



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

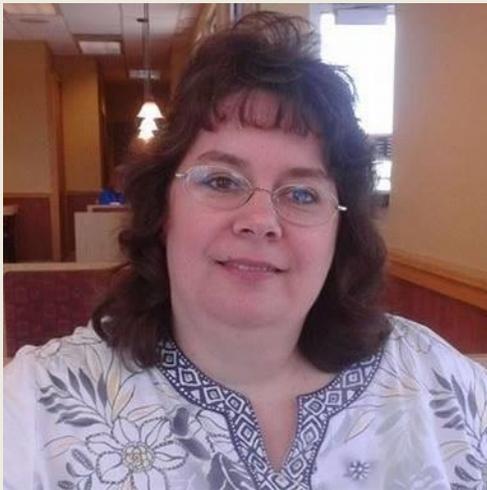
Contents

News	p 1	Methodology	p 6	Newsletter	p 10
Calendar	p 2	Technology	p 7		
Member Events	p 3	Membership	p 9		
Articles	p 3	About Us	p10		

News

6 January 2016 WMGS Meeting

We have a great speaker coming to us from the Houston County Tennessee Archives in our 4th Google Hangout. Members will be provided a link to watch and participate from home if you cannot attend in person. The link will be sent in a separate email which will go out to the paid members, another benefit of joining or renewing your membership in Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society! See [Membership](#) for details on how to join.



Melissa Barker is a Professional Genealogist and Certified Archivist/Records Manager. She has been conducting her personal genealogy research for the past 25 years. In 2004 she started her own professional genealogy firm *Once Upon A Time Genealogy* and took research clients for 6 years. In 2010 she received her certification in archives and records management. She was instrumental in establishing the first county archives in Houston County, Tennessee and currently enjoys her position as County Archivist and Records Manager. She lectures, teaches and writes about the genealogy research process, researching in archives and records preservation
Copyright © 2015 Melissa Barker. Used with permission by Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

[Return to Contents page](#)

From around the Genealogy Global Community

What are the online educational opportunities available this month?

[DearMYRTLE](#) -

“GenTools Study Group” meets again Wednesday, 6 January 2016. DearMYRTLE is taking a small hiatus to spend the holidays with her family. There are only 4 sessions left. FREE

[Virtual Institute of Genealogical Research](#)

23–30 January 2016: D. Joshua Taylor “New England Research: Has It All Been Done?” \$\$

[National Genealogical Society](#)

online courses available, click the link above \$\$

There are quite a few places to learn more about what we love to do. Check out [Cyndi’s List](#) and [GeneaWebinars](#) for more listings.

[Return to Contents page](#)

Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
Wednesday, 6 January 2016 from 6-8 PM	WMGS Meeting – with guest Melissa Barker - Honoring the Ladies: Researching Your Female Ancestors (with handout) (Virtual) at the Agawam Senior Center
Monday, 12 January 2016 from 6-8 PM	Genealogy Research Clinic at the Agawam Senior Center w/Katy and Susan
Thursday, 21 January 2016 from 6-8 PM	Genealogy Research Clinic at the Agawam Senior Center w/Dave and Fran
Thursday, 28 January 2016 from 6-8 PM	Genealogy Research Clinic at the Agawam Senior Center w/Dave and Fran
Wednesday, 3 February 2016 from 6-8 PM	WMGS Meeting – with guest Hillary Schau - Organizing Your Genealogy Research (in person) at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 2 March 2016 from 6-8 PM	WMGS Meeting – with guest Jennifer Alford - The Basics of Land Records (Virtual) at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 6 April 2016 from 6-8 PM	TBD bus trip will be April or May 2016
TBD Spring 2016	Bus Trip to the Berkshire Athenaeum Pittsfield, MA
Wednesday, 1 June 2016 from 6-8 PM	WMGS Meeting – with guest - - - at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 6 July 2016 from 6-8 PM	WMGS Meeting – with guest - - - at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 3 August 2016 from TBD	Field trip to the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum (Springfield Archives) at the Springfield Museums, Springfield, MA
26-29 April 2017	NERGC 2017: Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past Springfield, MA

Genealogy Research Clinics are free to WMGS members. There is a \$10 fee per session for non-members. Annual WMGS membership is just \$25.

[Return to Contents page](#)

Member Events

Dave Robison's Upcoming Events:

DATE/EVENT	PLACE/INFORMATION
Tuesdays including 9 and 23 February 2016 then 1 and 8 March 2016 Sessions are 2 hours each PULLING THE PERSON OUT OF THE PAPERWORK: MORE THAN JUST NAMES AND DATES	Museum School at the Springfield Museums 21 Edwards St Springfield MA For rates and registration contact Sarah Gogal (413) 263-6800 ext. 377
Tuesday, 5 April 2016 MINING THE RICH RESOURCES OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS Sponsored by Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society	The American Legion Hall Post #129 22 Elm Street Gardner MA Public is welcome
Saturday, 9 April 2016 1:30 PM DISSECTING THE DOCS Sponsored by Massachusetts Society of Genealogists – Middlesex Chapter	Acton Memorial Library 486 Main Street Acton, MA Public is welcome

[Return to Contents page](#)

Articles

Ireland - Going Home

By Fran Malone

Going Home, back to the country our ancestors came from, this is a dream that all of us hope to do someday as we search endless hours to discover who we are. Recently my wife and I were able to make that dream come true as we returned home to Ireland. I started my research into Ireland thirty-one years ago to find where my ancestors lived, worked, and played. I had no information to go on, and in 1984, computer research and websites were limited in what they could offer. Eventually my research brought me to Rahinnane, Ventry, County Kerry, Ireland as well as a few other towns and villages in Kerry. Along the way, I have been fortunate and have made contact with twelve cousins in the area. My wife is half-Irish. It was about sixteen years ago that I started looking into her Irish Heritage, and eventually I tracked her family back to the village of Clogh, County Laois. Before 1921, County Laois was known as Queen's County, and this is a very important fact to know when searching Ireland. (County Offaly was known as King's County prior to 1921) My wife's grandfather came to Boston, and like most Irish

immigrants, he left the past in the past. She, also, had no information on where he came from in Ireland, and there was no family information passed on about the ones he left behind in Clogh/Ballygowdan. In 2014, after doing all this research, it was determined that it was time to go home. It was time to go back to Ireland where our ancestors came from and walk the streets as they did. In January of 2015, I made the arrangements for that dream of a lifetime, and the last two weeks of September was spent in Ireland.

The Trip

We were scheduled to leave on September 16, but on a whim, I contacted the parish priest in Ballygowdan. It was ten days before we were leaving, and I asked him if there were any Bolger's still living in the area and told him that this was my wife's family. He replied that there were several; so we figured we would have some hunting to do when we got to Ballygowdan. Two days later, I received an email from a Sean Bolger with the details of his family, and we discovered that his grandfather was the brother of my wife's grandfather. By the time we left for Ireland and got to Ballygowdan, our search for family members was done. Sean had set up a Bolger Family Reunion, where my wife met ten cousins of whom she was unaware. Pictures were taken of the cousins, the Bolger house where the grandfathers were born (The house is still being used.) and the small community of Clogh/Ballygowdan, County Laois, Ireland. We were in this area for four days, with three of days reserved for seeing the Rock of Cashel, Durrow Castle, Aghaboe Abbey (old monastery), a Famine Museum, St. Canice's Cemetery, Heywood Gardens, and the Village of Abbeyleix. Durrow Castle was setting up for a wedding when we visited there and walked the grounds. They asked where we were from, and we told them Massachusetts. Ironically, the wedding that was going to be held there later in the day was a family from Massachusetts. The Bride, Groom, Wedding Party and about 80% of the guests came from Massachusetts. Talk about an expense! As I said, three of the four days spent in County Laois was to take in the sites there. The 4th day was set aside to take a short trip to County Westmeath and County Offaly, which were about an hour and twenty minutes from where we were staying. My Malone Family originated in Ballinhowen, County Westmeath. They were well established there in the mid 1600's. The Malone Ancestral Home is there and is located not far from Clonmacnoise, the ancient monastery, also connected to the Malones. It was in the mid 1600's, during the Cromwellian War, the Malones were evicted from their land along with 2000 other families. This eviction started a massive migration within Ireland to other areas in Ireland. It was about 1785 that the Malone Clan/family (three brothers) finally made their way to West Kerry and settled in Ventry, County Kerry. While in Ballinhowen, we got a tour and history of the Malone Ancestral Home and grounds. We then drove the short distance to Clonmacnoise and walked the ancient cemetery, finding Temple Connor (Malone related) and 10 Malone Tombs attached to back of the Temple. We also found the High Cross Gravestone of Rodrick O'Connor, the Last King of Ireland, from whom the Malones descend. Our stay in County Laois was over, and it was now off to County Kerry for the next eight days to meet my cousins.

After a three-hour drive, we finally made it to Dingle, County Kerry about five miles east of Ventry. Dingle and Ventry are along the ocean compared to County Laois, which was inland. We passed through Dingle and proceeded to Moriarty's Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast in Ventry, with the mountains on one side and ocean on our other side. The contrast of the mountains with their various green colors and the ocean coming together gave you views for

which there are not enough adjectives to describe. After checking in at Moriarty's, we decided to explore the area before it got too late. We found Ventry Cemetery, which overlooks Ventry Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean, and as we walked around the cemetery, we found several of the family gravestones. We left there and found Padi O'Shea's Pub in Ventry, where we had our evening meal. After we ate, we took a quick ride back to Dingle. On our way back to Ventry, we stopped at Quinn's Pub. While in Ireland, you do as the locals do, visit the pubs. For the next seven days, it was a vacation to remember, as well as a genealogy history lesson. We ventured from Ventry west along Slea Road, stopping at the Kerry Famine Cottages, visiting Dunbeg Fort, the Blasket Island Museum and into the village of Ballyferriter. Ballyferriter was where my third great grandmother Ellen Sears originated, and St. Vincent's Church was where my third great grandparents married. We stopped at the church taking pictures inside and out, and walked the village of Ballyferriter. We walked Ventry Beach daily and visited the ruins of Rahanane Castle, which is about 100 yards from the Malone House in Ventry. Back in 2002, my sister took a picture of a Malone house that we thought was the house our great grandfather lived in; turns out, it was the house of his nephew. The actual Malone House sits above this house on the hill overlooking Ventry Harbor and all of Ventry. While in the company of one of my cousins, we stopped and knocked on the door to see if we could take pictures of the outside of the house. Finding out that I was a Malone, the woman invited us in, giving us a tour of the house (nothing had been remodeled), and told us to take as many pictures inside as well as outside. This was one of the small-unexpected rewards gained on this trip. We continued to tour the Dingle area, stopping at St. Catherine's church in Ventry where my second great grandfather was baptized, married, and my great grandfather was baptized. St. Mary's in Dingle was another stop because that is where my great grandmother was baptized, and her parents married. We took several walks along Dingle Harbor, where all the fishing boats came, and walked the streets of Dingle visiting the shops, restaurants, and eating at the homes of my cousins. One of the Pubs, known as Murphy's Pub, in Dingle is located on Strand Street. We ate there several times, but on my first visit, I asked about the history of Strand Street and if anyone along Strand Street would know anything about the Kennedy Family. I asked because my great grandmother, Ellen Kennedy, was born on Strand Street in Dingle. The man that sat us told me to hold on, and he had the owner of Murphy's come out to talk to me. According to the owner, his grandfather purchased the building in 1950 from the Kennedys, therefore as the owner put it, "I was about to eat my dinner in the home of my great grandmother.", another small reward from a vacation to remember. After eight days in the Dingle area, it was time to leave for the airport and back to Boston. We accomplished much (more than I have space here for), took many pictures (about 500), and met such great people; they made you feel like you belonged. While heading to the airport, I spotted the sign for Castlegregory, County Kerry, so we detoured to there. Castlegregory was the village my paternal grandmother came from. Again, we walked the village taking pictures. Before resuming our trip to the airport, we ate lunch in Castlegregory. The Trip was now complete; we had returned home, home to Ireland, where our ancestors were born. In doing so, we felt we had brought those that had immigrated so many years ago back home with us.

Earlier, I stated that I had found the parish priest in Ballygowdan, who connected my wife to her cousins. In the next newsletter, I will let you know how I went about doing this, so you too may find the parishes that your ancestors came from.

Copyright © 2015 Fran Malone Used with permission by Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

[Return to Contents page](#)

Successful Library Opening

by Katy Krause

The WMGS Library has had a great kick off! I wanted to give a special thank you to the three people that have already donated items to the library.

In the order in which I received them:

Our President, Fran Malone donated 16 issues of Family Tree Magazines, 6 issues of American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society and the book Mastering Genealogical Proof by Thomas Jones.

William Lashua donated several books: The Cory Family, 1st and 2nd edition, William Cory of Portsmouth, R.I. and his Descendants, and The American Corys; Their Settlement and Dispersion in the US and Canada. He also donated loose papers pertaining to Giles Cory/ the Salem Witch Trials, Edmund Rice and a 1964 Map of North Stonington, CT showing all cemeteries in town.

Ellen Janik donated a beautiful book, Atlas of the Civil War by National Geographic.

Remember members may check out books on meeting nights or on research clinic nights. We have a very wide variety of books and magazines already and we appreciate any donations. Be sure to check out the library catalog [here](#).

Copyright © 2015 Katy Krause. Used with permission by Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. [Return to Contents page](#)

Methodology

Organization

By Ann Royal

How to organize your genealogy – it is a concept that has had a lot of prose written about it. There are several blogs and social media groups dedicated to it. I will not discuss how to organize your genealogy, but how to think about it. Hillary Schau will speak on the how later on this year. I have been reading and thinking about this topic quite a bit these past months. I am currently exchanging services with a professional organizer to organize and manage my 99 square feet, which is my office, bedroom, and personal living space. One of the hallmarks of this organizer, Julie Manning, is that she works with you to create systems that work with how you think. And quite frankly, that has gotten me thinking. I could have organized my space like I have always organized my work spaces, neat, clean, and outwardly organized. This method has not worked long-term in a space which serves both my personal and my business needs. I called in Julie so I could maintain my space on a regular basis, and not have to keep re-inventing the wheel.

You see, I am truly what I call a “scattershot” brain. I do not travel from point A to point B in a linear fashion. If you have ever had a conversation with me, I speak in tangents. I go from subject to subject, seemingly without purpose. However, all of the subjects I speak about are very related to me. It is how I think. Have you ever seen those diagrams, of someone trying to solve a mystery, that has yarn or string connecting various points on a board? These diagrams show that all these “scattershot” ideas/points are truly connected and where these ideas/points intersect. This does not mean that I am a scatter brain; this means that I think and see connections that others may need help seeing. It also means that I organize things very differently than other people.

So when it comes to organizing, you may need to take a very hard look at yourself – how do you really think? You see, in my business life, I have **learned** to organize myself according to other people’s expectations. In fact, in trying to seem organized, I have learned to be over analytical, paralysis through analysis. I can color-code and sub-categorize a subject to death. No, I am really good at it; but this is learned behavior, not natural behavior. Once I am in my personal space, a place I feel safe and comfortable, my natural behavior, my personal way of thinking comes out. This is why I cannot maintain the perceived organized look in my personal space.

So, how does this relate to you? Start thinking about how you think, is it linear, “scattershot”, an amalgam of the two or something different all together? This will help you figure out if someone’s method of organization is for you. There are a ton of systems out there for organization, but if you have not thought about what works for you, you are going to spend a lot of time, money and effort wasting your time. If you find or create a system that is in alignment with **how** you think, you will probably be happy with it and use that system for a long time. If it works for you, then it is a good system. If it does not work long-term for you, then it is not a good system for **you**. Notice I did not say the system was not good, I said and emphasized that it was not good for **you**. Most of the systems out there are good for someone, most likely, those that think like the creator. As I mentioned above, Hillary will be speaking about organization in the near future. If you start thinking about how you think, you will be even better prepared for her presentation and how to implement organization in your genealogical life.

Copyright © 2015 Ann Royal Used with permission by Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

[Return to Contents page](#)

Technology

Is it Evernote vs OneNote or is it Evernote and/or OneNote?

By Ann Royal

As I said in Methodology, this article is related to how you think as well. Discussions around the internet about the benefits of Evernote and OneNote have been happening. Some of these discussions have been great, see DearMYRTLE’s *Wacky Wednesday* and *GenTools* discussions. However, there has also been some polarization on the subject in other discussions. I said above I believe I am what I call a “scattershot” brain, and that I organize things very differently than other people. So how does this relate to Evernote and OneNote?

Well, it relates to how you think. Hillary wrote a great article on Evernote and gave us a glimpse into how it can impact our research and help keep us organized. Well, Marie Claude Gagnon and Lisa Gorrell on the *Wacky Wednesday* discussion describe OneNote equally well. Now, how does this help us decide which one to use? Well, thanks to Judy G Russell, “it depends”. How you think will greatly influence which one you use and which one will work best for you.

Evernote works very well with someone who does not need a rigid structure to file things. If rows of binders, all neatly setup, floats your boat, Evernote might not be the best fit. One of the best aspects of this program is that while you can set up multiple notebooks, you can just have one. Using the tags function as file labels and subject labels, you can file something once, but it can have multiple tags. For example, women, how do we file them? Do we file under the maiden name, the married name, or split the person into maiden and then file under married surname? What if you could just add a tag when they marry? Louise Gertrude Buckley could be filed under #Buckley for all documents when she is single, and when she marries Robert Bernard Bass, you simply add the tag - #Bass to the list. To me, this makes more sense, but it may not for you. The biggest disadvantage to Evernote is that you can get too creative with the tags. If someone is a hybrid of two established tags, it is easy to get creative and create a hybrid tag. Keep It Simple, Simon is a watch phrase for this program.

OneNote works well with someone who likes a neat filing system they can understand; for instance, the person who likes rows of neat binders. OneNote works with a notebook style, then you can create sub-sections (tabs), then pages and sub-pages. This style of notetaking makes better sense to some people. They know exactly how they are filing something, and can find it by drilling down through the notebook. The advantage of this program is that it works with MS Office programs. You can create a table with links to other pages, etc. The biggest disadvantage of OneNote is paralysis by analysis. You can become so engrossed in creating sub-divisions of sub-divisions in the interest of “organizing” that you spend all your time organizing and not researching. There needs to be some balance in your work and your organizing.

Both programs now offer cross-platform access – tablets, phones, etc. through the Cloud. Both can clip a web page with active links, and you can make notes on and search on almost all documents located within each program.

I have used both programs. I started with OneNote and then converted to Evernote. Evernote works best with my brain, but I’ll use OneNote for projects with deadlines or projects that I might collaborate on. So, you do not have to choose one or the other, unless you want to. Each program can offer different challenges and benefits depending on your needs. Use programs that make sense to you and how you work.

Copyright © 2015 Ann Royal Used with permission by Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

[Return to Contents page](#)

Membership

Like most things in life, membership is not free - but for our reasonable annual membership fees, you get a lot for your money.

Reasons to Join our Society

1. Meet people with similar interests of family history and genealogy
2. Attend monthly meetings featuring local and national presenters
3. Receive assistance from our members on your family research
4. Attend our free genealogy research clinics held twice per month (\$10/session non-members)
5. Share our library of resources including books and CDs
6. Opportunity to serve as a volunteer, coach or member of Board of Directors

Membership

Annual membership runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. Individuals may purchase a membership for \$25, while institutions may purchase a membership for \$30.

Join by mail, email, or in person at our monthly meeting: Click [here](#) for the WMGS Application for Membership, the image is to your right to view, save, and print. Payments may be made online on our [Join Page](#), by mail at the address listed below, or brought in person to one of our meetings.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 418
West Springfield, MA 01090

Meetings

We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts.

Our genealogy research clinics are offered on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center. The cost of the computer class is \$10 for non-members; free for members of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

We hope you will join us at our next meeting.

[Return to Contents page](#)

About Us



The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society was founded in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1972, and officially incorporated on February 6, 1973. We are devoted to the research and documentation of our family ancestry and history. We also assist others in the pursuit of discovering their ancestry.

We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. We welcome non-members and beginning genealogists. Please join us!

We currently have about 100 active members, approximately 80% living in the Western Massachusetts area. The other 20% are residents of other states but with ancestry from Massachusetts or New England.

We receive numerous inquiries each month via U.S. & e-mail from people looking for information on area families. Our members are happy to volunteer to research these requests.

Fran Malone – President

Dave Robison – Vice President

Katy Krause – Treasurer

Ann McDougal – Secretary

Hillary Schau – NERGC Delegate

Susan Levenson, Katy Krause & Dee Pederson – Website Redesign Team

Ann Royal – Newsletter Editor

Susan Levenson – Webmaster

Jeanne Leblond – Surname Project Coordinator

Carolea Hayden – Refreshment Coordinator

Diane Ascioti – Founder

[Return to Contents page](#)

Newsletter Deadlines

Please submit all information to be entered into the next newsletter by 15 January 2016.

We are looking for articles written by our members. Have you been to a repository that would be cool? Have you been to where your ancestors lived? Have you tried a new gadget or software? You do not have to write the article yourself. If you would like to do an interview about a subject, that would be helpful as well. What are you interested in? Tell us.

[Return to Contents page](#)