

May 2011

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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### News

Greetings,

Spring is officially here, and the warm weather has arrived. There are several ways you can continue your genealogy research through the spring and summer months. Check out our calendar of events on page 2 for our upcoming events.

**Volunteers Wanted:** At our upcoming meeting on May 4, 2011 we will elect the 2011-2012 officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). If you are interested in becoming an officer, please see us before the meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Any member of the WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

**Website Updates:** Over the summer, we will make enhancements to our website. Some changes include: enlarging the text size, adding pages for our calendar and Surname Project, and updating our Resources tab. If you have any suggestions for our website, please contact Susan Levenson at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at the Agawam Senior Center.

## Calendar of Events

### May 4, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Monthly meeting and the election of new officers. Jean Nudd from the National Archives at Pittsfield will be our guest speaker.

### Thursday, May 19, 2011

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer class. Classes 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, May 26, 2011

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer class. Classes 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.

### June 1, 2011:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, June 1, 2011. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Last meeting of the month and "Pot Luck Dinner." Have a good summer and see you in September.

## Genealogy Hint

**By Fran Malone**

Sorry for the void in this month's newsletter. This past month was extremely busy and time ran out before I could write a hint and website for you. However, the Genealogy Hint and Website will be back for the June Newsletter. In the meantime I would like to hear from you. Do you have a website of interest? Do you have any hints? What has helped you in your research? Share your knowledge and suggestions by emailing us at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

# Places to Visit

By Susan Levenson

Now that the weather is nice, spring fever has set in. In an effort to get you out of the house, here are a few suggestions on ways to continue your genealogy research without sitting in front of your computer at home.

Visit your local library. Chicopee, Holyoke and Springfield libraries all have something to offer.

1. The **Chicopee Public Library** has a history room housing a wealth of information. There are city directories and phone books dating back to the early 1900's. In addition, there is a World War II Scrapbook. For more details, visit their website at:  
[http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/find\\_it/chic\\_his.html](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org/find_it/chic_his.html)
2. The **Holyoke Public Library History Room and Archive** is temporarily located at Holyoke Community College. Resources include Newspapers, Vital Statistics, Maps, and a Photo Collection. For more details, visit their website at: <http://holyokehhistory.blogspot.com/2008/06/collections.html>
3. The **Springfield Public Library and the Local History and Genealogy Library at the Museum of Springfield History on the Quadrangle** have an extensive collection including city directories, newspapers and yearbooks. For additional information, visit their website at:  
<http://www.springfieldlibrary.org/overview.html#local>
4. The **Worcester Public Library** offers newspapers, passenger and immigration lists, and access to [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org) (NEHGS). For more details, visit their website at:  
<http://www.worcpublib.org/resources/genealogy.htm>

Next month, we will focus on additional resources in Massachusetts, including the National Archives at Pittsfield, the Massachusetts Archives, and the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

If you have a place that you would like us to write about in our "Places to Visit" column, please contact Susan Levenson at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

## Handouts from Genealogy Conference

Did you miss the free genealogy conference held at the Worcester Public Library in April 2011? If so, handouts are now available on-line. Visit the website <http://www.worcpublib.org/> and select "Genealogical Conference Handouts" located at the top of the list. Handouts are only posted for a limited time, so plan to review this information soon.

## 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 classes 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 June 2011. Please forward your information by May 20, 2011 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2010-2011 Executive Board Members**

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Beckie Cross  
Co-Secretary: Elsie Hamilton  
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers  
Treasurer: Susan Leverson