

February 2012

*A monthly publication  
on behalf of the*



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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### News

Greetings,

The first snow for 2012 has finally arrived. With two more months of winter left, it's a great time to continue your genealogy research. Check out our calendar to see if there's a meeting or workshop you can attend.

Our January meeting at the Springfield History Library and Archives was a huge success. More than 30 members attended. (See Page 5 for full story.)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2012. This is the meeting to attend. If you know someone who is thinking about starting a family tree, bring them along. The meeting is free and open to the public. Leslie Albrecht Huber will discuss [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), which is also a free site.

#### **Mark your calendar for our upcoming meetings:**

<b>March 7, 2012</b>	Sarah Campbell - "Meet Your Civil War Ancestors"
<b>April 4, 2012</b>	Field Trip: Family History Center, Ludlow, MA (see page 5 for details)
<b>May 2, 2012</b>	Election of officers; Denise Martinez from Chicopee City Clerk's Office will speak
<b>June 6, 2012</b>	Last monthly meeting: open mic and "Pot Luck Dinner"

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## Calendar of Events

### Wednesday, February 1, 2012:

The monthly meeting for the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM 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.

**Leslie Huber** will speak to us on the topic "Getting the Most out of Familysearch.org." Are you already familiar with familysearch.org? There might be more there than you thought. Find out how to get the most out of its incredible resources including the IGI, FHLC, country and state Research Guides, and new Records Search that make familysearch.org a site no genealogist can afford to do without.

### Thursday, February 16, 2012 and February 23, 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, March 7, 2012:

The monthly meeting for the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM 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.

Sarah Campbell will be our speaker. Her topic, "Meet Your Civil War Ancestors" is a journey through the various records and sources that can be used to find information about Civil War-era ancestors. Using a case study of the family of Holyoke resident Richard Wall we will explore how facts found in government documents can add detail to a name or event and bring a story to life. Sara Campbell has been researching her family for over 20 years and has taught topics in genealogy at Greenfield and Holyoke Community Colleges. She is a Director of the Polish Genealogy Society of Massachusetts.

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

# National Archives

## Free Genealogy and History Lectures

Tues. Feb 7, 2012	2:00 P.M.	Researching African-American and Under Documented Populations
Thurs. Feb 16, 2012	6:00 P.M.	They Came From TBA: Ethnic History & Genealogy
Wed. Feb 22, 2012	10 A.M.	Genealogy for Kids (Gr. 3-8 and chaperones)
Tues. Mar 6, 2012	2:00 P.M.	Introducing the 1940 Census
Thurs. Mar 15, 2012	6:00 P.M.	Equality in Boston's Public Schools: Remembering Morgan v. Hennigan
Mon. Apr 2, 2012	9 A.M.	The 1940 Census is Released Today!
Tues. Apr 3, 2012	2 P.M.	Introduction to Genealogy
Wed. Apr 16, 2012	10 A.M.	History for Kids (Gr. 3-8 & chaperones): Patriots' Day
Thur. Apr 19, 2012	6 P.M.	Patriots' Day. Author William Fowler: American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years 1781-1783
Tues. May 1, 2012	2 P.M.	Genealogy Research: What's Online; What's Not Online
Thurs. May 17, 2012	6 P.M.	Navigating the US Census, 1790-1940

The workshops take place at the National Archives at Boston, 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham, MA. Reservations Required. Call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail [boston.archives@nara.gov](mailto:boston.archives@nara.gov) to register. All lectures are free and open to the public. For more information, please see their website: <http://www.archives.gov/northeast/boston/public/workshops.html>

The National Archives is open to the public M, T, W, and F 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Thursdays 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## WMGS to Celebrate 40 Years

February 11, 2013 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. The 2012-2013 year will be a time to celebrate and showcase our organization. Do you have any suggestions? Would you like to help? Here are some ideas we can discuss at our next meeting:

September 2012 – Kick off our 40<sup>th</sup> year with keynote speaker at our monthly meeting (suggestions welcome)

October 2012 – Family history month. Host 3-4 community events. In the past, WMGS members have volunteered to speak at local libraries. We will provide basic genealogy information, kits for those who attend; membership information

January 2013 – Showcase the WMGS at our local library. Do you have information you would like to offer for our display? Family books, scrapbook pages are welcome

February 2013 – Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday of WMGS; Special Genealogy Cake at our February monthly meeting

May or June 2013 – Host ½ day genealogy seminar (8:30 – 12:00)

Offer breakfast and coffee

Three breakout sessions 9:00 – 9:45; 10:00 – 10:45; 11:00 – 11:45 (2 speakers available for each time)

We need your help. We are looking for:

- suggestions for dynamic speakers
- WMGS volunteers to speak to community
- ideas on how to involve local high school or college students
- individuals to coordinate events
- additional ways to mark our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Bring your thoughts and ideas to our next meeting, or contact Susan Levenson or Fran Malone at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

## Springfield History Library and Archives

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society hosted its January meeting at the Springfield History Library & Archives, which is part of the Springfield Museums. A special thanks to Cliff McCarthy and Maggie Humberston from the Springfield Museums Genealogy Library who gave us a tour of the library and spoke about the available resources.

Interested in returning to the archives? There are a few options:

1. One day: Upon entering, indicate that you are only planning to go to the Research Library. A discount will be available.
2. Library Pass from your local library (1/2 off admission)
3. Springfield residents - free
4. Annual Membership

[http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/about\\_us/member\\_benefits](http://www.springfieldmuseums.org/about_us/member_benefits)

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

The library & archives also has volunteer opportunities available. One possibility is to help archive materials. Training is available to those interested. However, once trained, a time commitment of 4-5 hours is requested. Another option is to volunteer to put books away. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Maggie Humberston, Head of Library & Archives at the Museum of Springfield History at 413-263-6800 Ext. 311 or [mhumberston@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:mhumberston@springfieldmuseums.org)

## Field Trip to Family History Center

**Wednesday, April 4, 2012:** We are pleased to announce that for our April meeting, we will be taking a field trip. The monthly meeting for the Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the **Family History Center in Ludlow, Massachusetts**. **Please note the change in location for our meeting this month.** Pat and Ralph Welliver will make a presentation and we will tour the facility. Afterwards, members can use the microfilm room.

**Note:** If there is something in particular you want to research, please be sure or order the microfilm a month or two prior to our April meeting.

## Genealogy Hint: Organizing Your Information By Fran Malone

This month's genealogy hint is not mine, but I felt it was a hint worth passing on. The actual writer of the hint is Kimberly Powell who has a genealogy blog that can be found on the website: <http://genealogy.about.com> Her hint Kissin' Cousins caught my attention because I've been asked on more than one occasion if we're 1st or 2nd cousins and if not what is the big puzzling question of "once removed." Her explanation on the cousin relationship which I wrote out for everyone to see can be viewed at the following link on the genealogy.about.com website. The link if you want to go directly to Kimberly's blog is:

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/tips/blcousins.htm>

- First cousins** are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you.
- Second cousins** have the same great-grandparents as you, but not the same grandparents.
- Third cousins** have in common two great-great-grandparents and their ancestors
  - **Once removed** means there is a difference of one generation. Your mother's first cousin would be your first cousin, once removed. She is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents.
  - **Twice removed** means that there is a two-generation difference. Your grandmother's first cousin would be your first cousin, twice removed because you are separated by two generations.

Kimberly has also attached a cousin relationship chart at the following link with explanations on figuring out how you and your cousins are related.

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/nrelationshipchart.htm>

We want to hear from you. Contact us at [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com) with your hints or website suggestions and we will post them in this column.

# Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>

This month's website is the LDS Familysearch website and it can be a very useful resource tool for your genealogy. The website has been discussed before and will more than likely be referred to again in the future. I wanted to go with this website again because our guest speaker Leslie Huber will be speaking on the search site at our monthly meeting scheduled for February 1st at the Agawam Senior Center. This website has many useful tools other than the ability to search your ancestors' names. I want to touch on the tab "library" to refresh the minds of those who have used it, and for those who haven't, I would like to introduce you to it.

When the webpage comes up on your screen you'll see one of the tabs titled "library". This tab will help you locate a Family History Center (FHC) near you, show what online course are available to you, and view the library catalog. Under the catalog you can do searches on place, surname, keyword, title, film #, author, subject, and call #. It's obvious for some of these searches you'll require more information than what you have available in front of you. I find the two simplest searches are the surname or place and for this I will discuss the "place" search.

Being a Chicopee, Mass. resident I'm interested in finding what's available in Chicopee to find my ancestor or ancestor's family. After typing the name Chicopee in and submitting, I get the result of Chicopee, Hampden County, Massachusetts and when I click on this link I get nine categories of information for Chicopee. There are two categories of interest, directories and vital records. I click on directories and find Springfield listed and when I click on that I get the author among the information and a tab in the upper right corner that says view film notes. Under the film notes I find it broken down further and I find the 1890 directory for Chicopee. The film I want to order is listed as film # FHL US/CAN Film 2156731 item 1. I then go back to the nine categories under Chicopee and click on vital records and find the film for 1848-1890. Again I check view film notes and find the film that I want is FHL US/CAN Film 2027066.

Being a resident of Chicopee I really wouldn't have to do this because I could just go down to my local library for the directories or the city hall for the vital records. However, if I was from Chicopee or my family was and I was living elsewhere then I would have to take my film #'s that I found to the nearest FHC and order the

film through them and wait until it came in to do my search. Wait, I'm not too sure where the nearest FHC is to me, so before I can go I would have to go back to the heading under the "library tab" on how to find a center near you and find a place to go to.

## Who Do You Think You Are?

The television genealogy series *Who Do You Think You Are?* will return for its third season on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00 p.m on NBC.

The following individuals will focus on their family history: Martin Sheen, Marisa Tomei, Blair Underwood, Reba McEntire, Rob Lowe, Helen Hunt, Rita Wilson, Edie Falco, Rashida Jones, former NFL running back Jerome Bettis, Jason Sudeikis and Paula Deen.

Check out NBC's website to view shows you missed from last season:

<http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

## PBS Series

A 10-part genealogy series "Finding Your Roots" will premiere on March 25<sup>th</sup> on PBS. Historian Henry Lous Gates Jr. will host the program, which will feature two individuals during each episode. Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, husband-and-wife actors, will be featured on one of the shows and turn out to be distant cousins.

## Has your e-mail address changed?

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 e-mail address to us at

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

## New Members

Please welcome the following individuals who joined our society:

**Janet Curley**  
**Linda Longtin**

**Cliff McCarthy**  
**William O'Brien**

**Rebecca Sznicer**

## 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 2012. Please forward your information by February 20, 2012 to Susan Levenson and Fran Malone at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2011-2012 Executive Board Members**

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