

June 2015

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



*Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society*

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## News

Greetings,

The month of June has arrived, and we are finally getting some Spring rain here in New England.

June is a busy time of year with graduations, summer weddings and vacation planning. If you're not sure where to focus next on your family research, you may find some inspiration from one of these events.

There is also a lot going on at the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). Be sure to check out the following items in our newsletter this month:

- WMGS Calendar of Events (Page 2)
- Upcoming genealogy events (Pages 3-4)
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- Save the Dates – WMGS 2015-16 Meeting Dates (Page 6)
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We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Agawam Senior Center.

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## WMGS Calendar of Events

**June 3, 2015** – The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society will hold their next meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

For our meeting, we will host a **Pot Luck Dinner** and "**Open Mic**" Session. So bring your favorite casserole, side dish or dessert and socialize with fellow genealogists. After dinner, we will hold an open-mic session. Members are welcome to share their genealogy research stories, websites, tips and ideas.

## Genealogy Research Clinics

Join Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Vice President of WMGS and owner of [www.oldbones.info](http://www.oldbones.info) for "Genealogy Research Clinics."

Spend some time with genealogy researchers with years of experience using the internet to help get the answers you're looking for. Learn time saving research strategies using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Google and SteveMorse.org among other sites.

Sessions are held on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center.

Mark your calendars for the final **June 18, 2015** clinic remaining before a brief break for the July and August.

New Genealogy Research Clinics will be scheduled starting in September.

### **Genealogy with Dave Robison**

Upcoming events by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England can be found at [bit.ly/Workshops\\_Classes](http://bit.ly/Workshops_Classes).

### **Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts**

Summer Meeting: Thursday, June 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.  
at the Chicopee Public Library

“Leaving Dobrzechów: Immigration from a Galician Village”

Patricia Yocum will discuss who these immigrants were and what they might tell us about Polish immigration from Galicia. For more details see [www.pgsma.org](http://www.pgsma.org)

### **Association for Gravestone Researchers**

Annual Conference  
Westfield State University  
June 23 – 28, 2015  
Westfield, Massachusetts

This conference features lectures, demonstrations, exhibits, conservation and documentation workshops, classroom sessions, slide presentations, and guided cemetery tours. For more details see

<https://www.gravestonestudies.org/conference/register>

### **New York State Family History Conference**

Syracuse, New York  
September 17-19, 2015

Similar to the recent NERGC held in Providence, Rhode Island, this event is a regional conference, “A Federation of Genealogical Societies.” Read all the details here: <http://www.nysfhc.org/index.html> where you can see the extensive list of outstanding speakers, the rates for partial registrations, hotel rates, exhibitors and sponsors. Early bird deadline: May 31, 2015.

Dave Robison is planning to attend the NY conference. If you’re interested in traveling with him, please e-mail him at [dave@oldbones.info](mailto:dave@oldbones.info).

**Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast**

Annual Conference at Central Connecticut State University

1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, Connecticut

October 2-3, 2015 (Friday PM & Saturday All Day):

Speakers will cover many subjects that will help you understand the many ways to conduct your Polish genealogical research. Some of the subjects covered in lectures include:

- Galician Maps in Poland: A Great Source for Family Research
- Introduction to Polish Research, Part I and Part II
- Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
- Notary Records in Poland (with Emphasis on the Notary Records of the 19th Century)

For more information, visit the Society's Conference website:

<http://www.pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>

**Spend a Day with Steve Morse**

Saturday, October 10, 2015

Elms College

Chicopee, Massachusetts

The PGSMA in collaboration with the Polish Center of Discovery & Learning and the Chicopee Cultural Council is pleased announce that renowned genealogist and computer professional is coming to Chicopee to present a full day of talks. For more details see [www.pgsma.org](http://www.pgsma.org)

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

## May Meeting Results

At our May 2015 meeting, several important votes took place.

### **Election of Officers 2015 - 2016**

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected to serve as officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS):

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Dave Robison  
Secretary: Ann McDougal  
Treasurer: Katy Krause

The officers' term will run from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.

### **Meetings**

Membership voted to extend the meeting schedule to include a meeting each and every month of the year. This is a change from our previous meeting schedule that only included meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June. Starting July 1, 2015, we will now hold monthly meetings year-round.

### **Annual Membership Dues**

Starting September 1, 2015 annual membership dues will increase from \$20 to \$25 per year. Please note this change when renewing your membership in September.

## 2014-15 Membership Update

The 2014-2015 WMGS year was the best on record. A total of 19 new members joined our society. There were 80 total members, which includes our 13 lifetime members. Monthly meeting attendance was excellent, and our Genealogy Research Clinics were a hit.

## Save the Dates: WMGS 2015-2016 Season

Our 2015-2016 season kicks off in July. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following dates:

### 2015

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2

### 2016

January 6

February 3

March 2

April 6

May 4

June 1

## Facebook Position Filled

Special thanks to Ellen Janik for volunteering to maintain our Facebook page. As our Facebook Administrator, Ellen will post WMGS events and newsletters; like similar interest groups; and share articles that may be useful to our members. Welcome aboard Ellen!

## About Us

### Meetings:

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.

Our genealogy research clinics are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, September to June.

### Membership information

Annual membership is \$25 and runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. Applications for Membership can be found on our website at [www.WestMassGen.com](http://www.WestMassGen.com)

## 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 September 2015. Please forward your information by August 20, 2015 to: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2015-16 Executive Board Members**

#### **Officers:**

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Dave Robison  
Secretary: Ann McDougal  
Treasurer: Katy Krause

#### **Committee Chairs:**

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher  
and Webmaster: Susan Levenson

Newsletter Assistant: Bill Thompson  
Facebook Administrator: Ellen Janik