

March 2015

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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News

Greetings,

Think Spring! On Sunday, March 8th Daylight Savings time begins. We can all set our clocks ahead one hour.

Friday, March 20th is the first day of Spring. After a long cold January and February, we ready for some warmer temperatures. The days are getting longer and hopefully the snow piles here in New England will start to melt. With only a few more weeks of winter left, it's a great time to continue your genealogy research.

Our newsletter includes the following items:

- Upcoming genealogy events (Pages 2-5)
- WMGS March 2015 Meeting Details (Page 2)
- Television Series "Who Do You Think You Are?" returns (Page 3)
- Election of Officers (Page 5)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at The Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

March 4, 2015 – The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Round Table: We are planning an evening of Q&A, research strategies, overcoming brick walls and any other subject that we can cover in a single evening. Your input prior to the event could prove helpful. If you'd like to provide your ideas, we invite you to send your thoughts by sending an e-mail to us at WestMassGen@gmail.com

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2015 events for the WMGS:

April 1, 2015 – Lauren Forastiere will present, “The Funeral Home Industry as a Family History Resource.”

May 6, 2015 – Election of officers; Connie Reik, Archivist at Tufts University will present “Finding Your Civil War Ancestors.”

June 3, 2015 – Last monthly meeting and dinner.

For a printable version of our 2014-15 calendar and events, click here:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/updates.html>

Genealogy with Dave Robison

Upcoming events by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. More information is available at http://oldbones.co/?page_id=3679

April 15 – 19, 2015, Dave will be presenting “*Search Strategies You Haven’t Tried --- Search Sites You Never Thought Of*” at the biennial conference of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) in Providence, RI. Dozens of speakers from around the United States will be presenting a broad variety of programs. Regular registration will be \$150 as of March 1, 2015.

Genealogy Research Clinics

Join Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Vice President of WMGS and owner of www.oldbones.co 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. Clinics are free for WMGS members. There is a \$10 fee per session for non-members.

2015 Dates

March 19	May 21
March 26	May 28
April 16	June 18
April 23	

Polish Genealogical Society Of Connecticut and the Northeast

**Save the dates: Friday, October 2, 2015 and Saturday, October 3, 2015
2015 Polish Genealogy Conference**

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. will host a Polish Genealogy Conference at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT. The conference is well worth the trip. For conference details, speakers and registration, please visit their web site:

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

Television Series Returns

Programming Note: The television series “Who Do You Think You Are?” returns for another season starting on March 8th. Be sure to look for it on TLC.

NERGC Conference

NAVIGATING THE PAST: SAILING INTO THE FUTURE

APRIL 15 – 19, 2015

The Rhode Island Convention Center - Providence, RI

Register at www.nergc.org



The most important genealogical conference in the Northeast is the biennial “New England Regional Genealogical Conference.” Virtually all genealogical subjects will be covered in a 3 day event with a wide variety of speakers, workshops, “Ancestor’s Road Show”, banquets, luncheons and other events. For a detailed description of what has been planned, click here <http://www.nergc.org/> and then click the link **Download the Program**

Brochure. There is an “Early Bird” registration of \$120 which ends on February 28, 2015. After that date, registration is \$150. Also, the local hotels are offering special rates to conference attendees.

Keynote Speaker: Lisa Louise Cook – Genealogy Gems
Keynote Speaker: Judy G. Russell – The Legal Genealogist

- 60+ lectures
- Technology Day
- Librarians’ and Teachers’ Day
- Ancestors Roadshow
- Society Fair
- Exhibit Hall
- Special Interest Groups
- Query Column
- Research in Providence

Also speaking at NERGC 2015 will be one of our own, **Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England and Vice President of WMGS**. He will present “Search Strategies You Never Thought Of---Search Sites You never Heard Of!” which is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, April 18th from 1:45 – 2:45 pm, track #S-321

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NERGC

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6:30 PM – Chicopee Public Library

<http://www.pgsma.org/>

Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources, Or, "I Found my Village! Now What?"

by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

Finding vital records for one's family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. After a short overview on using U.S. documents to determine one's ancestral village, Julie will illustrate the steps used to determine the parish for that village by introducing some of the gazetteers and indexes that have come online in recent years, including the Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego (Index to the Kingdom of Poland) . She will also explore the options for locating Polish vital records online using websites such as Geneteka, Metryki.GenBaza, and BaSIA. A great and practical talk for beginners AND experienced researchers!

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

Election of Officers

At our upcoming meeting on May 6, 2015 we will elect the 2015-2016 officers of The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). We are pleased to say that we have one WMGS member running for each board position.

However, any member of WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

If you are interested in working as an officer, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting, or contact us via e-mail at WestMassGen@gmail.com

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 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.

Membership information

Annual membership runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. Individuals may purchase a membership for \$20. Applications for Membership can be found on our website at 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 April 2015. Please forward your information by March 20, 2015 to: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2014-15 Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Dave Robison
Secretary: Janet Curley
Treasurer: Katy Krause

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher
and Webmaster: Susan Leverson

Newsletter Assistant: Bill Thompson