



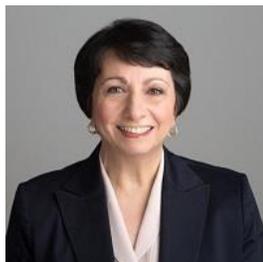
Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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Upcoming Meetings

July 2016 Meeting



Please join us for our monthly meeting, July 6, at which our guest speaker, Margaret Rose Fortier, will present *Andiamo! Finding Your Italian Family*, in person. We will cover Italian history, Italian immigration, Italians in the US, and how to find your Italian family. Learn why your great-uncle had five cousins named Vincenzo and what they changed their name to in the United States.

Margaret Rose Fortier, named for her grandmothers and inspired by her mother's phenomenal memory, is a professional genealogical researcher, writer, and speaker. She focuses on Italian - American and French - Canadian ancestry in New England. She serves as vice-president of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. and lives in Medford, Massachusetts. She is a member of the Italian Genealogical Society of America, the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

August 2016 Meeting

On August 3rd we will be meeting for our most anticipated event of the year; our annual field trip to the [Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History](#). Join us from 6-8 PM at 21 Edwards St, Springfield for a full night of research. Because the museum will be closed to everyone but us, we ask that you arrive promptly between 5:30 and 6pm. We get the place to ourselves, undivided attention from the archivist, and a private tour of normally off limit areas. But remember, you have to be a paid member to attend!

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June Meeting Recap



Diane Ascoti is awarded the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society's first ever "Founder's Day" award by President Dave Robison....

Photo by Lucas Ropak

June 1st was our annual "Pot Luck Dinner" and "Open Mic" Session. And this year we added a new layer to the evening. We had our first ever "Artifact Show"! Everybody brought their favorite dishes and several people brought treasured family heirlooms to discuss and display. Artifacts included a sherry glass, an apron, an old photo album and a military document. All with fascinating histories. Remember, not all of our treasures are paper.

During this meeting Diane Ascoti was presented with the first ever "Founder's Day" award for helping to create in 1972 what we now know and love as the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society.

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Articles

Lost and Found – The Schooley Family

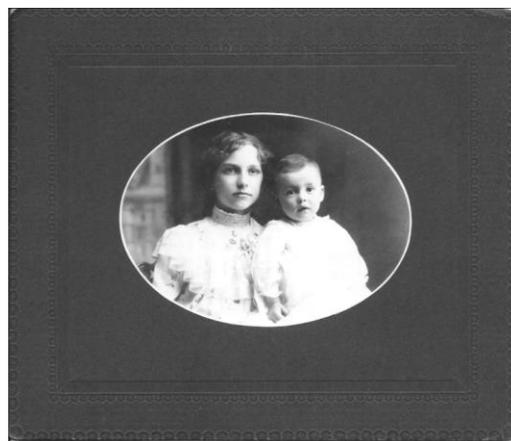
By Katy Krause



issue.

These are the type of pictures every genealogist wishes to find of their families. And if you have any Schooley ancestors, this might just be your lucky day. WMGS was recently contacted by a distant genealogist who had come across a group of 5 beautiful pictures and she is hoping to reunite them with their family. So let's dive into their tree and see if we can dig up a living relative!

The first picture is Harry Schooley, born in 1869 in New Jersey to John (1831-1911) and Elizabeth (1832-1896) Schooley. Harry was 1 of 7 children. He married Lillie Gammon in 1899 in Rhode Island and they had 3 boys in Springfield, Mass. All 3 boys died young, unmarried and without



The second picture is Harry's eldest son, Ralph at 11 months old. He's pictured with his cousin, Pearl Suydam, the only child of Jacob (1858-1925) and Mary (Schooley) (1858-1928).

Although this branch of the Schooley family doesn't seem to have been very proliferative, John Schooley (1831-1911) had 8 siblings and hopefully we can reunite these 5 pictures back with someone in this family who will treasure them. If this tree sounds familiar to anyone, please email us at westmassgen@gmail.com and we'll work with you to establish the connection and see that all 5 pictures get into the right hands.

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The Other Immigration Center

Reprinted from The American Elm – Fall 1995

Ask any non-genealogist/non-family historian where their immigrant ancestor entered into the United States and they will invariably say “through Ellis Island of course.” Well, yes, if their ancestor had come to New York, (there were many other immigration ports), and if their ancestor came to the U.S. *after* 1891, then they are probably stating a correct answer. But if that ancestor came through New York City *prior to* 1892, then their ancestor most likely came through the immigration station called “**Castle Garden.**” A rather strange name for an immigration station, isn’t it? Well, actually “Castle Garden” has had a strange history.

Both Castle Garden and Ellis Island had started their existence as military defense posts for New York harbor during the war of 1812. At that time, Castle Garden was called “the south-west Battery,” and was on a small island (200 feet off-shore) at the southern-most tip of Manhattan. It consisted of a thick-walled semi-circular building with a large open area at its center. The circular side faced the harbor and had 28 openings for its cannons. The wall on the land side was flat, with a large entry door. This fortress building was later named Castle Clinton, in honor of DeWitt Clinton, a past mayor of New York City, promoter of the Erie Canal and Governor of the State of New York.

By 1824, since there was obviously no longer a need for its battlements, the property was leased to New York City and was converted to an entertainment center. The semi-circular building was increased in height and enclosed with a magnificent domed roof. A large central fountain was installed and beautiful shrubs and flowers were placed within. This “garden” became the site of band concerts, balls, and later even operas. Presidents Andrew Jackson, John Tyler and James K. Polk attended events. Jenny Lind made her American debut there. The “castle garden” was utilized in this manner for more than two decades, but eventually its use declined. In the meantime, soil and rock that was extracted from the many subway train tunnels being built, was used as land-fill between Manhattan and this tiny island, whose previous access from land was by means of a wooden causeway.

In 1855, with the ever increasing number of immigrants arriving almost daily from Europe, the property was leased to the State of New York as a place to process the arriving immigrants. (The federal government had not yet taken over this responsibility.) Between 1855 and 1889 more than eight million immigrants passed through “Castle Garden.”

In 1890 control of immigration was taken over by the federal government and legislation was enacted to build a processing center on Ellis Island, also a previous fort and later Coast Guard station. It was to be the prime U.S. entry point for immigrants. (There were numerous other entry ports including Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, Galveston, Texas, even points in Main and Vermont for overland entries.) However, between 1890 and 1892, the first year of Ellis Island’s operation, immigrants



Castle Garden Immigration Station

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were processed by the *United States Superintendent of Immigration* at a place called “The Barge Office” which was located nearby Castle Garden. So if your ancestor had papers stating he/she was processed through the “Barge Office,” it was at New York between April 18, 1890 and Dec. 31, 1891. As a matter of fact, the first Ellis Island building, which was constructed of wood, burned down in 1895 and “the Barge Office” was again utilized as the immigration station for about two years. It was following this Ellis Island disaster that the present magnificent brick-and-stone edifice was erected. (Above information taken from the pamphlet “Castle Clinton”, published by the National Park Service.) Photo from www.nps.gov/cacl/learn/historyculture/index.htm

After more than three decades of use as an (New York State) immigration processing point, “Castle Garden” was converted into a major aquarium and remained so until 1941, when its vast collection of sea specimens was transferred to the Bronx Zoo. Today the building, restored to its original fortress look, and again known by its original name, is situated in Battery Park. It is under the management of the National Park Service and is designated a National Historic Site. If you examine a detailed map of Manhattan, first locating Battery Park (from where you board the ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island) you will likely see the designation of “Castle Clinton.”

During its six-decades of operation (1892-1954) Ellis Island processed about twelve million people, but Castle Garden, long overlooked as a national shrine of immigrant peoples, had previously processed about eight million. Therefore, of the twenty million processed by both facilities, Castle Garden can claim an impressive forty percent of the total, or about 16% of today’s U.S. population. Because no one is alive today who was processed through Castle Garden, if you ask the uninformed where their ancestor came into the United States, they will invariably respond, “Ellis Island, of course.”

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GPS #3 – Skilled Analysis and Correlation of Data

By Dave Robison

1. Reasonably exhaustive search
2. Complete and accurate citations
3. *Skilled analysis and Correlation of Data*
4. Resolution of conflicting information
5. Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

This month’s GPS topic is “Skilled analysis and correlation of data.” But before we talk about “skilled analysis,” let’s talk about why there are any standards for genealogical proof in the first place. Family history research is certainly more popular today than it has ever been. Complicating matters, believe it or not, is the internet. The ease the internet affords us makes genealogical research as simple as a user name and password. There are paid sites, free sites, genealogically oriented Facebook pages and innumerable other social media where a researcher can generally find just about whatever they’re looking for. That, ladies and gentleman, makes research deceptively easy. There’s the name, there’s the spouse and there are the kids. A little typing, a bit of copy and paste or maybe a little download and “VOILA” the family tree is finished and uploaded to the internet for everyone to see. And copy! Maybe that’s where you found your data; from someone else who followed the easy path. In a few weeks or maybe a few months, literally thousands of casual researchers have propagated inaccurate information. And all of that propagating will never, I repeat

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never, be undone. I'm not taking a shot at casual researchers. Rather, I raising the caution flag for every researcher, casual or not. As to the internet, I should have bumper stickers made up: "If it's on the internet, it's true --- Abraham Lincoln."

Thus, the Genealogical Proof Standard. The genealogy police are not going to come banging on your door with a "Naughty Researcher Warrant." No one monitors the uploaded data. So it's profoundly important for the genealogy research community to police itself. That goes for everyone: from looking for Granny's middle name to building applications for lineage societies.

Skilled analysis should not be intimidating. Just consider a few general rules. Take census records for example. As we all know, the federal population census is decennial. Therefore (and usually) the individuals in any household should age approximately 10 years from one census to the next. Does that always happen. Don't we wish! So here we already have a need to call up the 3rd standard, skilled analysis. Is it the right household? Are the right individuals enumerated? Are the ages reasonably close? In most cases, common sense will answer those questions. If not, we'll call on our correlation of data skills. Graph the family. Create columns for the years of the census records you're studying. Then down the side of your graph, list the data you've found:

- Location
- Household number (depending on the year)
- Family name
- Head of household
- Members of the household
- Ages of each household member
- Citizenship
- If not native born, then country of origin and language spoken
- Year of immigration
- Citizenship status: AL, PA or NA
- Occupation
- Industry

Do you need all that data? Yes, GPS #1. Do you have to remember/record where you found the data? Yes, GPS #2 complete and accurate citations. Why do you need all of this information to conform to GPS #3, skilled analysis? Here is a simple example:

In the 1900 census for Barre, Vermont. The head of household is Antonio Bianco, age 32 and his spouse is Maria, age 27. There are 6 children listed as either sons or daughters. The ages run from the oldest at 9 years and the youngest at 3 months. Antonio is from Italy, immigrated in 1888 and is naturalized indicated by "NA" in the appropriate column. He is a stone cutter in the construction industry.

After searching for Antonio in the 1910 census, you've found Anthony Bianco age 44 whose wife is Maria, age 39 and they are living with their 4 children in Northfield, Vermont. The children are ages 19 to 15. Anthony stated that he was an immigrant from Italy but his citizenship status indicates that he has

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only declared his intentions to naturalized, “PA.” And Anthony has mysteriously changed his occupation to butcher. A few questions here, but you say to yourself, “Age discrepancies...Hmmm, I’ll look into that later.”

Now you’ve moved on the 1920 census. Back in Barre, Vermont, there’s Antonio again. He’s now 52 years old and Maria is 47. It seems a career as a butcher didn’t work out so he’s stonecutting again. He’s also naturalized...again. And the children? His oldest son is still in the household at age 29, also a stonecutter. But Antonio isn’t employed by anyone, His occupation code is “O” meaning he’s now in his own business apparently with his son working by his side.

Your opinion?? Can you weave a story with this little bit of information? Where would you go next to either substantiate or disprove your theories?

Send me an email at dave@oldbones.info with your “skilled evaluation and correlation” of the data in these 3 census records and a research plan as to where you’d go next. There’s a prize involved and our board members will judge the winner. See, there’s value in reading the whole article. Good luck!

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Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
Wednesday, 6 July 2016 6 - 8 PM	WMGS Meeting – Margaret Rose Fortier ~ <i>Andiamo! Finding Your Italian Family</i> , Live and in person at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 21 July 2016 6 - 8 PM	Genealogy Research Clinic at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 28 July 2016 6 - 8 PM	Genealogy Research Clinic at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 3 August 2016 6 – 8 PM	Field trip to the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum (Springfield Archives) at the Springfield Museums, Springfield, MA
Wednesday, 7 September 2016 6 – 8 PM	WMGS Meeting - Seema-Jayne Keeney - She is the President of the Worcester Chapter of the Mass Society of Genealogist a NERGC Tri-Chair . In person at the Agawam Senior Center
26 - 29 April 2017	NERGC 2017: Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past , at the Mass Mutual Center, Springfield, MA

Genealogy Research Clinics are free to WMGS members. There is a \$10 fee per session for non-members. Annual WMGS membership is just \$25.

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Member Events

Dave Robison has scheduled a number of classes, workshops and presentations so far this year and there are more to come! They include single presentations, four and five session programs and at least two (2) intermediate to advanced courses in genealogy research. Please click here for the current **"Scheduled Events"** that he will be presenting throughout Massachusetts from Springfield and Northampton to as far away as Falmouth at Cape Cod. Dave was also chosen to make 2 presentations at the NERGC 2017 conference in Springfield: *"The Rich Research Resources of Western Massachusetts"* and *"Gathering the Family Stories: Non-Confrontational Strategies."* There are 79 speakers who were chosen to make a total of 137 presentations.

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Member Focus

Wayne Weatherwax

By Jeanne Leblond

"My big advice is to publish your genealogy finds, whether it be in typewritten, printed, or electronic format.", says Wayne Weatherwax. "Save others from rediscovering what you have already documented."

In May of 2010, he followed his own advice and published "The Weatherwax Genealogy 1710-1930". The book is a ten generation genealogy, covering all lines of descent from the family of Henrich C. Wiederwachs, a German Palatine, who immigrated to New York in 1710. The book is 959 pages long, weighs a hefty 3.5 lbs., and is fully sourced and documented.

Wayne started researching his family genealogy in 1978, only wanting to find out who his great-grandfather was. Initially, he began utilizing his home computer to research message boards to find information.

After retiring from a twenty-year career in the U.S. Navy in 1983, he returned to Westfield, MA, where he was born, and worked for the US Postal Service until retiring in 2009. Wayne has lived in numerous New England & Southern States, as well as in Alaska and on Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean. His Weatherwax research has taken him to most counties in upstate New York, where his ancestors lived, and throughout the world.

Wayne serves as the administrator of the Weatherwax Family History Facebook page, and for several surname message boards on Ancestry.com. He is a member of our Western Mass Genealogical Society (WMGS), the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, the Palatines to America Society, APG (Artist Preservation Group), and Wings and Wheels IPMS model club, his other hobby.

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He is currently working on the update to his first book, which is scheduled for publication in 2020, and has started a new book on another Palatine family, the Zipperle/Cipperly/Sipperly family of New York. In 1710, The Palatines, as he explains, immigrated as a group from Germany to New York, because of religious and political reasons. Wayne says that he tends to specialize in researching his surname, as well as in Palatine migrants. The ancestor that he would most like to meet is his 5th Gr-Grandfather, David Weatherwax (1742 - 1832), who was part of the first American-born generation. He served in the American Revolution, watched his children serve in the War of 1812, and in the final battle of that war in 1814 in Plattsburgh, NY.

Of course, not all of our ancestors merit our respect, as Wayne says. “It’s always disturbing when you find family members who were horse thieves, killed someone, or were imprisoned. And there were at least a dozen or so I found.” Along the way, he’s solved a few brick walls, including determining the origin of J.D. Weatherwax (1830-1887) and his Blackfoot wife and descendants in Montana. Wondering how a German Palatine wound up in Montana? Wayne surmises that he moved there to escape the draft during the Civil War.

Another brick wall broken down was discovering the maiden names of Martin Weatherwax’s (1742-1813) two wives, which took him almost 15 years of research. A bit of serendipity resulted when he discovered them as sponsors in baptismal records, allowing him to make the needed connections.

His last words of advice were “Always, always cite the source/sources of your information.” But, even more important, he concluded the interview with this, “And be prepared to admit you made a mistake and be willing to correct it.”

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Surprise Visitors

A couple of weeks ago, our research clinic drew very special visitors. Tom and Anna Adams from El Dorado Hills, California dropped by for some guidance on a research goal. Tom is a descendant of Henry Adams, 17th century progenitor of thousands including at least 2 Presidents, Tom and yours truly, Dave Robison. Yes, Tom and I are cousins although very distant! And by the way, Tom and Anna are past members of WMGS. Among his memberships in various genealogical societies, he’s also a Second Vice President of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in his home town. One of his many goals in Massachusetts is to run down as much information as he could on Henry and his descendants. “Where would you suggest I go,” he asked me.



So, I leave it to you readers. Where would you have directed Tom and Anna to make the best of their time here in Massachusetts? I’d just like to know if I gave them the right advice.

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New WMGS Members

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS) welcomes our four newest members:

- **Margaret Bobertz**
- **Joan Ketterman**
- **Ken Mutti**
- **Alice Silveira**

We hope that they will avail themselves of all that WMGS has to offer them and that they find their family ancestors.

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***** CALLING ALL MAC USERS! *****

If you have any experience at all with using RootsMagic on a MAC, we have a member who would like some advice. Please contact Dave Robison at dave@oldbones.info for details.

WMGS Library News

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society has received 3 beautiful family history books recently. Wayne Weatherwax (who is this month's Member's Focus in the newsletter) donated a copy of the book he just recently published: *The Weatherwax Genealogy 1710-1930*. Very detailed and well researched, and includes a surname index. George Podmore donated two family history books to our genealogical library. *History and Genealogy of "Elder" John Whipple of Ipswich, Massachusetts*, which details the family of one of the early settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony. And a stunning book: *Leonard Weeks and Descendants 1639-2005* which includes a reference CD and makes me wish I was related to the family! The library is open on meeting nights and during our research clinics so be sure to ask about it. The catalogue can be viewed [here](#) as well as on our website, westmassgen.com.

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About Us



The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society was founded in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1972, and officially incorporated on 6 February 1973. We are devoted to the research and documentation of our family ancestry and history. We also assist others in the pursuit of discovering their ancestry.

We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. We welcome non-members and beginning genealogists. Please join us!

We currently have about 100 active members, approximately 80% living in the Western Massachusetts area. The other 20% are residents of other states but with ancestry from Massachusetts or New England.

We receive numerous inquiries each month via U.S. & e-mail from people looking for information on area families. Our members are happy to volunteer to research these requests

Dave Robison – President

Fran Malone – Vice President

Katy Krause – Treasurer

Ann McDougal – Secretary

Hillary Schau – NERGC Delegate

Susan Levenson – Webmaster

Jeanne Leblond – Surname Project Coordinator

Ellen Janik – Facebook Administrator

Carolea Hayden – Refreshment Coordinator

Diane Ascoti – Founder

Janie Tarver, Jeanne Leblond and Nancy Netherwood - Directors

Susan Levenson, Katy Krause & Dee Pederson – Website Redesign Team.

Meeting Details

We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts.

Our genealogy research clinics are offered on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center. The cost of the computer class is \$10 for non-members; free for members of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

We look forward to you joining us at our next meeting!

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Membership

Like most things in life, membership is not free - but for our reasonable annual membership fee, you get a lot for your money.

Reasons to Join our Society

1. Meet people with similar interests of family history and genealogy
2. Attend monthly meetings featuring local and national presenters
3. Receive assistance from our members on your family research
4. Attend our free genealogy research clinics held twice per month (3rd & 4th Thursday of month - \$10 / session non-members)
5. Share our library of resources including books and CDs
6. Opportunity to serve as a volunteer, coach or be a member of the Board of Directors

Membership Dues

Annual membership runs from 1 September to 31 August each year. Membership rates are:

- \$25 for an individual membership
- \$40 for a couple of the same household
- \$250 for Lifetime membership
- \$30 for Institutions

Join by mail, email, or in person at our monthly meeting: Click [here](#) for the WMGS Application for Membership; the image is to your right to view, save, and print. Payments may be made online on our [Join Page](#), by mail at the address listed below, or brought in person to one of our meetings.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 418
West Springfield, MA 01090

Newsletter Deadlines

Please submit all information to be entered into the next newsletter by 15 July 2016.

We are looking for articles written by our members. Have you been to a repository or a federal or state archive? Have you been to where your ancestors lived? Have you tried a new gadget or software? You do not have to write the article yourself. If you would like to do an interview about a subject, that would be helpful as well. What are you interested in? Tell us, share your knowledge.

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E-Mail Update

Please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address. We want to make sure that you continue to receive all of our updates, meeting reminders and electronic newsletters. Just send your name and new email address to us at WestMassGen@gmail.com.

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