

September 2010

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Geneological Society

P.O. Box 418 • West Springfield, MA 01090

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/index.html>

E-Mail: WestMassGen@Comcast.net

News

Greetings!

We hope that you have enjoyed your summer. We are pleased to announce some new improvements for the Western Massachusetts Geneological Society.

First, our web site is now up and running. A special thank you to Karen Canary and Westfield State College for coordinating and designing the site. It looks wonderful, and we now have a presence on the internet. We encourage everyone to check out our web site listed above. It hosts our 2010-2011 Calendar, as well as resources your may use for your genealogy research.

Secondly, we are pleased to share with you our newsletter. Board members Susan Levenson and Fran Malone have developed this informational tool which will be sent to members electronically on a monthly basis. It is meant to supplement your genealogy research by offering genealogy tips and web site suggestions. In addition, we will post genealogy events hosted in the area and welcome our newest members. We hope that you find this newsletter informative.

We are excited to kick off another year, and look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 16, 2010

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.

Saturday, September 18, 2010

The Friends of the National Archives – Pittsfield will present their Seventh Full-Day Genealogy Conference entitled, “**Life in the Past Lane VII**” located at Williams Inn on the Green, Williamstown, Massachusetts

Speakers:

LESLIE ALBRECT HUBER:

Get Organized! Take Control of Your Research Projects

Writing a Family History Your Family Will Want to Read

JEAN NUDD: **Using Footnote.com**

GREGORY POMICTER: **Electronic Scrapbooking**

The fee is \$75.00 per person. Your registration includes the morning coffee and muffins as well as the lunch and afternoon beverages and cookies. To register, please see the website: <http://narafriends-pittsfield.org/>

Thursday, September 23, 2010

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. Classes are free for members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

October 6, 2010:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

The guest speaker will be Leslie Huber. She will bring her new book “The Journey Takers” and will speak to us on the same subject.

Genealogy Hint

By Fran Malone

The Paper Trail

Follow the paper trail, there is always a paper trail. You have followed the paper trail to the point where you can't find anymore information. However you know that your ancestor lived in a certain area and died there but for all practical purposes he doesn't exist. You feel if don't find that ancestor your research will stall at that infamous "brick wall". This has happened to almost every researcher including me and I've been researching for twenty six years.

Here are two examples of "paper" that I didn't even think about. A "Deposition" to correct the name in the original death record. In 1907 a deposition was signed by the family of my Great Grandfather to correct the 1879 death record. In 1879 my Great Grandfather Patrick Cullinan died and it was entered in the books as Patrick Callahan. For years I had searched the death and marriage records of North Adams, Mass. for Patrick Cullinan to no avail. The 1907 deposition that corrected the name from Callahan to Cullinan produced not only the death record but the birth record and the cemetery record. From the marriage and death records I obtained the names of Patrick's parents and from where he came from in Ireland. It only produced the County in Ireland but it's an area to work with. This Deposition was found in the Town Clerk's Office in the book of Depositions.

The other example of "paper" that I never thought of was a "burial permit". I was searching for my wife's Great Grandmother Emily Derosia in Highgate, Vermont. We found the gravestone in the Cemetery with her Great Grandfather Thomas listed as well as Emily. Highgate had the death record of Thomas but did not have a death record on Emily. The town clerk suggested looking at the burial permits because an undertaker has to take out a permit everytime he opens a grave. Thanks to the town clerk I found a permit for the cemetery in Highgate that was taken out for burial in 1939 on an Emily Derosia. Emily was buried in Highgate but she died in Grand Isle, Vermont and that is where her death certificate was found.

So never give up on your search. The paper for your "Paper Trail" can come from just about any source.

Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

<http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

The above website has been a favorite of mine since it's released last November. The site is hosted by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport. At present there are 2,030,140 Church records of Baptism, Marriage and Death available to view free of charge. These records are comprised of Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland Records from Counties Carlow, Cork, Kerry and Dublin City.

When the webpage comes you'll want to click on the tab "search church records". This will bring you to the page that says "browse the database by location". When you click browse it will bring you to the areas where the records are available at this time. In November it was only Dublin and Kerry so you can see they have added. Seeing that my family is from Kerry then I'll use that as an example. Click on Kerry (RC) and you will get all the Roman Catholic Parishes in Kerry. My Family comes from Dingle as well as Castlegregory. Click on Dingle and you'll see a search block to your left. For example if you know the name "William Malone" enter that to get your results. You'll see that there are 23 Baptisms and 4 marriages in County Kerry pertaining to William Malone. The first one on the list born in 1827 happens to be the birth of my Great Great Grandfather. If you isolate the marriages then the fourth marriage down in 1850 happens to be my Great Great Grandparents.

For all those with Irish Ancestors have fun looking and keep checking back for them to add more counties. Don't be disappointed if you don't find the name either. It might be indexed wrong and then it becomes the "name game". The "Name Game" will be discussed in a later newsletter.

<http://www.familysearch.org>

The above website is the Latter Day Saints Family Search site, it's free, and has numerous tools to help with your search. If you put your cursor over "search records" you'll see several heading to choose from. The one that is a big benefit for those searching free records click on "Record Search Pilot". This will bring you the next page where you can click on "search and browse our collections". On this page you will find a map of the world with records from those areas that are indicated. Click on "Canada, USA, and Mexico" and you will find numerous records that could be a help to you if you have ancestors from those area. The "Record Search Pilot" is only one feature to this site.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following individuals who joined our society this month:

Jane Kivlin

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 October 2010. Please forward your information by September 20, 2010 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: WestMassGen@Comcast.net.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2010-2011 Executive Board Members

President: Jim Birchall
Vice-President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: June Cook
Co-Secretary: Elsie Hamilton
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers
Treasurer: Susan Leverson