

January 2013

*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 articles on Pages 4-6.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2013. 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? Be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming meetings for the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. (Page 3)

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Calendar of Events.

Wednesday, January 2, 2013:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Springfield History Library & Archives, which is part of the Springfield Museums.

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/

Thursday, January 17, 2013

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 24, 2013

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.

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

Save the Dates

Below you will find the 2012-2013 calendar for the WMGS:

February 6, 2013 – 40th Anniversary of WMGS Incorporation

March 6, 2013 - Speaker to be determined

April 3, 2013 – Speaker to be determined

May 1, 2013 – Election of officers; Speaker to be determined

June 5, 2013 – Last monthly meeting and dinner

Computer Workshops

Stumped with a research question? Bring your question to our hands-on computer workshop, by Bruce Cortis. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to ask your question, and use the computer to look for a solution. 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. Mark your calendar:

2013

January 17

January 24

February 21

February 28

March 21

March 28

April 18

April 25

May 16

May 23

June 20

Genealogy Hint: 52 Week Genealogy Plan

By Lisa A. Alzo, Family Tree Author

Submitted by Fran Malone

Happy New Year to everyone and it's time to get back to genealogy. Yes, I'm one of the ones that put my genealogy on hold for the holidays and the result of that brings me to writing this Genealogy Hint and The Genealogy Website on New Year's Eve as well as day. This Genealogy Hint comes from the Family Tree Magazine and Author Lisa A. Alzo. It's slightly long so I will try to discuss it in minimum length by highlighting the first 10 weeks of Lisa's 52 week the plan. For the remainder of her calendar I will just list her hints by the weeks. If you want a more in-depth reading of the 52 weekly hints just email us at westmassgen@gmail.com If you can accomplish any of the 52 week plan then you can probably look at it as a success.

Week 1 - "Photographs" - We all have a box with old pictures stored in the closet or attic. If you haven't done so by now then the winter months bring an opportune time to go through them, identify if you can, digitize/scan them, and put them into albums. "NOTE" - This is one thing that I plan to accomplish this year.

Week 2 - "Certificates" - Most of us when we started had certificates of the immediate family. In 2013 it's time to start going after Great Grampapa's certificates or certificates from other states and countries.

Week 3 - "Work Papers" - Documents associated with a relative's job. "NOTE" I have my father's Federal Civil Service records (30 yrs). I also have my Federal Civil Service records (33 yrs) and Military records (36 yrs) so the next generation can have them.

Week 4 - "Pins, Medals, and Keychains" - Little trinkets in the family collections might give a clue to what date someone retired or other important life event.

Week 5 - "Yearbooks" - Check those old grade school, high school, and college yearbooks that might be stored on the top shelf in the closet. Your relative/ancestor might have been an athlete, homecoming queen/king, or voted most likely to succeed.

Week 6 - "Military Memorabilia" - Learn about your ancestor if he served from the

time he entered the service to his discharge. What insignia, patches, uniforms, and awards did receive? Did your ancestor or relative have a pension?

Week 7 - "Autograph Books" - Commonly used in the 19th and early 20th century to gather friends' sentiments and signatures.

Week 8 - "Scrapbooks" - A gold mine of information that was collected at the time it happened.

Week 9 - "Funeral and Memorial Cards" - A good chance that a box of these cards exist somewhere in closet or attic. These cards could give you a wealth of family names, dates, and the name of funeral homes that handled the arrangements.

Week 10 - "Funeral Home Records" - These records may vary by time and location, but if you can find these records they can tell you where a person died, names of relatives, place of burial, who paid for the funeral, occupation, and military service.

The rest of the 52 week genealogy calendar appear as followed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| #11 Bridal and baby books | #32 Court Documents and Prison Records |
| #12 Religious records | #33 Deeds and Land Records |
| #13 Mug Books | #34 Church and Social Club Ephemera |
| #14 International Money Orders | #35 Old Calendars |
| #15 Naturalizations and Alien Registrations | #36 Collectibles |
| #16 School Records | #37 Home Movies |
| #17 Diaries | #38 Audio Recordings |
| #18 Letters and Envelopes, | #39 Manuals |
| #19 Social Security Cards, | #40 Patents |
| #20 Postcards, | #41 Tax Records |
| #21 Fraternal Organizations Records | #42 Voter Registrations |
| #22 Financial Records | #43 Academic Papers |
| #23 Recipes | #44 Event Programs |
| #24 Address Books | #45 Blogs |
| #25 Passports and Applications | #46 Tweets, Pins, and Post |
| #26 Prayer Books and Bibles | #47 Message Boards |
| #27 Holiday Greetings | #48 Video Sites |
| #28 Announcements | #49 Online Memorials |
| #29 Athletic Ephemera | #50 Family and Community Websites |
| #30 Medial and Insurance Records | #51 DNA |
| #31 Newspaper Clippings | #52 Cousins |

This completes the 52-Week Genealogy Plan. Hopefully you see something that you haven't thought of and if so that makes it a success. Obviously getting information from all 52 weeks of the plan will be difficult but never say impossible. Remember email me if you would like or more in-depth paragraph for which week that you are interested in and I can refer to the magazine. We are still looking for your input on a monthly genealogy hint or genealogy website so email us at westmassgen@gmail.com We want to hear from you.

Genealogy Website: National Archives

By Fran Malone

Once again, Happy New Year to all our readers. Yes folks, I'm still trying to remove the genealogy from the back burner that it was placed on during the holiday season. The light at the end of the tunnel though is getting brighter, so it might even be ready for publish in 2012.

Even though we are on the Eve of a New Year, this website or website link is old news. During the past week I was emailed by a woman in New Hampshire with the request of obtaining a Purple Heart that her husband's father earned but elected not to take it when they were going to award it to him. Her Father-in-Law is now deceased and she would like to obtain it for her husband so she can make a shadow box for her husband with all his father's medals in it. Sometimes things don't go as easy as you would like but in this case things should go quite smooth. The first thing I asked her was if she or her husband had the military records on hand. She replied yes so her request should be handled quickly. The National Archives website is www.archives.gov which you can find a lot of information pertaining to their holdings and their facility locations. The actual link that I sent her though was under the heading of Veteran's Service Records (a very useful link for our veteran ancestors). When you click on the Veteran Service Records heading it will give you access to the Military Section. There you'll find the heading Military Awards and Decorations and if you click on this it will give you this link: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/replace-medals.html> and it will guide you through the process needed to get a medal or to replace a medal. This link can be used in conjunction with this month's genealogy hint when you get the week about military medals and information.

Please email us your genealogy websites at westmassgen@gmail.com and we will post them in our newsletter. Your website and your hints can be a help to others. We look forward to hearing from you.

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 2013. Please forward your information by January 20, 2013 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2012-2013 Executive Board Members

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Beckie Cross
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