

December 2012

*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,

The holidays are quickly approaching. This can mean less time for genealogy research. It can also prove to be for a great time to reminisce with relatives and share stories about our ancestors. Be sure to check out the following items in our newsletter, which can help you with your family research:

- Upcoming genealogy events (Pages 2-3)
- Genealogy websites (Page 5)
- Genealogy Hint (Page 6)
- What's on your holiday list? (Page 7)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 at the Agawam Senior Center.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

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Calendar of Events.

Wednesday, December 5, 2012:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. Join us for our "Pot Luck" dinner and holiday music while you dine.

Thursday, December 20, 2012

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, December 27, 2012

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.

Wednesday, January 2, 2013:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their next meeting on Wednesday, January 2, 2013 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Springfield History Library & Archives, which is part of the Springfield Museums.

About the archives: In addition to a large collection of French Canadian records, the library has indexes to the Ellis Island passenger records, the Loiselle Index, over 20,000 genealogy books, 6,000 microforms, 25,000 photos and 1.3 million archival documents, as well as diaries, deeds, account books, land transfer documents and photographs.

Location: The Springfield History Library & Archives is located in the Wood Museum of Springfield History (lower level)
21 EDWARDS STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103

Parking: Free parking is available in the lots on Edwards Street.

For a map of the Springfield Museum Buildings:

http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/the_museums/

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:

February 6, 2013 – 40th Anniversary of WMGS Incorporation

March 6, 2013 - Speaker to be determined

April 3, 2013 – Speaker to be determined

May 1, 2013 – Election of officers; Speaker to be determined

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

Membership Dues

Just a reminder: We are still accepting dues for the WMGS annual membership. Dues can be submitted at our next meeting. Can't make it to our next meeting? Use the coupon below to send us your payment.

We appreciate your continued support. We rely on our membership funds to provide quality speakers throughout the year.

Reasons to Join our Society

1. Meet people with similar interests of family history and genealogy
2. Attend monthly meetings to hear professional speakers
3. Receive assistance from our members on your family research
4. Attend our genealogy computer workshops held twice per month
5. Share our library of resources including books and cds

Did someone from WMGS help you with your research in the past? Even if you can't attend our meetings, please consider renewing your membership so that our society is available to assist with future research questions.

Thank you for your continued support.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership Renewal 2012-2013

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: (Membership fees are listed below. Please select one.)

Annual dues period is from September 1 to August 31.

INDIVIDUAL, \$20 or **INSTITUTION, \$25**

Please make check payable and mail to:

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

Genealogy Website:
Old Newspapers by State
Contributed by Daphne Thompson

This website was contributed by Daphne Thompson, a member of our society. The link is part of the University of Pennsylvania Libraries website. It's free and lists certain newspapers from all 50 states. The newspapers are a mix of major newspapers and college newspapers. Remember, like everything it's hit or miss depending on the newspaper dates and the papers available.

<http://gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/onlinenewspapers.html>

Daphne also passed on to us that The [Westfield Athenaeum](#) has recently added HeritageQuest to its online databases available from home if you have a Westfield library card and a Westfield mailing address.

Genealogy Website:
1823-1837 Tithe Applotment Books
By Fran Malone

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays. May your holiday season be a joyous time as well as a safe time. This month's Genealogy Hint is the 1823-1837 Tithe Applotment Books of Ireland. Some of you may ask what the Tithe Applotment books are. The Tithe Applotment Books are a vital source for genealogical research for the pre-Famine period, given the loss of the 1821 to 1851 Census records of Ireland. They were compiled between 1823 and 1837 in order to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland (the main Protestant Church and the church established by the State until its disestablishment in 1871).

There is a manuscript book for almost every civil (Church of Ireland) parish in the country giving the names of occupiers of each townland, the amount of land held and the sums to be paid in tithes. Because the tithes were levied on agricultural land, urban areas are not included. Unfortunately, the books provide only the names of heads of family, not other family members.

The link below will take you directly to the Tithe Applotment Books. You can search by surname and parish or you can browse the County which will give you all the townlands. When you click on the townlands it will give you everyone living in the townland. The townlands were not large so the list of residents is short.

<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp>

Genealogy Hint: Family Traditions

By Fran Malone

In three weeks Christmas will be here to end the year, and the following week we'll start a new year with New Year's Day. We will celebrate with our own individual families as well as our extended families during that week and in most cases a memory from the past is brought up. Take that memory and record it or offer one of your memories to a younger member of the family on how it was when you were younger. These memories are just as important in your family history as the recorded information that we have stored in our databases and binders.

On Christmas Eve my parents would wake me up at midnight after Santa Clause left and for about an hour I played with my toys. Christmas morning was opening the other gifts, playing with the toys, company, and late afternoon the turkey dinner. The variations of these traditions changed a little but that's how my parents celebrated when they were younger.

My wife's Christmas's were somewhat like mine and we carried them on (with a few changes) as we raised our children. With our children Christmas breakfast was and still is Dunkin Donuts followed by the opening of the gifts. The gifts are passed out to everyone and once everyone has their gifts the gifts are opened one at time by person. Late afternoon has the Turkey Dinner and then it's off to visit my sister and her family. New Year's Eve tradition is to watch it come on TV (safer this way) and then on New Year's Day it's watch the parade followed by a football game and a Ham Dinner. A bonus part of New Year's Day was my father's birthday so it gave the holiday a somewhat special feeling. After my father passed away we lost that little extra benefit of the holiday until I met my wife and we had a birthday celebration added back into the holiday. Her birthday is not on New Year's but it's close. So as you gather, remember to record what you hear and feel free to pass on a memory for someone else to record. Merry Christmas, be safe, and see you next year.

What's on Your Holiday List?

by Susan Leverson

Whether you're shopping for the genealogist in your family, or putting together your own holiday wish list, here are a few gift ideas to consider:

Scrapbook to compile a family tree

K and Company teamed up with ancestry.com to provide this great scrapbook ancestry kit:

http://www.joann.com/k-company-8-1-2-x8-1-2-scrapbook-album-kit-ancestry-com-/zprd_10069508a/

Journals to track family stories

To Our Children's Children Journal of Family Memories by Bob Greene

<http://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Children-Journal-Family-Memories/dp/038549064X>

Conversations with My Father: A Keepsake Journal for Celebrating a Lifetime of Stories

<http://www.amazon.com/Conversations-My-Father-Keepsake-Celebrating/dp/B0046LUXKQ>

Computer Software: Family Tree Maker Deluxe 2012

<http://www.amazon.com/Family-Tree-Maker-Deluxe2012/dp/B005N2CS8M>

Magazine Subscriptions: Family Tree or Internet Genealogy

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_ss_fb_0_15?url=search-alias%3Dmagazines&field-keywords=family+tree+magazine&srefix=Family+Tree+mag%2Csoftware%2C195

We hope that these suggestions will help you with your holiday lists. Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

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 January 2013. Please forward your information by December 20, 2012 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