect the 2014-2015 officers of The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS).

We are pleased to say that all current board members are planning to run for re-election. However, any member of WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

If you are interested in working as an officer, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting on April 2nd, or contact us via e-mail at WestMassGen@gmail.com

Sneak Preview: Upcoming Speakers by Susan Leverson

In addition to serving as our treasurer, writing articles for our newsletter and co-hosting our Thursday night Genealogy Research Clinics, Dave Robison has been busy coordinating the speakers for WMGS. With our 2013-14 season winding down, Dave has already started working on 2014-15. We're excited to say that three high profile speakers are part of next year's line-up: Dick Eastman who writes "Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter", Pat Richley-Erickson a/k/a DearMyrt, and Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist. Stay tuned for specific details.

If you have any suggestions for speakers, please be sure to see Dave at our next meeting, or email him at dave@oldbones.info

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 May 2014. Please forward your information by April 20, 2014 to Susan Leverson at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2013-2014 Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Beckie Cross
Secretary: Janet Curley
Treasurer: Dave Robison

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher
and Webmaster: Susan Leverson