

June 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,

Summer is approaching quickly, and this means our 2011-2012 year is coming to close. Please join us for our last meeting of the season on **Wednesday, June 6, 2012**. We will have a Pot Luck Dinner, so be sure to bring a dish. After the dinner, we will host an “open mic” for members to share their genealogy tips and suggestions.

The 2012-2013 year will mark the 40th anniversary for WMGS. Over the summer we will work on the program, which will be published on our website by the end of August.

Be sure to complete our Survey on pages 7 and 8. We would like your suggestions for improvement. Turn in your survey at our June 6th meeting, or drop it in the mail to us.

We wish you a happy and safe summer. Hopefully you can schedule some time to work on your family history research. See you in September!

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Calendar of Events

Wednesday, June 6, 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.

Last monthly meeting: “Pot Luck Dinner” and “Open Mic.” Come and enjoy our annual Pot Luck Dinner. Afterwards, members will have a chance to speak during our Open Mic session. Members are welcome to share genealogy information including ideas, tips, research experience and genealogy projects. Have a good summer and see you in September.

Thursday, June 21, 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, September 5, 2012

The first 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.

Please check our website in August for details on our speaker.

April 17-21, 2013

New England Regional Genealogical Conference
Woven in History – The Fabric of New England
Manchester, NH

The first 2013 E-zine is now available online at:

http://www.nergc.org/E-zine_1_2013.pdf

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. Jun 5, 2012	2 P.M.	Searching for Seamen: 19 th c. crew lists, shipping articles, citizenship, & more
Thurs. June 21, 2012	2 P.M.	They Came From . . . TBA: Ethnic History & Genealogy
Tues. Jul 10, 2012	2 P.M.	Introduction to Genealogy
Thurs. July 19, 2012	6 P.M.	They Came From . . . TBA: Ethnic History and Genealogy
Tues. Aug 7, 2012	2 P.M.	Census, Passenger Lists, and Naturalization Records
Thurs. Aug 16, 2012	6 P.M.	Documenting Our Mothers: Women's History

The workshops take place at the National Archives in Waltham, MA. Reservations Required. Call (866) 406-2379 or e-mail boston.archives@nara.gov to register. For more information, please see their website:

<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/boston/public/workshops.html>

Thursday, June 28, 2012, 6:30 PM

Summer Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

Polish Center of Discovery & Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA

Bread & Roses Centennial Conversation

In January 1912, Lawrence mill workers launched a strike over a pay cut that began in the Everett Mill and soon involved over 20,000 mostly women workers. First to walk out were 400 Polish women textile workers. Lawrence was soon placed under martial law when the city's mayor requested that the state militia be sent there. The strike precipitated an investigation by the US Congress into intolerable working and living conditions in Lawrence. National and international publicity helped to lead to a settlement in March which provided for increased pay and better working conditions in Lawrence and sparked similar advances in other mill cities across New England. The conversation will answer the questions: What happened in Lawrence on January 12 and why? How did the strike proceed? And, why does the strike still remain so important in labor history? For more information about this event and for directions, please see: <http://www.pgsma.org>

Genealogy Hint: Old Newspapers

By Fran Malone

Old Newspapers, the resource where the unknown becomes known, the past becomes the present, and where your ancestor comes alive. Recently I subscribed to genealogybank.com an online resource that gives you access to old newspapers from around the country. These old papers have produced an abundance of obituaries, engagement, and marriage announcements that I didn't have. Among those marriage announcements was the 1908 marriage of my Grandparents Thomas and Johanna (Sugrue) Malone. More importantly these newspapers have offered some insight on my Great Grandfather and Grandfather's personal lives which are listed below.

1. The Springfield Republican dated Aug. 22, 1898 had an article showing that Patrick Malone of Montgomery Street Chicopee Falls was to play a Handball Game that night against John Downey of Blake Street Chicopee Falls. Patrick Malone holds the honor of being a former County Kerry Handball Champion. ****note**** Patrick Malone is my Great Grandfather and unfortunately I haven't found anything in the paper on how the Handball game came out.
2. The Springfield Republican date May 26, 1898 had an article showing that Thomas Malone was a contestant in a speaking contest promoted by the Father Mathew Temperance Society of Chicopee. The contest was educational and involved Senior and Junior Students preparing a speech and then presenting it to the public. The article on May 27, 1898 followed up the contest with the results. Thomas Malone placed 2nd in the Seniors division. **** note**** Thomas Malone is my Grandfather and 20 plus years later he would be doing performances with the Father Mathew Group using his talents that he learned while performing in Vaudeville in New York.
3. It was a known factor that Thomas Malone performed in Vaudeville in New York but where and when he made his start was unknown. There were a couple of Springfield Papers from 1902 showing that Thomas (my Grandfather) with the Andrew Mack Company performing in "Tom Moore" at the Court Square Theater in Springfield. These articles were followed up by six articles uncovered in the 1906 Springfield papers showing Thomas in the Vaudeville Play "Hamlet." Hamlet was also being performed at the

Court Square Theater in Springfield and the play program showed Thomas as "The First Actor" and "The First Gravedigger".

These "old newspapers" are available at the Springfield, Mass. Public Library if you have a date to look for. Obviously I wouldn't have found these articles without the help of an index which brings me to the Genealogy Website for this month.

Genealogy Websites

By Fran Malone

www.genealogybank.com

Genealogybank.com is a paid subscription website that cost approximately \$60 to \$70 dollars a year. A small fee if you can afford it and you get a wealth of information in return. It also gives you newspapers from the other 49 states, so if you are from outside of Massachusetts it helps to bring you a little closer to home. I've successfully found a few articles in the Ohio papers and a lot of articles from the Vermont newspapers. There is a link attached to the current Springfield Republican newspaper that you can go to. This link will allow you to take out a monthly subscription to the Springfield Republican Archives for \$29 a month. This will give you all the Springfield Newspapers that you find on genealogybank.com but you have to keep renewing it every month to find your articles. Genealogybank is a far better investment if your searches are long term.

Marketing

Will you be out in the community this summer doing genealogy research? We are looking for volunteers to distribute flyers to local libraries, city clerk's offices and genealogy research facilities. If you would like to help, please pick up a package of flyers at our June meeting.

Special thanks to Bob Riopel who volunteered get an announcement out to the local cable channels in Western Massachusetts. We hope to broadcast to cities and towns beyond our immediate area.

Election of Officers

Congratulations to the following individuals who were elected to serve as officers of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society (WMGS):

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

The officers' term will run from June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013.

Volunteer Needed: We are currently looking for someone to fulfill the role of Secretary. Jane Okscin has graciously agreed to stay on temporarily as our secretary. The primary duties of the Secretary are to take minutes at our meetings; coordinate the monthly newsletter for members without e-mail; and handle correspondence for the society. **Please note:** if the secretary cannot attend a monthly meeting, our President can appoint someone to take minutes. If you think you'd like to help as Secretary, please see Fran Malone at our next meeting, or contact him via e-mail at WestMassGen@gmail.com

Pot Luck Dinner: June 6th

Just a reminder: Please be sure to bring a dish to our June 6th meeting. Appetizers, fruit, dinner casseroles, and desserts are always welcome.

Do you have something you'd like to share with our group? After dinner, we will have time for individual speakers to share tips, ideas, and projects. Speakers are asked to provide their own handouts, if necessary. However, after the meeting, we would be happy to send handouts electronically to our members, or post the information on our website.

Survey

The 2011-2012 WMGS year was a true success. A total of 26 new members joined our society, monthly meeting attendance was excellent, and some of our computer workshops were filled to capacity. In order to keep this momentum going, we want to hear from you. Do you have any suggestions or ideas? Speak up, don't hold those suggestions. Let us know what we are doing well, and what needs improvement.

1. Do you attend the monthly meetings? Yes No
2. Do you attend the computer workshops? Yes No
3. Do you read the monthly newsletter? Yes No

4. What topics would you like presented? (Check all that apply)
 ___ Genealogy ___ Websites ___ Organizing your files
 ___ History ___ Facebook ___ Genealogy for beginners
 ___ Cemeteries ___ DNA ___ Library resources

Other suggestions or specific speakers:

5. What level do you consider yourself?
 Beginner Intermediate Advanced

What I like best about WMGS:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Suggestions for improvement:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Survey (continued)

Are you planning to join again in September 2012? Yes No

If not, please tell us why: _____

Volunteers needed:

I am interested in speaking/volunteering in October 2012 at a local library:

<input type="checkbox"/> Agawam	<input type="checkbox"/> Springfield	<input type="checkbox"/> East Longmeadow
<input type="checkbox"/> West Springfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Northampton	<input type="checkbox"/> Westfield
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicopee	<input type="checkbox"/> Longmeadow	<input type="checkbox"/> Southwick
<input type="checkbox"/> South Hadley	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

I have the following computer skills:

Microsoft Word
 Microsoft Excel
 Graphic Design
 Facebook
 Web site programming or updating

I would like to help out in the following way: _____

Name: _____

E-mail : _____

Phone: _____

Please complete your survey, and return it to our June 6th meeting. Can't make it to the meeting? Just mail it to us by June 30th.

WMGS – P.O. Box 418 – West Springfield, MA 01090

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 September 2012. Please forward your information by August 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