



# Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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## CPA Help Needed

WMGS is always working hard to bring as many benefits as possible to the membership. But sometimes we need a little extra help to make things happen. And that's the case now. WMGS, although a non-profit, is not currently a 501(c)(3). That means that currently, if you make a donation, it is not tax deductible. This would be a big benefit to the group, but we need your help. Are you, or do you know, a CPA that would be willing to assist us with the paperwork? We've already started working on it, so please let us know ASAP by emailing us at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com).

## Membership Renewal Time

As we all should be aware, the annual memberships to the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society run from September through August of the following year. Now is the time to renew your memberships for the 2016-2017 season. The most efficient way to take care of this is through our website. Click [here](#) to go to the "Join" page on our website. Now you don't have to join again, just renew. To do that, simply scroll down the page and click on the PayPal link. **YOU DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT** to use this secure, convenient and simple method. If you are paying by check when you come to the meeting, remember to make the check out to **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society**.

Let's take a brief review of some of the benefits of membership:

- Membership in one of the oldest genealogical societies in New England
- Availability to attend, free of charge, regularly scheduled research clinics (non-members pay \$10 per session)
- Access to Ancestry Library edition at the clinics
- Regular year-round meetings with experts both live and in virtual presentation.
- Access to previously recorded meeting in the Members Only section of the website (NOTE: some have time limitations due to speaker's requests)
- Many fellow members willing to assist or advise you in your research efforts
- Volunteer opportunities

- Opportunity to meet and mingle with likeminded people

Dues are the life-blood of any society, especially smaller societies such as ours. You are the members and the dues you pay helps us to continue to bring interesting programs to you. The dues options are:

- \$25 for a single membership
- \$40 for couples' membership, (a 20% discount for any 2 members of the same household)
- \$15 student membership rate
- lifetime memberships at only \$500 but are currently offering it at the greatly reduced rate of \$250 until 31 December 2016.

Have you paid your yearly dues and want to help further? We now have a donation page on our website that you can get to by clicking [here](#). Your support helps us bring amazing speakers and activities month after month.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### September 2016 Meeting

#### *Census Reports Lead To...*

On September 7, our guest speaker will be Seema Kenney of Seema-ABLE. Seema has been working in the genealogy field professionally since 2010, having completed the Boston University Genealogy Research Program. She is currently the Secretary for NERGC (holding the genealogy conference in Springfield in 2017) and is the president of the Worcester Chapter of the Mass Society of Genealogists.

She will be presenting on the many crossroads one's research might take **after** finding a family in the census. This presentation will make connections between data from the different census years and data to look for in twenty-seven other resources. The census gives you location which leads to City Directories. Ages and genders lead to possible military records. Every fact on the census hints at another resource direction.



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## August Meeting Recap

On August 3<sup>rd</sup> we met for our annual field trip to the [Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History](#) at 21 Edwards St, Springfield for a full night of research. We had a great turnout, requiring extra seating to be pulled out to accommodate the crowd. We had the place to ourselves, undivided attention from Cliff McCarthy, the staff archivist and Maggie Humberston, the Archives Manager. Many of us took the private tour of normally off limit areas. A

great time was had by all and we were reminded again of the great resource we have in our neighborhood.

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## Articles

### **Twisted Branches can leave Future Genealogists Up a Tree**

Reprinted from The American Elm Volume 18, Issue 4 – Winter 1990

What will it be like to genealogy research one hundred years from now? Some of the possibilities could be like this: A man starts to piece his family tree together but the limbs and branches do not fan out in neat symmetrical couples begetting neat, symmetrical children. Arriving at the 1990's he discovers great-great Aunt Pauline nee Great-great Uncle Paul. He needs to untangle the lineage of a grandmother, born in the U.S., grew up in Great Britain, died in South Africa and had been married four times. Then he comes to a dead end; Grandfather Anonymous Sperm Donor No. 24651, described as Nordic blond, blue eyes, musical.

Future genealogists may find it difficult to research because of lifestyles, census changes and laws blocking access to birth and death records. Then again technology could mean the difference between a five-minute computer search and five hours paging through musty county records. Texas, as well as many other states, selectively closed birth and death records (this keeps people from illegally obtaining Social Security documents.)

Genealogists fear that protecting documents and computerizing records will diminish the quality of information available. Census records will no longer be useful beginning with the 1980 census as returns were destroyed once the data was tabulated. Information will tell how many Mexican-Americans lived in a certain county but it won't tell which Mexican-Americans they were.

Computerization has eased the genealogists research and this trend will continue. Deb Koplen, editor of the Grand Prairie Genealogical Society newsletter says that the interplay between fellow genealogists and data bases is going to be helped by computers. Computers will also give us the ability to index so much more. She suggested that everything will be indexed by Social Security number, making multiple last-name searches on late 20<sup>th</sup> century folks a snap.

Whether current U.S. records will be open to tomorrow's genealogist may hinge on medical science. Lloyd Bockstruck, head of the genealogy department of the Dallas Public Library foresees a time when freedom vs. privacy will be more hotly debated than it is today. The numbers of deaths attributed to AIDS may fuel arguments for privacy. As researchers tie more illnesses and characteristics to heredity, future generations may demand the right to know what was in their past. However, not even medical concerns may open the doors on an anonymous sperm donor's records. You're only going to do one side of your pedigree chart, according to Ms. Koplen, unless the records become more open. "Conceived at 122 W. Main – is all you're going to get."

From an article by Kim Pierce, contributing editor  
The Dallas Morning News, 10 July 1989

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## Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
Wednesday, 7 September 2016 6 – 8 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting - Seema-Jayne Keeney</b> - President of the Worcester Chapter of the MSOG and a <b>NERGC Tri-Chair</b> . Presenting in person at the Agawam Senior Center on the topic <i>Census Reports Lead To...</i>
Thursday, 15 September 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 22 September 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 5 October 2016 6 – 8 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting -</b>
Thursday, 20 October 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 27 October 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center

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

### **David Lapierre**

By Jeanne Leblond

Both sets of David Lapierre’s grandparents and his mother came from Canada. He always assumed that his ancestry was French-Canadian. So you can imagine his surprise when his Ancestry DNA test results indicated that he’s 38% Irish.

David is one of WMGS’ newest members. He developed an interest in genealogy because his maternal grandmother lived with his family after his grandfather died. She spoke French, and very little English, but told him many stories about her parents and siblings and of growing up in Canada. He started doing genealogical research around 2000, but put it aside, while he and his wife were busy raising teenagers. In 2014, he returned to his research and joined our society this year.

David has focused most of his research on Canada and France. Last year, his family took a trip to Montreal and Quebec, visiting family they hadn’t seen in 20 years. One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to Chateau-Richer, which was established by Samuel Champlain in 1628. His 9<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents Zacharie Cloutier and Xaintes Dupont, were buried there in 1677 and 1680, respectively. No gravestones remain in the small cemetery adjacent to the Church of the Visitation of Notre Dame, but there is a plaque commemorating the First Settlers of Quebec with their names on it. In 1972, a house built and lived in by Cloutier was reconstructed and named a [provincial heritage site](#).

A memorable genealogical find is that one of his 9<sup>th</sup> gr-grandfathers is Germain Pilon (1525-1590), who is considered the greatest French sculptor of the sixteenth century. Germain Pilon was chosen for the most prestigious commissions of Catherine de Medici and her 3 ruling sons. Much of his remaining work is in the Louvre in Paris, giving David yet another reason to travel to Paris!

David has recently been able to break down a brick wall pertaining to one of his father’s sisters, a baby who was born in 1924 and died about a month later. This sister was the only one of 13 children who didn’t survive to adulthood. She was named Anita, but no one in the family knew exactly when she died or where she was buried. At a funeral last fall, a cousin asked David if he wanted a box of pictures that she had received from an elderly aunt. Of course, the answer was YES! In the box of pictures was the baby book that his grandmother kept for another aunt. In it, she listed the names of the older siblings, and there was an entry for “Hermance Lapierre.” There it was, the clue for the mysterious Anita. David was quickly able to find information on Hermance Anita Lapierre on Ancestry, allowing him to obtain a copy of her birth certificate and allowing the family to locate her grave.

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A surprising find is that David and his wife are related by marriage. His wife's 7<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather had a sister, who was the wife of his 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather, making his 8<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather his wife's 7<sup>th</sup> great-grand uncle. Not exactly considered an issue related to the degree of consanguinity, but I suspect that with more research, he might find out that they share other grand-parents!

David has willingly become the family historian. He's become the keeper of unwanted photos, family history documents, and other treasures. He and his cousin are collaborators and share all their research. They've just coordinated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lapierre Family Reunion, and are already planning for next year's reunion.

Now about that Irish ancestry.....

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## New WMGS Members

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

**Susan LaFlamme**  
**Barbara Swan**  
**Polly Kimmitt**  
**Barbara Josephson (returned)**

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

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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 Ascioti – 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 Western Massachusetts Genealogical 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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
- \$15 for students
- \$250 for Lifetime membership

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 September 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](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com).

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*Western  
Massachusetts  
Genealogical  
Society  
Celebrating  
44 years  
in 2016*