

February 2015

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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News

Happy Valentine's Day,

Genealogy and Valentine's Day both allow us to share special times with family and friends. Genealogy research allows us to learn how our parents, grandparents and theirs parents lived. We learn many things about those who preceded us. This newsletter is being prepared on a computer which did not exist forty years ago. Cable television is blaring in the background. Thirty years ago we did not have cable services and televisions were the newest fad just sixty five years ago. What changes can we expect in the next five, ten and twenty years?

Our newsletter includes the following items:

- Upcoming genealogy events (Pages 2-5)
- WMGS February 2015 Meeting Details (Page 2)
- "Rogues, Rascals and Rapsallions: The Family Black Sheep" with Judy G Russell, the "Legal Genealogist" (Page 6)
- Members Only: Special Viewing of our February 4th Meeting (Page 7)
- Dave Robison Elected President of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (Page 8)
- Genealogy Groups on Facebook (Page 8)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, February 4th at The Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

February 4, 2015 – Judy G. Russell “The Legal Genealogist” will present, “*Rogues, Rascals and Rapsallions: The Family Black Sheep.*” Playing detective in court records can unmask those black sheep every family has – and it’s fun! Learn to understand the criminal process in both federal and state courts and how to find the records to put meat on the bones of the skeletons in your family's closet.

The Legal Genealogist Judy G. Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. A Colorado native with roots deep in the American south on her mother’s side and entirely in Germany on her father’s side, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous state and regional genealogical societies. She has written for the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and National Genealogical Society Magazine, among other publications. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer.

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2015 events for the WMGS:

March 4, 2015 – To be determined

April 1, 2015 – Lauren Forastiere will present, “The Funeral Home Industry as a Family History Resource.”

May 6, 2015 – Election of officers; Connie Reik, Archivist at Tufts University will present “Finding Your Civil War Ancestors.”

June 3, 2015 – Last monthly meeting and dinner.

For a printable version of our 2014-15 calendar and events, click here:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mawmgs/updates.html>

Genealogy Research Clinics

Join Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Vice President of WMGS and owner of www.oldbones.co for “Genealogy Research Clinics.”

Spend some time with genealogy researchers with years of experience using the internet to help get the answers you’re looking for. Learn time saving research strategies using Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, Google and SteveMorse.org among other sites.

Sessions are held on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center. Clinics are free for WMGS members. There is a \$10 fee per session for non-members.

2015 Dates

February 19

February 26

March 19

March 26

April 16

April 23

May 21

May 28

June 18

Genealogy with Dave Robison

Upcoming events by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. More information is available at http://oldbones.co/?page_id=3679

April 15 – 19, 2015, Dave will be presenting “*Search Strategies You Haven’t Tried --- Search Sites You Never Thought Of*” at the biennial conference of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) in Providence, RI. Dozens of speakers from around the United States will be presenting a broad variety of programs. “Early Bird Registration” is \$120 per person but ends 28 February 2015. Regular registration will be \$150 as of 1 March 2015.

NERGC Conference

NAVIGATING THE PAST: SAILING INTO THE FUTURE

APRIL 15 – 19, 2015

The Rhode Island Convention Center - Providence, RI

Register at www.nergc.org

Early Bird Deadline 28 February 2015



The most important genealogical conference in the Northeast is the biennial “New England Regional Genealogical Conference.” Virtually all genealogical subjects will be covered in a 3 day event with a wide variety of speakers, workshops, “Ancestor’s Road Show”, banquets, luncheons and other events. For a detailed description of what has been planned, click here <http://www.nergc.org/> and then click the link **Download the Program**

Brochure. There is an “Early Bird” registration of \$120 which ends on February 28, 2015. After that date, registration is \$150. Also, the local hotels are offering special rates to conference attendees.

Keynote Speaker: Lisa Louise Cook – Genealogy Gems
Keynote Speaker: Judy G. Russell – The Legal Genealogist

- 60+ lectures
- Technology Day
- Librarians’ and Teachers’ Day
- Ancestors Roadshow
- Society Fair
- Exhibit Hall
- Special Interest Groups
- Query Column
- Research in Providence

Also speaking at NERGC 2015 will be one of our own, **Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England and Vice President of WMGS**. He will present “Search Strategies You Never Thought Of---Search Sites You never Heard Of!” which is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, April 18th from 1:45 – 2:45 pm, track #S-321

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NERGC

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6:30 PM – Chicopee Public Library

<http://www.pgsma.org/>

Locating Vital Records in Poland Using Online Resources, Or, "I Found my Village! Now What?"

by Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz

Finding vital records for one's family in Poland is a critical step in exploring our Polish ancestry, but can sometimes be confusing. After a short overview on using U.S. documents to determine one's ancestral village, Julie will illustrate the steps used to determine the parish for that village by introducing some of the gazetteers and indexes that have come online in recent years, including the Skorowidz Królestwa Polskiego (Index to the Kingdom of Poland) . She will also explore the options for locating Polish vital records online using websites such as Geneteka, Metryki.GenBaza, and BaSIA. A great and practical talk for beginners AND experienced researchers!

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast

Friday, October 2, 2015 and Saturday, October 3, 2015

“2015 Polish Genealogy Conference”

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. will host a Polish Genealogy Conference at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT. The conference is well worth the trip. For conference details, speakers and registration, please visit their web site:

<http://www.pgscctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>

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

"Rogues, Rascals and Raps callions: The Family Black Sheep" With Judy G Russell, the Legal Genealogist

February 4, 2015 will be a very exciting meeting of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. After over 40 years, WMGS is taking a giant leap into the 21st Century. We have branched out to welcome speakers from across the country and it has proven to be a great success!

Last year, we hosted Maureen Taylor who, to be honest, was our "guinea pig" in virtual presentations but please don't tell her!! (Hi Maureen!!) Next up was the ubiquitous Dick Eastman. By the time Dick appeared, we seemed to be old hands at the virtual meeting business. In November of 2014, "DearMYRTLE" challenged us from her home in Salt Lake City to 15 goals to accomplish in 15 months.

For our February 4th meeting, we'll be hearing from Judy G Russell, the "Legal Genealogist" who will present "Rogues, Rascals and Raps callions: The Family Black Sheep." I'd like to say where she'll be on February 4th but since she is not only a lawyer and an accomplished genealogist, she can also take on the title of "The Peripatetic Genealogist!" There's no telling where she'll be other than on the screen, live presenting exclusively to the WMGS.

Of course, we continue to have local speakers who are near enough to actually come to our meetings! However, there are 2 people I must thank for their help and expertise in conducting these meetings with a few very talented and very popular genealogy "stars!" A great big "Thank You" to Pat Richley-Erickson and a close family member of hers "Cousin Russ," See you on the 4th!

Dave Robison

Members Only: Special Viewing of our February 4th Meeting

Can't make it to the meeting on February 4th? We are offering a special viewing for members of WMGS.

Option 1: Watch it live. For access to the remote broadcast, please contact Dave Robison and he will walk you through the process. You will need a Gmail account, which is an easy process:

- 1) Go to plus.google.com to create an account
- 2) Create a new Google account and fill in your information
- 3) Continue to the sign in for Google+
- 4) Set up a profile (requires some very basic information – much of it is optional)
- 5) There should be an “Upgrade” button. This technically upgrades you from a standard Google account to Google+
- 6) You'll be asked if you want to follow any particular pages but this is totally optional
- 7) Also optional is uploading a picture. It can be your image or a pet or whatever you'd like to represent you.
- 8) Send you Gmail address to Dave Robison at dave@oldbones.info where he can “invite” you to the WMGS Community.

Option 2: Watch it later. The February 4th presentation will be made available to view on YouTube. WMGS Members will receive an e-mail with instructions for viewing.

Please note: Due to contractual agreements, these two viewing options are only available to WMGS members. Not a member? There's still time to join. Send Dave an e-mail at dave@oldbones.info to let him know you want to be a member.

Dave Robison Elected President of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists

Dave Robison, owner of Old Bones Genealogy of New England, has been elected President of the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Dave has taught hundreds of avid genealogists from the basics to advanced research techniques, conducted workshops, provided personal consultation and worked as a private genealogy researcher on contract basis. Congratulations Dave!!

Genealogy Groups on Facebook

If you're a Facebook user, you might be interested in joining one of the many genealogy groups which have formed. Not sure which one to join? Check out this extensive listing, put together by Katherine R. Willson.

<http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>

The list is very well-organized. Pages one through sixty-four are dedicated to the United States, and the facebook pages are listed by state. Scroll down, and you'll find international facebook pages organized by country. The last part of the list includes specialty pages. Here you'll find facebook pages on cemeteries, DAR, DNA, the military, and even surnames.

Be sure to check out the Massachusetts List. You'll be happy to know that WMGS is listed on page 24 at number 777. ☺

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 research clinics 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. Applications for Membership can be found on our website at www.WestMassGen.com

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 2015. Please forward your information by February 20, 2015 to: WestMassGen@gmail.com

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