

November 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,

A sincere thank you to everyone who renewed their membership to the WMGS by our October 15th deadline. We collected dues at our September and October meetings, as well as via mail. So far, we have had a terrific response. We truly appreciate your continued support.

Be sure to check out the following items in our newsletter this month:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-4)
- Fran Malone's Genealogy Website (page 4)
- What Can You Learn from a Walk in the Cemetery? (page 5)
- Membership (Page 6)
- WMGS Secretary Needed (Page 6)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at the Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

Wednesday, November 6, 2013:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Maureen Taylor, Nationally known Author, Lecturer, Genealogist, Historic Photo Expert will present “Preserving Family Photographs – 1839 to Present.” (Note: Maureen will speak to us via SKYPE.) For more information about our speaker, please see her website: www.maurentaylor.com

Thursday, November 21, 2013:

New! The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a Genealogy Research Clinic. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Clinics 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. Clinics are free for members. There is a \$10 fee per class for non-members. Please note: The clinic will not be held on November 28th, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Wednesday, December 4, 2013:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Last meeting before the holidays. Come to our “Pot Luck” dinner and enjoy holiday music while you dine. After dinner. We will host an “Open Mic” session for members to share their genealogy tips, ideas, or projects.

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2013-2014 events for the WMGS:

December 4, 2013 – Holiday Dinner

January 8, 2014 – Field Trip to The Lyman and Merrie Woods Museum of Springfield History

February 5, 2014 – Kerry Hotaling book signing “What They Endured, What They Wrought”

March 5, 2014 – Denise Martinez from the Chicopee City Clerk’s office

April 2, 2014 – Gravestone Girls

May 7, 2014 – Election of officers; D Barry Sheldon “Breaking Down Brick Walls” (Tentative remote presentation)

June 4, 2014 – Last monthly meeting and dinner

Genealogy Research Clinics

New! We are pleased to announce that Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Treasurer of WMGS and owner of www.oldbones.co have teamed up to host “Genealogy Research Clinics.”

Here’s a chance to spend some time with genealogy researchers with years of experience using the internet to help get the answers you’re looking for. Time saving research strategies using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Google and SteveMorse.org among other sites.

Sessions will be held on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

2013

September 19

September 26

October 17

October 24

November 21

December 19

2014

January 16

January 23

February 20

February 27

March 20

March 27

April 17

April 24

May 15

May 22

June 19

Special note: If you are planning to attend a Genealogy Research Clinic, please be sure to add your name and phone number to our sign up list. If a clinic needs to be canceled, we will call you.

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

WMGS December Meeting

Calling all members: Do you have something you'd like to share with our group? On December 4th, we will host our annual holiday meeting. After our pot-luck dinner, we will have time for individual speakers to share tips, ideas, and projects.

The Pot Luck Dinner Sign Up Sheet will be available at our November meeting. Do you make a special dish for the holidays to celebrate your ethnicity? Perhaps homemade tomato sauce to go with an Italian dish? Maybe you're Polish and know how to make pierogi or golumpki? Whatever your background, feel free to bring your specialty to our Pot Luck Dinner in December.

Genealogy Website: Genealogy Bank

by Fran Malone

<http://www.genealogybank.com/>

Genealogybank has become a very popular genealogy resource for discovering your family history. It's a paid subscription website that you can pay monthly or annually. The monthly cost is only \$19.95 and for the whole year is \$69.95. If you should subscribe then Genealogybank will give you historical newspapers from all 50 states dating from 1690-2010. Some states have released more dates than others so the news does vary. If you are looking in the Springfield, Mass. area then you will have access from the mid 1800's to the present. You'll be able to obtain births, marriages, deaths, hometown news, military information and much more. Remember you don't have to subscribe for the whole year. For \$19.95 you can take out a month subscription, search what want, and then you can either cancel or renew for another month.

I do subscribe for a year because I seem to keep finding family history. Among the records that I've found are marriages, engagements, and deaths. Add to those records the Vaudeville articles that my Grandfather was in, a handball match in 1898 that my Great Grandfather was in, and a couple of Civil War Battles that my wife's 2nd Great Grandfather was in. These records have come from the Massachusetts, Vermont, Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, Washington DC, Virginia, and Ohio Newspapers showing that news about your ancestors can come from anywhere. Genealogybank can also aid in your detective skills for gaining information after the 1940 Census when it becomes slightly more difficult to find the present day mysteries.

Genealogy Hint: What Can a Walk in the Cemetery Tell You?

by Fran Malone

Walking in a cemetery looking for your ancestor is a link to your past with stories to tell. It's a history lesson waiting to happen and depending on the creation of the gravestones an indication into what your ancestor may have liked. Grant you most stones have the name of your ancestor, the year of birth and the year of death. However you might be fortunate and find the exact birthdate, date of death, a nickname, where they were born, military rank as well as military unit, occupation, membership to a group, hobby, or something they liked when they were alive. The link below shows a few of the remarkable gravestones at Hope Cemetery in Barre, Vermont where some of my wife's relatives are buried. As we walked through the cemetery it provided us with a unique aspect of how some of those people lived and what they enjoyed in life. I believe the link will give you an interesting view into some of the artistic work that can go into the gravestones created so a story can be told as well as kept. We observed one stone in the shape of a race car, apparently for someone in the family that like racing and another in the shape of a chair, maybe to represent his favorite chair. Unfortunately not all cemeteries are this unique but they still will give you a history on how our ancestors lived.

The Gravestone Girls are on our calendar to speak in April 2014. They will give us insight to what you can locate as you research a cemetery for your ancestor. So on the next nice day you get, take a walk through the cemetery and see what the cemetery as well as your ancestor is telling you. It could be interesting.

Hope Cemetery - Barre, Vermont

<http://www.seacoastnh.com/dct/barrecemetery.html>

WMGS Officer Needed

We are currently looking for a volunteer for the position of Secretary. The primary duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at our meetings; coordinate the monthly newsletter for members without e-mail; and handle correspondence for the society. If you can help, please contact Fran Malone at WestMassGen@gmail.com or see him at our next meeting.

Membership

Last call: WMGS annual membership dues should be paid by October 15th. Did you miss the deadline? No problem. Dues can be submitted at our next meeting. Can't make it to our next meeting? Use the coupon below to send us your payment.

We appreciate your continued support. We rely on our membership funds to provide quality speakers throughout the year.

Reasons to Join our Society

1. Meet people with similar interests of family history and genealogy
2. Attend monthly meetings to hear professional speakers
3. Receive assistance from our members on your family research
4. Attend our genealogy computer workshops held twice per month
5. Share our library of resources including books and cds

Did someone from WMGS help you with your research in the past? Even if you can't attend our meetings, please consider renewing your membership so that our society is available to assist with future research questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership Renewal 2013-2014

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: (Membership fees are listed below. Please select one.)

Annual dues period is from September 1 to August 31.

INDIVIDUAL, \$20 or **INSTITUTION, \$25**

Please make check payable and mail to:

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 418

West Springfield, MA 01090

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 December 2013. Please forward your information by December 20, 2013 to Susan Levenson at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2013-2014 Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Beckie Cross
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