



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### Annual Meeting Reminder

Our annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1st, after the presentation by Hillary Schau and Dave Robison. At the meeting, the Auditing Committee will present their report and the Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates for election as officers and directors of our society. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. The following positions are up for election to two-year terms:

President  
 Treasurer  
 Secretary (to complete remainder of term until 2020)  
 Asst. Treasurer (to complete remainder of term until 2020)  
 Director (2)

Following this brief business portion, we will present the Founders Award to this year's nominee. Please join us at this meeting.

#### May 2019 Meeting



Our May 1<sup>st</sup> meeting is our annual meeting but after all the administrative tasks, we will be having a presentation on the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) by Dave Robison and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) by Hillary Schau. You know our two presenters as the WMGS president, Dave, and our Newsletter Editor, Hillary. Each of our presenters is very knowledgeable about their organization. If you have branches that go all the way back to the 1700's and were curious about the process of applying to the SAR or DAR, there will be a Q&A session after their presentation. If your ancestors do not go back that far in the US, there are many other lineage societies that you can consider. Cyndi's list [here](#) is a good place to explore.

Dave Robison and Hillary Schau are both professional genealogists working as speakers on genealogical topics and as researchers for individual clients. On top of this, both Dave and Hillary volunteer with their respective lineage societies to help prospective members to assemble documents for their applications. Dave Robison is the Registrar in the Pomeroy Chapter of SAR. Hillary Schau has been the Registrar at the Mercy Warren Chapter of DAR for the past three years.

## June 2019 Meeting – Skills Sharing Event

By popular request, we're bringing back Skills Night. This year, Skills Night will be held at our June meeting. The event was held for the first-time last year, and it was incredibly successful. We'll be repeating some of the table topics, but with updates in equipment, resources, and new ideas. We'll again have a display of genealogy tools and tips for recording your memories, photos, and other media, special interest discussion groups, a new presentation on managing your DNA results, and more! Attendees will again have an opportunity to have a personal consultation about their research problems with one of our own professional genealogists, our own version of "Ancestors Roadshow".

This is an informal event with attendees being able to freely move around stations to check out the displays, join special interest groups, and ask questions of the presenters.

Except for our professional genealogists who will offer individual consultations, our presenters are regular members who have interests and expertise in a variety of areas. We welcome all of our members to pitch in and share their knowledge as well. You do not need to be an expert genealogist to host a table topic! We welcome everyone from newbies who bring new skills to the hobby, to our members who have a bit more experience to share. That's part of what made this event so much fun last year!

We're still in the planning stages, so if you'd like to host a table topic, let us know at our May meeting or send us an email to: [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com).

## April 2019 Recap

Kathy Kaldis was our April speaker on the 10<sup>th</sup> and her talk was “**What’s in a Name? Strategies for Identifying Maiden Names**”. Why is it so difficult to identify maiden names? ~The Recipe for Success in Finding Maiden Names: Practical Skills; Analytical Skills; Creative Use of Evaluating Evidence.



Kathleen Kaldis fell in love with genealogy at a young age. She is a professional genealogist known as *The Ancestor Finder*. Her interest in genealogy started when she heard stories about how her great great-grandfather, who was born on Cape Breton Island, came to Boston to build Fenway Park. She used to be a Genealogist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston and enjoyed working with the patrons. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University, and has successfully completed many genealogical institute courses through the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) and the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH). Kathleen is very active within the genealogical community serving in many leadership positions within many organizations. She is a member of the Lexington DAR and personally brought in 125 new members in two years.

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## Message from the President

Dave Robison

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) has just completed their 15<sup>th</sup> regional Conference. As in the past, I can't say enough about the value of a well-run, well attended genealogy conference. Aside from the education, the camaraderie of "rubbing elbows" with friends old and new is invaluable. In addition, it's almost impossible to avoid meeting new friends who will likely become old friends as the years go by.

While many think of "NERGC" as a Conference, it is really much more. Originally formed over twenty years ago, NERGC is an association of genealogical societies seeking to bring affordable, cutting edge, national quality genealogical education within the reach of New England genealogists and family historians at an affordable regional price.

Our 2019 Conference was supported by 23 individual genealogical societies and was held April 3 - 6, 2019 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Manchester, New Hampshire. Wednesday was filled with special tracks and events. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were the featured days of the conference with many presentations, a large exhibit hall with 72 vendors, meals, networking, and plenty of 'cousin finding'!

Highly respected genealogist, lecturer, educator and author Thomas W Jones, Cyndi Ingle of "Cyndi's List", and internationally renowned genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger were our featured speakers – presenting several times throughout the conference and at banquets. Each brought their own unique expertise to our event.

To date, NERGC has produced fifteen conferences in every state in New England. Attendance at each of the past six conferences has exceeded 700, with 720 attending the 2005 Portland, Maine, conference, 745 in Hartford, Connecticut, in 2007, 739 in Manchester, New Hampshire, in 2009, and 830 in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 2011. The 2015 conference in Providence, Rhode Island, and the 2017 in Springfield, Mass had roughly 1,000 attendees, speakers, and exhibitors on hand.

With over 70 professional genealogists delivering 130 presentations in subjects ranging from beginning genealogy to more advanced topics, and 72 genealogy product vendors, NERGC 2019 drew over 1,000 registrants. The Exhibit Hall was on the first floor and, as usual, the public was invited to visit the vendors at no cost. Conference registration was not required.

Visit [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org) to read more about the wide variety of topics and the speakers who presented them. Basic family research to advanced research strategies including Polish, Irish, Jewish, Portuguese, and Scandinavian research strategies; Society Fair and Ancestors Road Show; DNA, technology, software, a genealogical research tour and more.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc (WMGS) has been and will continue to be a very active supporter and contributor to this event.

Finally, and with a heavy heart, I will be stepping down as President of WMGS. It has been both an honor and a pleasure to serve as President and I believe we've accomplished a great many projects as we continue to grow. I'm considering continuing in some capacity so that I might still offer my opinions and expertise in various areas. I certainly plan on attending monthly meetings, conferences, maybe a committee or two and especially NERGC 2021 as it will be taking place practically in my back yard in Springfield, Mass.

May 2019

So, thank you for your support and many thanks to all of you who have contributed to our collective success including the Board of Directors but mostly the membership which has been and will continue to be the lifeblood of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. I hope I've been a positive contributor to the ongoing success of such a well-established society with a history and a reputation to be proud of!

Dave Robison  
President  
WMGS, Inc.

### \*\*\* WMGS Announces its 2019 Founders Award Recipient \*\*\*

At our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 1st, WMGS will be presenting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Founders Award to an individual who has provided significant and lasting service, not only to Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. members, but to the entire genealogical community. This year's recipient is our own

#### Wayne Weatherwax.

Wayne is a long-time member of WMGS who has willingly contributed to the genealogical field through his time, research, and dedication to sharing his knowledge with others. In 2010, Wayne published "**The Weatherwax Genealogy 1710-1930**", 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 and is fully sourced and documented. Wayne has generously given copies to WMGS and local libraries, and genealogical societies. This work can also be found at the New England Historical Genealogical Society, Allen County public library, several New York state libraries, and at the Library of Congress, guaranteeing that it will be available for generations to come.

Wayne has been noted for his willingness to share his expertise and knowledge with those who are searching for their ancestors. He has taught classes in genealogy at the Westfield Athenaeum and has recently begun teaching an eight-week class at the Westfield Senior Center. A number of our members credit Wayne with giving them the knowledge, skills, and especially, encouragement to begin researching their families.

An expert in Palatine and New York State research, Wayne serves as the administrator of the Weatherwax Family History Facebook page, and for several surname message boards on Ancestry.com. As well as being a member of WMGS, Wayne is a member of The New England Historical and Genealogical Society, the Palatines to America Society, Artist Preservation Group (APG), and Wings and Wheels IPMS model club, his other hobby.

Besides working on an update to his first book, Wayne has started a new book on another Palatine family, the **Zipperle/Cipperly/Sipperly family of New York**. His work focuses on researching these surnames, as well as other Palatine migrants.

A few years back, when Wayne was profiled in our newsletter, he provided some words of advice to our members, saying: "My big advice is to publish your genealogy finds, whether it be in typewritten, printed, or electronic format. Save others from rediscovering what you have already documented." And, he has generously done just that!

For his significant, lasting, and meaningful contributions to WMGS and to the genealogical community, we are proud to present this award to him.

Please join us at the presentation of our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Founders Award to Wayne Weatherwax at our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 1st at the Agawam Senior Center.

## Annual Survey

Our Annual Survey is being distributed via **separate** email to all of our members. We hope that you will take the time to click on the link and complete the survey.

During the last year, WMGS officers, board members, and volunteers have been working hard to improve our society, to provide quality programs that meet your needs, and to increase our membership. We value your input to let us know how we're doing, your ideas to move us forward, and your participation.

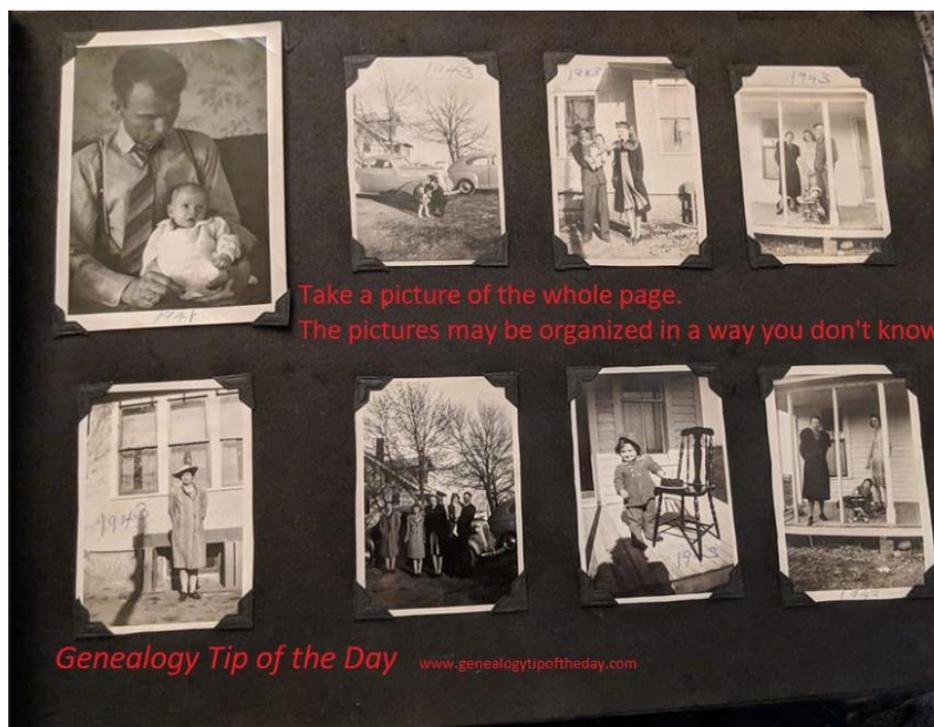
The Annual Survey will be available until May 11<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive this survey via email, please let us know at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com). We will have a limited number of printed copies available at our May meeting.

Please take the time to respond to the survey as we want to hear from you!

## Articles

### Picture Perspective

By Michael John Neill



Before making images of individual photographs within an album, create images of the entire page. Sometimes there's an organizational structure to the pages. Other times there is not. But it's something that should be preserved because, like a picture, when it is gone...it's gone.

(c) Michael John Neill, "Genealogy Tip of the Day," <http://genealogytipoftheday.blogspot.com>, 17 Apr 2019

## Brick Wall Queries

### How to Submit or Respond to a Query:

**Submitting:** Queries and responses should be sent via email to [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com) or submitted through the Contact Us section on our website. Members may also bring their prepared queries or responses to our monthly meeting or to one of our research clinics. Non-members should submit their payment (\$5.00 per query) via the Donate tab on the website. Members are entitled to post three (3) queries per month.

**Responding:** Please send your response directly to WMGS. To aid in matching answer to question, please Identify the question you are answering by using the month of the Newsletter and the question number. (example Oct 2018Q1, Oct 2018-Q2) Answers submitted should include the source(s) of information found or specific information on a website or database. WMGS will forward the response to the person who asked the question, post it in the next newsletter, and archive it on our website.

**Note:** Because of space limitations, WMGS reserves the right to limit the number of queries that are listed per newsletter. When necessary, queries will be posted in the next available issue. WMGS and its members are not responsible to conduct research, to provide answers for the query, or for the accuracy of the information posted or received. Always verify any information received by checking its source.

## News and Upcoming Conferences



### Pioneer Valley History Network

proudly announces the 4<sup>th</sup> annual



### Your Homespun History Un-Conference

Saturday, July 27, 2019 at the

Kittredge Center at Holyoke Community College.

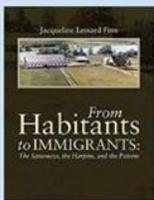
History Camp is the un-conference dedicated to all things history. Everyone is welcome to attend, but registration is required, and anyone can present, assuming we have a time slot open. More information on History Camp, including photos, quotes, and the profile of attendees from earlier History Camps, is [here](#).

The goal of History Camp Pioneer Valley is to break even – there are no paid staff, no paid speakers, and no one will profit. We will charge the lowest possible fee to cover the costs of the venue and lunch, but to allow the greatest number of people to attend. This year the fee is \$26.

There will also be plenty of opportunities for networking and an exhibit area for selling books and other history-related products.

**Registration began on Patriots Day (April 15). To Register to Attend or Present, go to:**

**<http://historycamp.org/pioneer-valley> For more Information, contact us at: [pioneervalleyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:pioneervalleyhistory@gmail.com)**



**Saturday, June 1 @ 1pm**

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**From Habitants to Immigrants:  
The Sansoucy, the Harpins, and the Potvins**

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with author Jacqueline Lessard Finn  
and Dr. Leslie Choquette, Director of the French Institute  
at Assumption College.

This presentation traces the history of the French-Canadian people through the lives of two families that evolved into three branches, from their settlement by soldiers in the Richelieu Valley of Quebec in 1665, to their immigration to the mill towns of Massachusetts at the turn of the twentieth century.

This program is free and open to the public. Held at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street.

### **Holyoke Tours of Cemeteries**

- 11 May 2019 – Calvary Cemetery (opened 1882) and Elmwood Cemetery (Est 1755)
  - 10:30-11:50, Park at Calvary Cemetery
- 25 May 2019 – St Jerome’s Cemetery (Est 1864)
  - 10:30-11:50, Park on St Jerome Street
- 8 June 2019 – Smith’s Ferry Cemetery (Originally part of Northampton, purchased by Holyoke 1909)
  - 10:30-11:50, Park in Delaney House lot off Rte 5

Sponsored by Holyoke Historical Commission, Friends of Historic Cemeteries and Monuments, and Holyoke History Room. All tours are free to the public. Please register at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com)

## Free Local Events

Several local libraries are hosting presentations on genealogy topics. If you know of an event happening at a local library, let us know so that we can include it here. These presentations are funded by the libraries and free to the attendees. All you have to do is register.

- May 9: Single Session of *“Pulling the Person out of the Paperwork”* Hubbard Memorial Library, 24 Center St, Ludlow, MA 6:30-8:00 pm (Dave Robison)
- May 25: Single Session of *“ABCs of Family Research”* Goodwin Memorial Library, 50 Middle St, Hadley, MA Noon to 2 pm (Dave Robison)
- May 3, 10, 17 and 24 (Fridays) Beginning Genealogy, East Springfield Branch Library, Noon to 2 (Hillary Schau)
- May 4, 11, 18 and 25 (Saturdays) Beginning Genealogy, East Springfield Branch Library, Noon to 2 (Hillary Schau)
- May 8, 29, June 5, 12 (Wednesdays) Beginning Genealogy, Wilbraham Public Library, 6-8 PM (Hillary Schau)
- June 15 and 22 (Saturday) Organizing your Genealogy, Springfield Central Library, 1-3 PM (Hillary Schau)

## Need Help with Your Research?

Come to one of our research clinics! WMGS offers research clinics on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of each month from 6pm-8pm at the Agawam Senior Center. This is a free benefit for WMGS members, with a \$10 fee for non-members.

Can't make a clinic or need more help? Then head over to the Chicopee Public Library to take advantage of their research clinics. Some of our own WMGS members are volunteers at the clinics. You just might run into Dave Robison, Hillary Schau, or Edie Bowen-Wilcox, who are eager to help you, as they give back to the genealogical community.

The Chicopee Public Library sponsors Open Genealogy Labs, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-3pm, and again from 6pm-8pm. Check the library's website at [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org) or call them at 413-594-1800 to confirm that the clinic is being held.

The Chicopee Public Library is a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, which means that they have a large collection of microfilm which was previously on permanent loan at the now-closed Ludlow Family History Center. You may also view digitized records that are only available at a FamilySearch Affiliate Library.

## Calendar

| DATE/TIME                         | EVENT/PLACE   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, 1 May 2019<br>6 – 8 PM | <b>WMGS Meeting</b> at the Agawam Senior Center – WMGS Annual Meeting and presentations by Dave Robison and Hillary Schau on <b>SAR and DAR lineage societies</b> *** |
| Monday, 13 May 2019<br>6 – 8 PM   | <b>WMGS Board Meeting</b> at the Agawam Senior Center - <b>Open to Members</b> ***  |
| Thursday, 16 May 2019<br>6 - 8 PM | <b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center. ***   |
| Thursday, 23 May 2019<br>6 - 8 PM | <b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center. ***   |
| Wednesday, 5 Jun 2019<br>6 – 8 PM | <b>WMGS Meeting</b> at the Agawam Senior Center – <b>Skills Night</b> ***   |
| Monday, 10 Jun 2019<br>6 – 8 PM   | <b>WMGS Board Meeting</b> at the Agawam Senior Center - <b>Open to Members</b> ***  |
| Thursday, 20 Jun 2019<br>6 - 8 PM | <b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center ***  |
| Thursday, 27 Jun 2019<br>6 - 8 PM | <b>Genealogy Research Clinic</b> at the Agawam Senior Center ***  |

**\*\*\* Please be advised that there may be travel delays related to construction on the Morgan Sullivan bridge leading from West Springfield into Agawam through 2020. Currently, traffic is limited to one lane in each direction. It is recommended that members and visitors allow extra time to their travel or seek alternate routes.**

Genealogy Research Clinics are free to WMGS members. There is a \$10 fee per session for non-members. Annual WMGS membership is just \$30.

## Ride Sharing

Are you driving to our meetings from a distance? Would you like to form a carpool with other members? Do you need a ride, because you are no longer able to drive when it's dark?

We'll have a form at our Welcome table for members to list their names, city or town, and contact information, along with their interest in ride sharing, their need for a ride, or their willingness to pick up another member.

If you would like to participate, but can't make it to meetings without a ride, send us an email at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com), along with your name, city or town, and contact information. With your permission, we'll add your name to the list.

And don't forget to look at the form each month for any updates.

## New WMGS Members

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. (WMGS) welcomes our newest members

**Lisa Poehler**  
**David Amiot**  
**Kathy Willey Brown**  
**Mary Clark**

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

## 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 187 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  
Jeanne Leblond – Vice President  
Deborah Woodford – Treasurer  
Ginny Atwood – Assistant Treasurer  
Estelle Stasz – Secretary  
Dave Lapierre – Webmaster & Technology  
Coordinator

Hillary Schau – Newsletter Editor  
Jeanne Leblond – Surname & Queries Editor  
Ellen Janik – Facebook Administrator  
Bob Whitney – Fundraising Coordinator  
Carolea Hayden – Refreshment Coordinator  
Diane Ascoti – Founder

Eddie Bowen-Wilcox, Hillary Schau, and Dave Lapierre – Directors

## Meeting Details

We generally meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month. On rare occasions, a holiday or other significant event may disrupt that schedule causing a meeting to be held on the second Wednesday. You would be informed of date changes well in advance. Other than our annual trips to MOSH, our meetings are held 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 (\$30), 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. Access to recordings of many past WMGS meetings and to the recent DNA boot camp and handouts in the members only section of the website.
7. Opportunity to serve as a volunteer, coach or be a member of the Board of Directors

One of our key 'member benefits' is access to the members-only page containing archived recordings of speakers from around the US: Judy G Russell, Maureen Taylor, Connie Fitzpatrick, Elissa Scalise Powell, Dr. Shelley Murphy, Nora Galvin, 'DearMYRTLE' a/k/a Pat Richley-Erickson, Russ Worthington, Melissa Barker, Jennifer Alford and our own Panel of Pros. The page also includes the handouts from most of those meetings and historical copies of 'American Elm,' the original WMGS newsletter publication.

### Membership Dues

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

- \$30 for an individual membership
- \$45 for a couple of the same household
- \$15 for students
- \$500 for Lifetime membership

If you are new to our organization, click [here](#) for the WMGS Application for Membership; the image is near the bottom. Click to open the pdf to view, save, and print.

There are three ways to join or renew your membership:

- Pay by cash or check at the monthly meeting
- Print and mail an application, found on the Join/Renew page of our website (if a new member) along with your check, or, if renewing, just the check to  
WMGS, PO Box 418, West Springfield, MA 01090-0418
- Use the secure PayPal button on our website (you **do not** need to have a PayPal account, just use your debit card or credit card). Here's the link to our Join/Renew page: [JOIN](#)

**Note: All first-time members must submit an application by mail or in person at a meeting, even if using PayPal, so that we have all the necessary information for our membership list.**

## Newsletter Deadlines

**Please submit all information to be entered into the next newsletter by 15 May 2019.**

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.

## How to Contact Us:

Have a question, comment, or suggestion for someone at WMGS?

Need information about your membership status or how to access our Members Only material?

Want to send in a query or provide an answer to one?

Have a comment or suggestion for us?

**There are two options available for contacting us via email:**

Our **Contact Us** page on our website has an easily completed form to use. Just enter your name, email address, topic, person to whom email is being sent, write your message, and click on Submit.

Or, you can send an email directly to us at: [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com) .

Of course, you can also correspond with us by sending mail to:

WMGS, Inc.  
P.O. Box 418  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0418

**Note: Please do not write directly to any board member's personal or business email. For legal reasons, our board members cannot conduct WMGS business using emails, other than through WMGS. Thank you for your consideration.**

## E-Mail Update

Please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address, mailing address and/or phone number. 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).

