

February 2011

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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### News

Greetings,

With record amounts of snow falling in New England, this seems to be to perfect time to stay indoors and work on our genealogical research.

Our January Newsletter is now available on our website at the top of our “Newsletter” tab. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/newsletter.html>

The second season of “Who Do You Think You Are?” will air on NBC on **Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, at 8 p.m. During the season, we will see celebrities including *Gwyneth Paltrow, Tim McGraw, Rosie O'Donnell, Steve Buscemi, Kim Cattrall, Lionel Richie, Vanessa Williams and Ashley Judd* trace their family histories. For more details visit: <http://www.nbc.com/news/2010/12/16/who-do-you-think-you-are-nbc-announces-the-celebrities-tracing-their-family-trees-on-season-two/>

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society will have a booth at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference held in Springfield, Massachusetts this April. If you have any suggestions or can assist in any way, please contact us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 at the Agawam Senior Center, weather permitting.

## Calendar of Events

### February 2, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Robert McGovern will speak to us.

### Thursday, February 17, 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, February 24, 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.

### March 2, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, March 2, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

In 2011, our country marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Steve Jendrysik of the Chicopee Historical Society will speak to us about the role that Chicopee played in the war.

### April 6-10, 2011

New England Regional Genealogical Conference

[Exploring New Paths to Your Roots](http://nergc.org/NERGC2011/index.html), to be held April 6-10, 2011 in Springfield, Massachusetts, is the eleventh New England Regional Genealogical Conference and will build on NERGC's tradition of excellence in providing genealogical lectures, seminars and workshops; the Ancestors Road Show; a Society Fair; and banquet luncheons and dinners for new and established genealogists alike at minimal cost. <http://nergc.org/NERGC2011/index.html>

## Genealogy Hint

By Fran Malone

Hi to all our members and readers. As you read this newsletter just think Spring is just a little over six weeks away and the snow will be gone, hopefully.

Before I write on this month's genealogy hint I want to reflect back to our November Newsletter and the Genealogy Hint then. At last month's workshop a few people asked me about SS-5 Form which is the application for a Social Security Number. This form contains some valuable genealogy information and can be obtained by writing the Social Security Administration. Please check out the November Newsletter for the information available and where to "write" to.

Last month's workshop also brought up the question of obtaining your ancestors Military Papers or his Federal Civil Service papers.

This month's hint pertains to that plus a whole lot more when we speak of the National Archives and Records Administration. Among the National Archives collections is access to the Archival Databases which has passenger list, WW 2 Enlistment Records and Casualties. The National Archives also has on microfilm the following: Census Records, Naturalization Records, Passenger Arrival Lists, Canadian Border Entry, Records Draft, Military Service and Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, Freedmen's Bureau and Records to African American Families, and Native American Records.

We are fortunate to be in Massachusetts because we have two Archive Branches. In Western Massachusetts we have the Pittsfield Archives and the other branch is in Waltham. This space is not really large enough to mention all the available resources at the archives so this brings me to my monthly website which is the National Archives. Please check it out, it can be rewarding.

Please email us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com) We value your questions and suggestions and look forward to hearing from you.

# Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

The National Archives and Records Administration website can be viewed at <http://www.archives.gov>

When the website comes up you'll be looking to your right for resources and under resources you'll be looking for A-Z index. Click on this index and you'll find everything you'll need to navigate through this site. At the top of this list will be the Archival Database which is spoken about under the Genealogy Hint. Click on this link and check out the information available in their databases. If you click on "F" this will drop you down to Facilities and Regional Archives. Here you can check out the Pittsfield and Waltham branches for genealogy research.

The Regional Branches will also bring you to what is available in the State of Missouri and in St. Louis you'll see Military Personnel Records. This facility also holds the employee records for those who worked under the Federal Civil Service. The question of obtaining an ancestor's military record was also brought up at last month's meeting/workshop which is the reason I'm highlighting this part of the website.

The following page <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis> brings you to the page that will give you the information for Military, Civilian, and Veterans. If you are looking at Civilian Records then you should see Civilian Personnel Records highlighted in blue and you can click on that link. Click on the highlighted information and follow the directions on how to obtain your ancestors record. This will hold true for the Military records also. Click on the Highlighted blue items and follow the directions. You will have use a Form SF-180 for the military record and you can download and print from the site. Under the Veteran's link you will learn how to get the records and if your ancestor veteran lost medals you can learn how to replace them.

The National Archives is a very large topic and can be discussed to great length. If you haven't checked this website out before then I hope that you check it out now. If you have any questions please ask and contact us at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you.

## New Members

Sharyl Hill

Jane Okscin

## 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. Dues can be submitted at our next meeting on February 2nd, or mailed to our PO Box listed on the Application for Membership. 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 March 2011. Please forward your information by February 18, 2011 to Susan Levenson 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: June Cook  
Co-Secretary: Elsie Hamilton  
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers  
Treasurer: Susan Levenson