

December 2010

*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

News

Greetings,

At our November meeting, members voted to elect Fran Malone as our President. Fran previously served as vice president of WMGS, and has worked to coordinate the speakers for our monthly meeting. Fran has been researching his ancestry for more than 25 years. His database contains more than 10,000 family members. Fran has also assisted at the Thursday evening computer classes, and is always eager to help new members get started with their research. We welcome Fran to his new role and look forward to working with him.

Just a reminder: Our November Newsletter is now available on our website. Copies are located at the top of our “Newsletter” tab.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/newsletter.html>

We hope you enjoy these updates. Please continue to share your suggestions for improvement with us. We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the Agawam Senior Center.

Calendar of Events

December 1, 2010:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Last meeting before Christmas. Come to the "Pot Luck" dinner and enjoy Christmas music while you eat. After dinner watch a video and take a trip through Forest Park's "Bright Nights" for the holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and have a safe "Holiday Season".

Thursday, December 16, 2010

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, December 23, 2010

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.

January 5, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, January 5, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

A genealogy workshop is scheduled. Bring your research, share your ideas, and ask questions.

Genealogical Workshops at the National Archives at Pittsfield

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

December 7	2:00 p.m.	Beginning Your Genealogy Research at the National Archives
December 14	2:00 p.m.	Using Federal Census Records
December 16	2:00 p.m.	Examining the 1940 Census
December 21	2:00 p.m.	Finding Family Information in Military Pension Files
December 28	2:00 p.m.	Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors at the National Archives

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.

A Tribute to Jim Birchall

Jim Birchall, president of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, passed away on Thursday, October 21. He was 84 years old and a resident of Agawam.

To celebrate Jim's life, we have developed a page on our website.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/updates.html>

We would like to post your pictures and fond memories. Please send them to us at WestMassGen@gmail.com.

Surname Project

As we continue to expand our website, you might be interested to know that we are currently developing a "[Surname List](#)." All of our members are researching at least one last name. This information was collected on our 2010-2011 Application for Membership. Our goal is to connect people who are researching the same family names. We will develop a chart on our website listing the following information: Surname, Name of WMGS Member and e-mail address.

Once the information has been summarized in a chart, each WMGS member will receive an e-mail or phone call to confirm that we may publish this information. If for any reason, you would prefer not to have your information listed on our website, just let us know. Please contact Susan Levenson at WestMassGen@gmail.com if you have any questions or are interested in working on the "Surname Project." Volunteers are needed in January 2011 to compile the information on the computer and to handle confirmations via e-mail and phone.

Genealogy Hint

By Fran Malone

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and of course Happy New Year to all our readers. This month's Genealogy Hint will help you find that special Christmas gift for the family historian or for yourself.

Are you finding an excessive amount of notebooks with research information in your shoebox, desk drawer, cabinet, or book case? Then it might be time to look at one of the many programs available on the internet that you can purchase, download to your computer, and store your family history. My favorite is the familytreemaker and it is rated as one of the best for building your family.

The familytreemaker program can be purchased for \$39.95 and can be found at the following website: <http://www.familytreemaker.com>

Listed below are a few highlights Family Tree Maker 2011 which is the newest version.

Millions of people have used Family Tree Maker for over 20 years making it the #1 family history software that helped discover and share their family Stories. Now, with more than 100 enhancements the latest version makes it easier than ever to explore your roots. Whether you're a seasoned genealogist or just starting your family tree, you'll enjoy all sorts of new and exciting ways to discover, preserve, and share your family story.

Family Tree Maker 2011 offers the following new features

1. Stories — a narrative tool. Ready to start on an ancestor's story? The Smart Stories™ editor makes it easy to drag and drop text and photos from your tree into story pages that will update automatically when you make changes to your tree.
2. New and improved charts. Enjoy four new fan chart styles. Enhance charts with backgrounds, borders and embellishments. And use fonts you can change based on fact type.
3. Enhanced reports. We've enhanced ancestor and descendant reports, added a surname report and allowed you to sort custom reports, plus

you can now save and reuse report settings.

4. New media management tools. Drag and drop, cut and paste, and even categorize multiple items at the same time. You'll also find a new tool that will help you locate missing media files.
5. More complete and relevant timelines. Find and add more events to your ancestors' lives. Add, edit and delete your own historical events. And apply historical events by time and geography.
6. Improved integration with Ancestry.com Ancestry.com has millions of members all over the world. And now you can find out if any of them are searching for your ancestors by viewing Member Connect activity on your home page, plus links to related message boards and new messages in your inbox. You'll also enjoy faster uploading and downloading of your tree — and our new iPhone® app, which lets you view and edit your online family tree once you've added it to Ancestry.com.

Product Highlights:

1. A Web Search that is integrated with Ancestry.com so you can easily add records and images from the millions of available historical records.
2. Attractive charts and reports in a variety of formats.
3. The ability to add photos and audio and video files to your tree.
4. Timelines and interactive maps.
5. Powerful sourcing tools that let you document—and rate—each citation
6. A dynamic user interface that lets you quickly switch between important features.
7. The ability to import data from other genealogy programs, including Personal Ancestral File, The Master Genealogist, and Legacy Family Tree.

Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

<http://genealogy.about.com>

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year to all our readers.

I came across this website from a relative that attaches weekly genealogy hints on her website from this site. The information found on this website can be helpful in creating as well as refreshing your research ideas. Enjoy your "Holiday Season," be safe, and we'll be back next year.

Membership Update

Just a reminder: Haven't paid your dues yet? Dues can be submitted at our next meeting on December 1st, 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

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 January 2011. Please forward your information by December 17, 2010 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2010-2011 Executive Board Members

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: June Cook
Co-Secretary: Elsie Hamilton
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers
Treasurer: Susan Leverson