

January 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>

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## News

Greetings,

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year! It's hard to believe yet another year has gone by.

If you have put your genealogy research on the back burner during the holiday season, now is a great time to get back into the swing of things. Consider attending a monthly meeting, or making this the year to get back to your genealogy research. For a little bit of motivation, check out Fran Malone's article on getting organized. (Page 4)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. Please note: For our January meeting only, we will meet at the Springfield History Library and Archives located on the lower level of the Wood Museum of Springfield History. (See page 2 for details.)

Can't make it to our January meeting? Mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings for the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society:

**March 7, 2012** - Sarah Campbell - "Meet Your Civil War Ancestors"

**April 4, 2012** – Speaker to be determined

**May 2, 2012** – Election of officers; Denise Martinez from Chicopee City Clerk's Office will speak

**June 6, 2012** – Last monthly meeting: open mic and "Pot Luck Dinner"

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## Calendar of Events

**Wednesday, January 4, 2012** – The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society will host its first meeting of the new year from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Springfield History Library & Archives, which is part of the Springfield Museums. Cliff McCarthy from the Springfield Museums Genealogy Library will give us a tour of the library and speak about the available resources.

**About the archives:** In addition to a large collection of French Canadian records, the library has indexes to the Ellis Island passenger records, the Loiselle Index, over 20,000 genealogy books, 6,000 microforms, 25,000 photos and 1.3 million archival documents, as well as diaries, deeds, account books, land transfer documents and photographs.

**Location:** The Springfield History Library & Archives is located in the Wood Museum of Springfield History (lower level)  
21 EDWARDS STREET  
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103

**Parking:** Free parking is available in the lots on Edwards Street.

For a map of the Springfield Museum Buildings:  
[http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/the\\_museums/](http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/the_museums/)

### **Thursday, January 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.

### **Thursday, January 26, 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, February 1, 2012:**

The monthly meeting for the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting is free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring a friend.

**Leslie Huber** will speak to us on the topic “Getting the Most out of Familysearch.org.” Are you already familiar with familysearch.org? There might be more there than you thought. Find out how to get the most out of its incredible resources including the IGI, FHLC, country and state Research Guides, and new Records Search that make familysearch.org a site no genealogist can afford to do without.

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**

Tues. Jan 3, 2012	2:00 P.M.	Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records
Thurs. Jan 19, 2012	6:00 P.M.	They Came From . . . TBA: Ethnic History & Genealogy
Tues. Feb 7, 2012	2:00 P.M.	Researching African-American and Under Documented Populations
Thurs. Feb 16, 2012	6:00 P.M.	They Came From TBA: Ethnic History & Genealogy
Wed. Feb 22, 2012	10 A.M.	Genealogy for Kids (Gr. 3-8 and chaperones)
Tues. Mar 6, 2012	2:00 P.M.	Introducing the 1940 Census
Thurs. Mar 15, 2012	6:00 P.M.	Equality in Boston's Public Schools: Remembering Morgan v. Hennigan

The workshops take place at the National Archives at Boston, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA. Reservations Required. Call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail [boston.archives@nara.gov](mailto:boston.archives@nara.gov) to register. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, please see their website:

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

The National Archives is open to the public M, T, W, and F 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursdays 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Special Thanks

A special thank you to our members who shared their tips and ideas during our open mic session at our December meeting. First, Bob Riopel spoke to us about metadata and our photographs. Next, Bruce Cortis shared his experience with researching files through the Springfield Newspapers. Later, Richard Breton shared a unique personal experience of receiving 2 CDs with family information and pictures after making contact with a person who left a note on a family gravestone. Lastly, Joyce Holbrook shared an article and her thoughts on organizing family records and pictures. We appreciate the information everyone shared with the group, which resulted in some great discussions.

Mark your calendars: Our next "Open Mic" will be held at our meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Genealogy Hint: Organizing Your Information By Fran Malone

Happy New Year everyone! It's the beginning of a New Year and time to organize your genealogy information. It's time to clean out your note books and shoe boxes and put your ancestors where your family can find them. Here are a few hints that I've done over the years to organize my 27 years of research. It's just a quick look on how I set up a few of my folders. Trust me I have an extensive collection of folders with information.

1. Three Ring Binders - I've got 17 three ring binders that are either the two or three inches in size. As my information and records started to grow I needed a place to put everything so I broke down the information into families and the vital records that go with the families. I do have two binders that are set aside for all the military records and draft cards collected and a couple of binders on information received on families from other sources. All records are in plastic sheets to help preserve the records.
2. Familytreemaker - I purchased the familytreemaker as my software database and started to input the information to build the families. The program is great for recording family's notes, resources, and events/facts such as immigration,

occupation, residence, military, marriages, births, deaths, burials, and schools that were part of your ancestors' everyday life.

3. Scanner - Number one is the hard copies of my records and number two is the nice neat computer record of the family's but saving all these records for the future is important also. I purchased over time a simple and inexpensive flat scanner to scan the records collected as well as pictures taken. This also goes for the old pictures that you have stored in that big box under the bed or in a closet. I started scanning everything into the computer and as I scanned I created/named folders to put the information in. Some of the folders that I created are birth, marriage, and death and these hold the records for my family as well as my wife's. Other folders created are for Naturalization and school records, military, vital records for Massachusetts as well as Ireland, obituaries, land, and census reports. Those are examples of how the genealogy work is filed on the computer and for the pictures I created folders that involved weddings, my wife's family, my family, trips, and of course the grandson. Just create your folders in a way that makes it easier for you and your family to view your history.

4. Thumb Drives - The small USB computer drives that help store the information on your computer. With all the information scanned and stored it would be a shame to lose your years of research. I own about five of these thumb drives that I've saved my computer information onto including the 9,900 plus names in the familytreemaker. I've labeled each drive to what is on them and I update them once a week. These little drives can restore your information on your new computer should you lose your old computer for any reason. I hope these little hints help make 2012 a little easier to look back and enjoy your work and your family history.

We want to hear from you. Contact us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com) with your hints or website suggestions and we will post them in this column.

## On-line Newspapers

By Susan Leverson

Are you interested in viewing newspapers on-line, but aren't sure which option is the best for you? Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

**Springfield Massachusetts Newspapers:** At our December meeting, Bruce Cortis shared his success with a monthly subscription to the Springfield Newspapers. They offer The Springfield Republican (1844-1946) and The Springfield Union (1864-1989). Bruce pointed out that the search features are terrific, and let you enter information to narrow down your search. The monthly subscription is \$19.95 which allows you to view 200 articles each month. The other option is a one day pass for 50 downloads, which is \$9.95. For more details, see the section called “Search Historic Archives” on [www.masslive.com/republican/](http://www.masslive.com/republican/)

**Genealogybank.com:** At our December computer class, I shared my experience with genealogybank.com. This website offers access to historical newspapers across the country from 1690-2007. In addition, you can access historical books, historical documents, the Social Security Death Index and Newspaper Obituaries (1977 - Current). They offer a 30 day trial for \$9.95. A monthly subscription is \$19.99. The most cost effective membership is the annual subscription for \$69.95 but several members have received offers from Family Tree Magazine for \$49. All offers include unlimited downloads. For more information, along with a list of the available Newspaper Titles see [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com)

**Newsbank and Proquest** – via your library. Did you know that many Massachusetts libraries offer newspapers on-line? While they may not carry all of the years you need, they often have 1990 – current. In addition, they have newspaper obituaries. Did I mention the best part? It’s free. Usually, you will need to enter your library card number and your last name. The web site will indicate if the resource is available for all Massachusetts library cardholders, or just members of their library.

Springfield Public Library: <http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/databases.html>

Worcester Public Library: <http://www.worcpublic.org/resources/databases.htm>  
(Library Card not Required)

Boston Public Library <http://www.bpl.org/electronic/newspaper.asp>

We should warn you: as with all genealogy research, reading historical newspapers can be highly addictive. Once you start looking, it’s hard to stop. Happy reading!

If you have any questions, or need help accessing the library newspapers, just contact us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com) We’d be glad to help you navigate.

# Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

This month's website reflects back to a few websites already mentioned but it's important to keep these for later this year when the 1940 Census come available. Yes, the 1940 U.S. Federal Census comes available to us in April 2012. All the census reports have proven valuable to us but the 1940 one has a greater importance to us. For a lot of you the census might even include you for the first time or it might show your parents being married. It's already known that ancestry [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) will release the report in the beginning of April followed by an index around mid-April. Ancestry as we all know is a paid subscription, but from April through 2013 it will off the record images and indexes free.

The following three genealogy organizations Archives.com [www.archives.com](http://www.archives.com), LDS FamilySearch <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>, and Findmypast.co.uk <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/home.jsp> will be working together on the 1940 US Census Community Project. This ambitious project by the three partners will provide access to the free index on their websites. It does not say if their work will provide the images but at least it's an index that can be accessed for free when searching the census elsewhere if you don't have ancestry.

I would like to take a few minutes in this spot and add my comments about the online newspapers mentioned in this month's newsletter. Genealogybank and Newsbank give you a wide range of papers from across the country and both are yearly subscriptions. If you are from another area and want to look for old news articles then these should be looked. Even if you are from the local area it's worth looking at because it includes the three Springfield newspapers. The other source which is the Springfield Newspaper Archives for \$19.95 month and 200 views is a good way to get your feet wet. I took out a subscription for this in mid-December and have found numerous wedding announcements, obituaries, PTA articles involving my mother, some surprising court actions, and a personal note on my Great Grandfather Patrick W. Malone who immigrated from Ireland in 1880. On Monday August 22, 1898 the Springfield Daily Republican posted an article about an event that was being held that night in Chicopee Falls. It stated that a Handball game between Patrick Malone of Montgomery Street Chicopee Falls and John Downey of Chicopee Falls will be played. It went on to state that both were long time employees of the Chicopee Manufacturing Company and they would be playing for \$5 a side. The note that was mentioned that was of interest was the last

line in the article. It stated, "that Patrick Malone holds the proud distinction of having been the Champion of County Kerry, Ireland" which means that in his late teens or around the age of 20 he won the Ireland championship before immigrating to the states. This little note found in the 1898 newspaper gave us a part of his personal life.

Have a safe and Happy New Year. May your many researches bring you rewarding success.

## Membership

It isn't too late to join: Haven't had a chance to submit your WMGS annual membership dues? You can turn in your dues at our next meeting on January 4th. Can't make it to our next meeting? Use the coupon below to send us your payment. We appreciate your continued support. New members and returning members are always welcome.

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**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:

**Faith Bailey**

**Laura Bailey**

**Patricia Grassetti**

## 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 February 2012. Please forward your information by January 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