

April 2013

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/index.html>

E-Mail: WestMassGen@gmail.com

News

Greetings,

Spring is officially here, although it isn't quite as warm as we would expect for this time of year in New England. WMGS members have been busy planning for our 40th Anniversary – Open House scheduled for **Saturday, April 6, 2013** at the Agawam Senior Center from 10 – 3.

Be sure to check out some additional articles in our newsletter this month:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-4)
- Election of Officers coming up in May (page 5)
- Fran Malone's hints for finding a maiden name (page 5)
- Websites for Immigration Records (page 6)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

Calendar of Events

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on **Wednesday, April 3, 2013** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. The meeting is free and open to the public. Members are encouraged to bring a friend.

John O'Connor, former archivist at the Genealogy Library located at the Springfield Museums, will speak to us. His topic will be "It's Small World" and he will talk about how his column in the Springfield Republican attracts inquiries from around the world. John is also known for his work on the project "Find A Grave" which can be viewed at www.findagrave.com

Thursday, April 18, 2013

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer workshop. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Workshops are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. Classes are free for members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

Thursday, April 25, 2013

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a genealogy computer workshop. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Workshops are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. Classes are free for members. There is a \$10 fee for non-members.

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

Save the Dates

Below you will find the 2012-2013 calendar for the WMGS:

May 1, 2013 – Election of officers; Speaker Alan Doyle Horbal, an adjunct professor at Williams College and a 12 year volunteer at the former NARA Center in Pittsfield will speak with us about what's available on line and at the Pittsfield Athenaeum.

June 5, 2013 – Last monthly meeting and dinner

Computer Workshops

Stumped with a research question? Bring your question to our hands-on computer workshop, by Bruce Cortis. During the workshop, you will have an opportunity to ask your question, and use the computer to look for a solution. Our genealogy computer workshops are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center. Mark your calendar:

2013

January 17
January 24
February 21
February 28
March 21
March 28
April 18
April 25
May 16
May 23
June 20

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

40th Anniversary - Open House

Agawam Senior Center
954 Main St.
Agawam, Ma.

**Saturday, April 6th, 2013
10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Come celebrate our organization's 40 years of genealogical family research and visit with our members who will have examples of research they have done.

Additionally, there will be presentations on genealogical research tips, examples of Web Sites available, genealogy programs for documenting your work and projects our members have undertaken.

Featured Presentations:

10:15 A.M. General Questions and Answers; view work of WMGS members

11:30 A.M. Dave Robison, www.Oldbones.co - "Tips & Techniques for Enhancing & Improving your Web Searches"

12:45 P.M. Bruce Cortis - "Michael J. Dowling – Blizzard Boy"

2:00 P.M. Roundtable Panel Discussion with WMGS Researchers

Free Admission - Open to Public

Genealogy Hint:

Twelve Ways to Find Your Ancestor's Maiden Name by Fran Malone

Your ancestor's Maiden name, a brick wall that we've all encountered at one time and in some cases still face on several of our searches. Below are 12 ways to help you break through that brick wall and move on to the next generation and yes, possibly the next brick wall.

1. If within the past 100 years - Check the death certificates
2. If more than 100 years - Check the death certificates of her children
3. Newspaper Obituaries
4. Check the marriage certificates or marriage application of her children
5. Public Church Records
6. Unpublished Records microfilmed at LDS Branch Libraries
7. International Genealogical Index on microfiche at LDS Libraries
8. Divorce - check county courthouse where filed
9. Look for wills, check with local historical societies for an index check
10. Send queries to the areas where your ancestors were
11. Deeds and other land records.
12. Census Reports - Sometimes a census will list/mention the mother-in-law

We are always looking for your input on a monthly genealogy hint or genealogy website so email us at westmassgen@gmail.com We want to hear from you.

Election of Officers

At our upcoming meeting on May 1, 2013 we will elect the 2013-2014 officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS). If you are interested in working as an officer, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting on April 3rd, or contact us via e-mail at WestMassGen@gmail.com

Any member of the WMGS is welcome to run for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer.

Genealogy Websites: Immigration Records

by Fran Malone

When looking for our Immigrant Ancestors, we go to the following three websites which are probably the most popular and the ones that come to mind. These websites are www.ancestry.com if you have a subscription to it, and the two free websites for Castle Garden and Ellis Island. Below are a few other free websites that you might locate your immigrant ancestor but like everything our searches are not guaranteed.

Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild

<http://www.immigrantships.net/>

Volunteers have generously transcribed more than 9,000 passenger manifest, many from the early period of immigration and/or smaller ports. Search the entire site by surname, captain's name, port of arrival or departure, ship's name, or location.

Olive Tree Genealogy

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

This site has been on the web since 1996 and includes over 2,300 free ships passenger lists to the USA, Canada, and South Africa. The site does show some subscription based websites, but the free records are marked with a little olive tree.

National Archives of Canada Immigration Records Collection

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/immigration-1925/001012-130-e.html>

Search online in this free index of Canadian Immigration Records 1925-1935. The National Archives also offers a searchable index of Immigrants to Canada from the British Isles before 1865 and Immigrants who stayed at the Grosse-Ile Quarantine Station 1832-1937.

Marketing Volunteers

A special thank you to everyone who picked up and distributed flyers for our Open House scheduled for April 6th. We truly appreciate your help.

About Us

Meetings

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, September through June from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts.

Our genealogy computer workshops are offered on the third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center.

Membership information

Annual membership runs from September 1 to August 31 each year. Individuals may purchase a membership for \$20, while institutions may purchase a membership for \$25. Applications for Membership can be found on our website.

Newsletter Deadline

Did you enjoy reading our newsletter? Do you have suggestions for articles, or have an article you would like us to publish? Our next issue of the newsletter will be March 2013. Please forward your information by April 20, 2013 to Susan Leverson and Fran Malone at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2012-2013 Executive Board Members

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Beckie Cross
Co-Secretary: Jane Okscin
Co-Secretary: Marilyn Powers
Treasurer: Susan Leverson