

September 2013

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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

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News

Greetings,

Isn't it hard to believe that September is here already? It seems like it was just June. Where did the summer go? We hope you all had a terrific summer during which you pieced together more of your family tree.

Fall is a great time to continue your research, and we have lots of ways to assist you. Be sure to check out the following items in our newsletter this month:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-5)
- Fran Malone's Genealogy Hint (page 6)
- WMGS Member Travels to Ireland (Page 6)
- PBS Genealogy Roadshow Airs September 23rd (page 6)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting for the 2013-14 year on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 4, 2013:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their first meeting of the 2013-14 year. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Cliff McCarthy, Archivist at the The Lyman and Merrie Woods Museum of Springfield History, will speak to us about DNA and how it relates to genealogy.

Thursday, September 19, 2013 and Thursday, September 26, 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.

Wednesday, October 2, 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. October is Family History Month, so members are encouraged to bring a friend to our meeting.

Lisa Dougherty will be our speaker. Ms. Dougherty is a Professional Genealogist who specializes in research in upstate New York, tracing Irish ancestors to their place of origin in Ireland. She also assists with heir searching, consultations and workshops.

Save the Dates

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

October 2, 2013 – Lisa Doherty, Professional Genealogist and specialist in tracing Irish ancestors to their place of origin

November 6, 2013 – Dave Robison, WMGS Treasurer and owner of www.Oldbones.co will speak about, “Research Tips and Tricks – Using the Internet and Other Sources”

December 4, 2013 – Holiday Dinner
January 8, 2014 – Field Trip to The Lyman and Merrie Woods Museum of Springfield History
February 5, 2014 – Maureen Taylor, photo detective from www.maurentaylor.com
(Note: Maureen will speak to us via SKYPE)
March 5, 2014 – Denise Martinez from the Chicopee City Clerk’s office
April 2, 2014 – Speaker to be determined
May 7, 2014 – Election of officers; Speaker to be determined
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 will team 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

Upcoming Events Hosted by WMGS Member, Dave Robison

September 3, 2013 through October (5 Tuesday night sessions)

“Genealogy and Family Research” at First Church in Ludlow- Fundraiser

Learn how to begin your family tree or advance the research you have started in five (5) Tuesday sessions beginning at 6:30 PM on September 3, 2013 at First Church in Ludlow, 859 Center St., Ludlow, MA. And you'll be helping First Church at the same time.

Sample topics: Where to begin, making a plan, pedigree and family group charts, research sources, immigration/naturalization, and more. You will be entitled to four (4) hours of professional family research conducted for you. Each class includes a one hour presentation followed by at least ½ hour of questions and answers. Only \$49 for an individual or \$79 for a couple. Contact Dave Robison at (413) 233-4866 or e-mail Dave at dave@oldbones.info for details.

September 8, 2013

“Pulling the Person out of the Paperwork” at The Gardens of Wilbraham

Celebrate Grandparents Day with this 1 ½ to 2 hour interactive talk about genealogy and family research. Dave will briefly cover his background and experience along with some surprises he discovered regarding his own ancestors right here in Western Massachusetts.

Learn how to get started, how to make a plan, what you might be able to uncover, sources, web sites, examples of the breadth and depth of data that you may be able to find and what to do with it once you've found it, becoming a family history “detective”, interviewing your relatives to preserve the story of your family, how to organize your data, suggestions for family tree software and a brief mention of DNA as it relates to genealogy.

Attendees will come away with many helpful tools such as templates for pedigree charts and family group sheets, lists of web sites, relationships charts, sample census records, contents of various census records from 1790 to 1940 and much more.

Visit Dave Robison's website: www.oldbones.co
and blog: www.oldbonessearch.wordpress.com

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

Thursday, October 17, 2013, 6:30 PM

“Genealogical Holdings at the Massachusetts Archives”

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

Archivist and Reference Librarian Ms. Jennifer Fauxsmith will speak on Genealogical Holdings at the Massachusetts Archives. She will discuss vital records, passenger lists, naturalization records, and other information of genealogical interest which can be found at the Archives at Colombia Point. There are many opportunities for volunteer work at the archives. FREE. Bring a friend.

Polish Center of Discovery & Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
Phone: 413-592-0001 Website: www.polishcenter.net

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast

Friday, October 11, 2013 and Saturday, October 12, 2013

“2013 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/EventsConferences.aspx>

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

Marketing

Will you be out in the community this fall? Volunteers are needed to distribute flyers to local libraries, city clerk's offices and genealogy research facilities. If you would like to help, please pick up a package of flyers at our September meeting.

Genealogy Hint

by Fran Malone

Welcome back everyone and hopefully you all had a good summer. This month's hint can be found in the current issue of the Family Tree Magazine but has been stressed many times before. The internet has grown greatly as a tool for genealogy research and it is suspected to keep growing as records and information are added. One of the down falls to the internet research is the misguided information that you may come upon. Here are 5 tips to help keep your research going up the right tree and not the wrong tree.

<http://www.ancestorseekers.com/blog/article.php?id=2>

WMGS Member Travels to Ireland

WMGS member Janet Curley traveled to Ireland this summer to do some genealogy research. She had a great trip, and wrote about her adventures in her blog called "Genealogy Addiction." Click here to read more about Janet's trip to Ireland:

<http://genealogyaddiction.com/2013/08/12/the-measure-of-success/>

PBS Series "Genealogy Roadshow" Starts September 23rd

On Monday nights this Fall, PBS will air a genealogy show from 9 to 10 p.m. The first show will air on September 23rd, and will uncover the roots of everyday Americans.

For more details, check out the following link:

<http://video.pbs.org/video/2365066727/>

Membership

Just a reminder: WMGS annual membership dues should be paid by October 15th. 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 October 2013. Please forward your information by September 20, 2013 to Susan Levenson at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2013-2014 Executive Board Members

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Vice-President: Beckie Cross
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