



# Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

## Contents

<a href="#">Upcoming Meetings</a>	p 1	<a href="#">Calendar</a>	p 8	<a href="#">About Us</a>	p 11
<a href="#">September Recap</a>	p 2	<a href="#">Member Events</a>	p 9	<a href="#">Membership</a>	p 12
<a href="#">President's Message</a>	p 3-4	<a href="#">Member Focus</a>	p 10	<a href="#">Newsletter Info</a>	p 13
<a href="#">Articles</a>	p 5-7	<a href="#">New Members</a>	p 11	<a href="#">Email Update</a>	p 13

## Upcoming Meetings

### October 2016 Meeting

Please join us for our monthly meeting, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at which the guest speaker, Dave Robison (our president) will present a talk entitled *On-Line Search Strategies --- Fishing in the Biggest Ponds*

This presentation and various iterations have been given at several genealogy meetings and classes as well as the 2015 NERGC conference in Providence, Rhode Island. It is designed to assist every genealogical researcher from the proverbial "newbie" to the seasoned professional. Using the philosophy of "You Don't Know What You Don't Know," Dave will help you get started from scratch if you're just beginning or pull you out of your ruts after 20 years of hard-core research! Keep an open mind and bring a notebook!

Key points:

- The "Rules of the Internet Road"
- So many websites - So little time
- The value of subscription sites
- The value of free sites
- Google your Genealogy
- Social Media and why you need it

[Return to Contents page](#)

## Tuesday, October 11, 2016 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Special Daytime Clinic: Please join Susan Levenson and Katy Krause for a *Daytime Genealogy Research Clinic*.

This clinic will expand on the WMGS October meeting topic of on-line research. Join us as we explore various on-line resources for your genealogy research. We will also talk about things to consider when evaluating the quality of the various findings.

There will also be plenty of time to access the Library Edition of Ancestry.com and Susan and Katy will be available to assist you. This event is free for WMGS Members. Non-members may participate for only \$10, or consider joining WMGS for just \$25 per year. Genealogy Research Clinics are held in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center.

## November 2016 Meeting

Our meeting on November 2 will be a treat with a return engagement of Melissa Barker, Archivist for the Houston County Tennessee Archives, who will speak about the exact opposite of Dave's presentation, off-line research: "*It's Not All On-Line: Researching the Archives.*" (We will provide a more detailed description in next month's newsletter.) For those of you who missed Ms. Barker's previous visit, she is a Certified Archives Manager and Professional Genealogist as well as the founder of Once Upon a Time Genealogy. With over 26 years of researching family histories and 6 years of experience working with archives, her talk will be full of useful suggestions for your next archive visit.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## September Meeting Recap

On September 7, our guest speaker was 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 also the Secretary for the 2017 NERGC Conference to be held in Springfield from April 27-29 and is the president of the Worcester Chapter of the Mass Society of Genealogists.

She presented on the many crossroads one's research might take **after** finding a family in the census. This presentation made 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.

[Return to Contents page](#)

**On Attending Conferences**  
**The Biennial New York State Family History Conference**  
**A Message from the President**  
**5 October 2016**

It's really great to be able to get away for a few days. It's even greater to get away and spend those few days with family that you don't get to see very often. And it's truly a great thing when you can get away, get away to see family and get away to pursue a passion. I don't know what was more important to me, getting a chance to stay with my sister and brother-in-law for a while or having a chance to mingle with and rub shoulders with dozens of respected genealogists, many of whom I've known for a while and many others who I never would have had a chance to meet and talk with. But, of course, there's more to the story.

Like [NERGC](#) (New England Regional Genealogical Consortium), the New York State Family History Conference ([NYSFHC](#)) is a biennial conference. Up until last year, it was run in the same year as NERGC. However, beginning with the next conference, their schedule will be in the even years to avoid any conflict. So they'll skip 2017 and reconvene in 2018. That plan is smart as, with alternating years, there won't be the competition for speakers, registrants and exhibitors for a northeast genealogy event.

It is also a collaborative effort of the Central New York Genealogical Society ([CNYGS](#)) and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society ([NYGBS](#)). The 2016 conference also included the Association of Public Historians of New York ([APHNY](#)).

To be honest, I planned on attending right from the time I was notified that registration was open this past spring. I put it out of my mind until I saw a notice that early bird registration had passed. I was still interested even though I'd have to pay just a little more. But I figured that since I would be staying with my sister, I wouldn't have to pay for a hotel so a little bit more to register didn't matter much. Still, I didn't register, or at least I didn't think I registered. Finally, a week before the conference, I received a notice reminding me of the upcoming conference and thanking me for registering. So I was going after all!

The list of speakers included Jim Ison from FamilySearch.org, Jim Brewster from FamilyTreeDNA, Dr. Thomas Jones, Blaine Bettinger of the Genetic Genealogist, Jen Baldwin of FindMyPast, D Josh Taylor, president of FGS and many others. A total of 29 presentations were held with 5 covering DNA! That's almost 20% of the sessions. There was a discussion panel on library and archive research strategies, 3 luncheon presentations and 2 dinner events.

For my part, I wanted to attend as many of the DNA presentations as possible. I managed 2 of Jim Brewster's and 2 of Blaine Bettinger's. Proving that you don't know what you don't know, I learned quite a bit from both of these experts. I should mention here that Bettinger's newest book, "Genetic Genealogy in Practice" is available at the National Genealogy Society's website. Member price is \$30.06 while non-members pay \$36.05. As far as I know, that's the only source, at least for now. I checked eBay and Amazon and neither has it yet.

Jim Ison's presentations were interesting as well. He had a very thorough explanation of proof arguments, the 5<sup>th</sup> GPS element. He had a very difficult research problem with his own ancestors with name changes, missing children, unexpected siblings and a non-paternal event. He made it very easy to follow his strategies and understand his conclusion. He also spoke on using FamilySearch.org. He is an employee of the LDS and really knows his stuff! I listened to him a couple of years ago. I disagreed with a couple of his recommended strategies

and had a brief discussion about it afterward. It may be my imagination but I swear he seemed to have altered his methods just a bit. There was a bit more similarity to what he was teaching with what I recommend, an apparent “adjustment” from the year before. I say it’s probably my imagination but it’s one of those “you’d have to be there” situations.

Now I told you that I wanted to have an opportunity to spend time with my sister and her husband. But I also wanted to “visit” my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents who are buried in Oswego County, an hour north of Syracuse. I had connected with a New York researcher through Facebook in one of the 9,500 genealogy-related Facebook pages! She had uploaded nearly all of the burials at Riverside Cemetery in Oswego and photographed most of them. Her work included Alfred Bailey (1808-1887) and his wife, Angeline (Gates) Bailey (1818-1858) but there were no photos of their stones. She told me that she had not yet had the opportunity to complete that particular section. “That’s OK,” I told her, “I’ll see if I can find them and get the pics.” In the meantime, without me having to ask, she transferred the memorials to me. For those of you who do any amount of work at Find A Grave, you know that transferring can be a sticky wicket, especially when the memorial is out of the parameters of what FG considers a requirement. Alfred and Angeline were out of that parameter. Theresa did not have to do what she did. I posted that little story on a few Facebook pages.

Did you ever stand at the grave of a long lost relative? Alfred and Angeline weren’t exactly lost to me, but I never took the time or had the opportunity to seek them out. I’m referring mostly to someone whose name and vital statistics were familiar to you but, other than that, you know very little. In this case, Alfred had passed down a handwritten genealogy of his generation and his children with their spouses. My grandmother, Hazel, got it from their daughter Frances, who was Hazel’s grandmother. My aunt Gert had it in a pile of family “stuff” which I rifled through long ago and expressed interest in. That and many other family treasures are now stacked up in my office or in archival binders.

So back to Alfred. First, I have to tell you about Justin White. My new Facebook/Find A Grave connection introduced me to him via email. Justin is the Oswego County archivist and historian. On Friday morning, I skipped out of the conference and headed up to meet him. He was impressed with the genealogical ephemera I had brought with me including “Advice to a Married Couple,” a tiny 96 page 3 X 4 book given to my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandparents by a Reverend Canfield on the occasion of their marriage in 1869. It was the first time that little book had been back to Oswego in almost 150 years. We spent most of the time looking through a very elaborate photo album that was given to Angeline in 1868. Most of the pictures had the name of the person written below it in pencil. Justin recognized many of the family names as many were still living in and around Oswego.

Before heading back to the conference, Justin gave me direction to the Riverside Cemetery which is only about a mile and a half up the road from where we were. With an accurate map he gave me, I found the section with ease. However, no Alfred and no Angeline...at first pass. I found a reasonably large granite monument for Henry and Harriet Munson. I knew that Harriet was a great aunt, being Alfred and Angeline’s daughter. I also knew that she had married a Munson. Quickly checking my Ancestry.com app on my phone, names and dates matched up and I was standing in front of the Munson grave stone which meant I was standing on top of Alfred and Angeline! They didn’t have a large marker, but there were 3 foot stones. “AB” and “AB” for Alfred Bailey and Angeline Bailey were next to “JCB” or Joseph Canfield Bailey who died at age 2 in 1854.

After that little side trip, it was back to the conference then back to my sister’s then home on Sunday. A great trip. I’d do it again!

[Return to Contents page](#)

## Articles

### **The Unique and Gruesome Death of Giles Corey**

By William Lashua

I have worked on the Corey Lineage for about 40 years on and off but the following piece is a story too close to home to forget.

Careful research by various investigators appears to confirm, with almost absolute certainty, that all of the early Corey's in America were of the same family. Probably brothers who reached America from England soon after the Mayflower. Some of the early Coreys are said to have been Quakers and their odd dress and charitable acts to be superstitious.

Giles Corey, the emigrant and the most prominent of the historical martyrs to the witchcraft delusion, was located at Salem, Massachusetts as early as 1649. He was not a Quaker but a member of the Church of England or an Episcopalian as now known. He had been married three times and was 80 years old in 1692 when that mass hysteria seized our Puritan ancestors and resulted in the execution of 20 persons based upon the ridiculous evidence by a pack of adolescent girls. An attention hungry eleven-year-old girl named Abigail Williams and Anne Putman, an epileptic 12-year-old are given the blame for starting the Salem mess. Fascinated by the Negro slave Tituba, who was brought to the colony from the West Indies by the missionary Reverend Samuel Parris, they learned the tricks, spells, voodoo and other superstitions from her. Soon many of the girls in the colony were flocking to partake of the excitement of throwing fits and making accusations of being bewitched by anyone they did not like. The older folks believed and those in authority brought those accused to trial. More than 200 were accused and imprisoned. Nineteen men and women were hanged, including Martha Corey, in March of 1692. But Giles Corey was barbarously executed Sept.19,1692 by being pressed to death by stones because he was obstinate in refusing to even answer the charges. Those who admitted the accusations were set free.

The State of Massachusetts afterwards appropriated 578 pounds and 11 shillings to be paid the heirs of those executed, restored their citizenship and the church exonerated them and replaced their names on the church rolls. A few years ago the State Legislature was asked by some descendants to restore to citizenship a few names missed.

Present day Coreys should be proud of Giles Corey. He had backbone enough to stand firm against superstition and hysteria. At any rate, if there are any who fear any stigma, a careful look at his ancestry says that Giles Corey of 300 years ago, did not have any male children.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## GPS #5 – Soundly Reasoned, Coherently Written Conclusion

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*

Let's begin this month's discussion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Genealogical Proof Standard principle with a brief review:

**#1 Reasonably Exhaustive Search:** Don't stop with one or two sources. There's more out there than a couple of census records. Look for birth, marriage, death, probate, deeds, military, pensions, authored family histories, newspaper articles (graduations, sports, human interest, obituaries), diaries, letters, family stories and more.

**#2 Complete and Accurate Citations:** You found it, but *where* did you find it? Could you find it again? Can others follow your trail and also find it long after we all are gone? If so, nice job! You have provided the *sources* either original or derivative, the *information* either primary or secondary and the *evidence* which could be direct, indirect or negative.

**#3 Skilled Analysis and Correlation of Data:** With mountains of data reflecting hours of research or your computer files chock full, do you know what you're looking at? How does an intestate inventory have relevance to the contemporary census records found? For that matter, what is an estate or an intestate inventory and why was it compiled? Do the names and dates in a military pension record validate or conflict with data you were sure was accurate? It all has to make sense at some point!

**#4 Resolution of Conflicting Information:** This where it all leads: the intersection of what we know, what we've discovered, what we thought we knew and whether Grandma's stories are true...or at least a little true! The depth and quality of your research almost assuredly will lead you to conflicts. Was he born in 1853 or 1858? Handwritten 3's can easily be mistaken for 8's. Was his name William Thomas Smith, Thomas William Smith, T W Smith, W T Smith, Bill Smith and so forth? And the list of potential problems goes on! Among the tools you need here are family group sheets, timelines, a little understanding of paleography (reading ancient handwriting) and the use of syllogisms and their variants. For example, if A equals B and B equals C then A equals C.

Now, let's talk about the #5 - *Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion*. The rationale behind #5 is putting a logical end to each single genealogical question, the frosting on the cake, so to speak. Any question or doubts the reader (or the researcher, for that matter!) should be resolved before moving on. We need to back up our research with proof arguments.

I have seen many cases of a woman who would declare herself a widow before suffering the ignominy of admitting that her husband had run off and left her with 6 or 7 children to raise. We studied one case in particular in the Boston University course in genealogical research. It concerned a husband who left his wife with 2 babies, a 2-year old and a newborn. He left her in the dead of winter with little else than a blanket and a little food. Sadly, her newborn literally froze to death but she and the remaining child survived and ultimately

thrived. But in 2 census records, she declared herself a widow. The “ne-er-do-well” husband on the other hand, got on his horse and went to Illinois where he married again (add bigamist to his resume) and, believe it or not, got on his horse yet again, moved yet again and married yet again! So is trigomist a word?

Our job was to identify 4 adult men found in various records who claimed to be of various ages with at least 6 name variations: James Thomas, Thomas James, Jim, Tommy and so forth. Through a blizzard of documents, newspaper articles, court records, employment records and military records we had plenty to work through. With a close examination via timelines, county maps, civil records and so forth, we were able to prove that all 4 men were the same creep...I mean person. By looking at birth records and claimed ages, we found several discrepancies. But the time line proved that the discrepancies could be easily explained. His propensity for changing his name as a convenient way to escape justice followed a pattern that again, was easy to spot once it was all laid out. Amazingly, his granddaughter, the daughter of the survivor of his first abandonment, learned much of this information from letters she received from her grandmother, the first wife who was abandoned in the winter. Other significant records included the various census that listed a male head of household of approximately the right age, one of the variations of the name and one reported occupation throughout his illustrious career. He consistently declared himself a carpenter. How likely could it be that 4 men with similar names throughout a timeline consistent with this man’s lifetime, who had wives and children with ages that also made sense and have the same job over a 45-year period. The name was just ever so unusual that there were no records of anyone else who could fit into the facts that we were able to uncover. Finally, his obituary, while “missing” many details of his life, gave consistent facts as to age, year of birth, survivors of his latest family and, surprisingly, held 2 variations of his name stating the ever popular “...also known as...”

All of this evidence drew us to a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion, namely that the 4 men in question were actually one. But...yes, but...the strongest statements we could make was “It is highly likely that...” leaving the door open for someone to disprove our theory.

The case was certainly researched thoroughly (GPS #1), we came up with copious source citations (GPS #2), all the data recovered was scrupulously analyzed and correlated (GPS #3), and to a very reasonable degree, we were able to resolve any apparent conflicts in the evidence, mostly through the patterns of this man’s life and the similarities and outright matches of the various aspects of his career (GPS #4). Lastly, we wrote a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion with a high degree of accuracy (GPS #5).

#### In conclusion:

- A single census record does not make a case for “thorough research.” Reasonably exhaustive is what it says: Reasonably exhaustive!
- Complete and accurate source citations are critical. Deep, accurate, bullet-proof research demands it. Often we go back to review data to reassess accuracy or relevance and end up saying “Where did I get this?” Source citations will tell you. A few extra minutes creating it will help you to avoid duplication of effort or the frustration of not being able to find it again!
- Skilled analysis and correlation of the data starts with knowing what you’re looking at. Is it an important, relevant document? This will help determine how much credence it lends to the research.
- Resolution of conflicts. Let me say this with certainty: There will be conflicts. Period! Resolving them is key to creating a solid piece of research.
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusions. This can be tricky. YOU know what you wrote, but will THEY know what you wrote! And will they be able to understand the evidence 10 or even 100 years from now? A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion will do much to ensure understanding now as well as in the future.

## Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
Wednesday, 5 October 2016 6 – 8 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting – Dave Robison, president of WMGS</b> , speaks about <i>On-Line Search Strategies --- Fishing in the Biggest Ponds</i>
Tuesday, 11 October 2016 12:30-2:30 PM	<b>Daytime Genealogy Research Clinic – Online Sources</b> hosted by Susan Levenson and Katy Krause at the Agawam Senior Center (see description on pg 2)
Thursday, 20 October 2016 12:30-2:30 PM	<b>Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy</b> at the Agawam Senior Center (see description below)
Thursday, 20 October 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 27 October 2016 12:30-2:30 PM	<b>Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy</b> at the Agawam Senior Center (see description below)
Thursday, 27 October 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Wednesday, 2 November 2016 6 – 8 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting - Melissa Barker, Houston County Tennessee Archivist</b> on researching archives
Thursday, 3 November 2016 12:30-2:30 PM	<b>Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy</b> at the Agawam Senior Center (see description below)
Thursday, 10 November 2016 12:30-2:30 PM	<b>Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy</b> at the Agawam Senior Center (see description below)
Thursday, 17 November 2016 6 - 8 PM	<b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center
Thursday, 24 November 2016	<b>THANKSGIVING! No Research Clinic</b>

New! Join us for *Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy*. *Thursdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. (October 20, 27, November 3 and 10)*

Do you have photos you would like to scrapbook? Are you interested in putting together a digital album to document your story or one of an ancestor? Join us for four weekly sessions and learn how to make a digital scrapbook. Completed albums make great gifts, and can be finished in time for the holidays.

Digital Scrapbooking for Genealogy will be held in the computer room of 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.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## 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. 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.

Hillary Schau is presenting a free 3-session class on RootsMagic on October 4, 11, and 18 from 6:30-8 PM at the Chicopee Public Library on Front Street in Chicopee. If you are interested in learning about RootsMagic, the free genealogy management program, or wish to expand your understanding of its capabilities, attend this free class. Seating is limited so call the library at 413-594-1800 ext 108 to reserve your seat.

Dave Robison will also be presenting a 3-session class entitled *“Pulling the Person out of the Paperwork”* at the Chicopee Library on Fridays starting October 21 from 10-11:30 AM and continuing on October 28 and November 4. His series is a slightly advanced genealogy workshop geared to help further genealogy skills such as doing searches and understanding the results. Please call 413-594-1800 ext 108 to register for this class.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## Member Focus

### **Maureen Moore LaBranche**

By Jeanne Leblond

Maureen “Mo” Moore LaBranche was a member of WMGS back in the 1990’s, and rejoined our Society last year. She’s been working on her family’s genealogy since 1968, when as the youngest grandchild, she was the beneficiary of hearing her grandmother describe their family history.

Mo was blessed with a French-Canadian grandmother who loved to share stories about their family and who, thankfully, wrote down vital information about family members. In the early 1990’s, a cousin wanted to publish a book on four branches of their family. Pre-internet days, Mo and her cousin visited French-Canadian libraries and societies, and used local resources in their research. The former Connecticut Valley Historical Museum was one of her favorite places. In its new location, it still is.

When her grandmother, who she affectionately calls “Memere” passed away at age 89, Mo inherited all the family photos. Her collection was enhanced, as she also inherited a treasure trove of pictures of Springfield from the 1940’s from her father, who was a photo album enthusiast.

Mo says that her most interesting relative is Catherine Annennontak, an orphaned Huron Indian, who was contracted out of a monastery by French-Canadian nuns to marry Jean Durand in 1662, at the age of 14. Unfortunately, Catherine was disowned by Jean Durand's parents after his death. Mo is related to her through her second marriage to Jacques Couturier in 1672.

Family connections have been important in motivating Mo to continue her genealogy work. In the early 1990's, her daughter was working on a genealogy badge for the Girl Scouts, so her research branched out to her husband's side. Her now married daughter's mother-in-law is also interested in genealogy and they both have Canadian ancestors. They've become friends and genealogy buddies and now share two beautiful grandchildren. Next spring, they plan to travel to Canada to research their Canadian roots.

Mo likes working on French Canadian records the most, as the religious events were well documented. She'd love to learn more French to be able to translate some of the numerous documents in her file. Her other goals are to learn more technical aspects of computer research and work on preserving family photos and old documents.

Mo's Irish side is still a work in progress. She knows her paternal grandparents' names and has their pictures. A cousin has done much work on the Irish branch of the family. She'd love to take a trip to Tralee and Causeway, Ireland to visit.

Mo has been successful in answering a family question about where her maternal grgrgrandmother was buried. For over 100 years, the family presumed that she died and was buried in Chicopee, but there wasn't any proof. In 2015, Mo was able to find the documentation, after an online search of every death recorded in Chicopee during that year. Of course, her death was recorded with the wrong last name. This grandmother's line leads to a Hessian soldier, who used the names Lemaire/Lemire/Myers, and taking the line further back has been difficult.

As with all of us, there's always a brick wall to be broken. Proving the birth of her ancestor Joseph Frechette, born abt. 1742/1743 has been difficult. Mo believes that he was named Francois at birth, but used Joseph for the rest of his life.

Her advice for other genealogists is to organize your notes and documents. Mo did much of her research the "old school" way. Now that more records are available online, she says that it's easy to go off on side trails and not record what or where information was found or not found. Great advice.

## New WMGS Members

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

**Judith Solsken**  
**Carol Coulson**  
**Jerry Hyland**  
**Christopher Daly**  
**Gail Nadok**  
**Carol Hegeman**

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.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## 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!

[Return to Contents page](#)

## 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 (until the end of 2016 when it will go up to \$500)

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 October 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.

[Return to Contents page](#)

## 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).

[Return to Contents page](#)

