

June 2014

*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 2013-2014 year is coming to close. Please join us for our last meeting of the season on **Wednesday, June 4, 2014**. For more details on this event, and additional genealogy information, check out the following articles in our June 2014 newsletter:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-4)
- Possible WMGS Summer Field Trip (Page 4)

- Results of Election of Officers (Page 5)
- 2013-2014 Membership Update (Page 5)
- Save the Dates: WMGS 2014-15 Season (Page 5)

- *Cousins Found in Genealogy Chat Room* by Dave Robison (page 6)

- Surname List Update (page 7)

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!

© 2014 Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society. All rights reserved.

WMGS Calendar of Events

Wednesday, June 4, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

We will hold our last monthly meeting and dinner for the 2013-2014 season. It will be a pizza dinner, along with salad, beverages, and dessert. A gluten-free dish will also be available. After the dinner, we will host an “open mic” for members to share their genealogy tips and suggestions.

Thursday, June 19, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host the final Genealogy Research Clinic for the 2013-2014 season. Individuals are encouraged to bring their research and questions. Clinics 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. Clinics are free for members. There is a \$10 fee per class for non-members.

PGSMA 25th Anniversary Conference

Saturday, June 21, 2014, 10 am - 4 pm.

Location: Polish Center of Discovery & Learning
33 South Street
Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-0001
More Details: <http://www.pgsma.org>

Genealogy with Dave Robison

Summer/Fall schedule for events by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. More information is available at www.oldbones.info

- Chicopee Public Library
449 Front Street
Chicopee, MA
“Genealogy and Family Research”
Mondays, June 2, 9 and 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM
Mondays, August 11, 18 and 25 10:00 to 11:30 AM
- Granby Free Public Library
297 E State Street
Granby, MA
“Genealogy and Family Research”
Wednesdays, June 4, 11, 18 and 25 11:00 to Noon with Q&A until???
- Agawam Public Library
700 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA
“Genealogy and Family Research”
Tuesday, August 5, 2014 6:30 to 7:30 PM
For details, call the library at (413) 789-1550 ext 4
- Hitchcock Academy
2 Brookfield Rd
Brimfield, MA
“Pulling the People out of the Paperwork”
Includes up to 3 hours of professional research per attendee
Tuesday/Thursday June 17, 19, 24 and 26, 2014
Monday/Wednesday July 28, 30 and August 4, 6, 2014
Registration required – Call 413-245-9977
- Springfield Museums Association
21 Edwards Street
Springfield, MA
“Pulling the People out of the Paperwork”

Includes up to 3 hours of professional research per attendee
Mondays, September 22, 29 and October 6 and 20 (Skips Oct 13, Columbus Day)

“The ABC’s of Genealogy”

Wednesdays September 24 and October 8, 2014 6 to 8 PM

Registration required – Call 413-263-6800 ext 377 or on-line at

www.springfieldmuseums.org under Learn/Travel tab

For full details about these events, as well as Dave’s summer events, please visit:
<http://www.oldbones.co/upcoming-events.html>

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

Possible WMGS Summer Field Trip

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society is considering a field trip this summer. Two options are available.

1. Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield, Mass.
2. W.E.B. Dubois repository at UMass Amherst. There are 27 floors of goodies.

Are you interested in visiting one of these places? We will discuss these two options at our meeting on June 4th. If you can’t make it to the meeting, feel free to send us an email at WestMassGen@gmail.com to let us know your preference.

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: Janet Curley
Treasurer: Dave Robison

The officers' term will run from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015.

2013-14 Membership Update

The 2013-2014 WMGS year was very successful. A total of 19 new members joined our society. There were 77 total members, which includes our 15 lifetime members. Monthly meeting attendance was excellent, and our new Genealogy Research Clinics were a hit.

Save the Dates: WMGS 2014-2015 Season

Our 2014-2015 season kicks off in September. Be sure to mark your calendars for the following dates:

September 3, 2014 - Speaker to be determined

October 1, 2014 – Dick Eastman of Eastman's On-line Genealogy Newsletter

November 5, 2014 – Pat Richley-Erickson a/k/a Dear Myrt

December 3, 2014 – Holiday Dinner

January 7, 2015 – Speaker / Field Trip to be determined

February 4, 2015 – Judy G Russell, "The Legal Genealogist"

March 4, 2015 – Denise Martinez from the Chicopee City Clerk's office

April 1, 2015 – Speaker to be determined

May 6, 2015 – Election of officers; Speaker to be determined

June 3, 2015 – Last monthly meeting and dinner

Cousins Found in a Genealogy Chat Room

by Dave Robison, Old Bones Genealogy of New England

Imagine that! Finding cousins who, independent of each other, were participating in a chat during an Ancestry.com webinar. Each Tuesday and Thursday at 1 PM EST, Christa Cowan, who bills herself as the “Barefoot Genealogist”, hosts an educational webinar on a wide variety of genealogical subjects. She speaks about search techniques at Ancestry.com, the huge numbers of collections there, new collections and data bases, Family Tree Maker software, Find-A-Grave and many other subjects. The website to view them live is www.livestream.com/ancestry. To view the archived broadcasts search for “The Barefoot Genealogist” at www.youtube.com.



This past Tuesday, I was watching the broadcast and participating in the corresponding chat. The broadcast’s subject was the Find-A-Grave website. Somehow, the subject of Deacon Samuel Chapin came up. His grave location is known but not its exact plot. And that’s another story for another article at another time! You may be familiar with the good Deacon as his statue stands in Merrick Park in Springfield,

Massachusetts, right next to the main branch of the Springfield Library on State Street.

Deacon Chapin was one of the founders of Springfield and certainly one of its more successful settlers. A huge landowner and public servant, Samuel Chapin (1598-1675) and his many progeny raised large families helping to populate the area right up to today. As a matter of fact, he counts among his descendants Presidents Taft and Cleveland, Harriet Beecher Stowe, J. P. Morgan, T. S. Elliot, Harry Chapin, Marion Morrison (points to those who know who Mr. Morrison is!), Harry Chapin and, as it turns out, myself and 2 of the other participants in the Ancestry.com chat!

After I mentioned my 8th great grandfather, Deacon Chapin, another participant said “Wow, Chapin is also my 8th great grandfather!” How bizarre is that? Here’s is an 8th cousin who I had never met or knew about who happens to show up in a chat room talking about the web site, Find-A-Grave! So in between all the other comments from the 75 or so participants, we determined how each of us descended and decided to “friend” each other on Facebook.

If you think that’s an interesting way to meet a cousin, another participant spoke up to say that they were also descended from the Deacon. It was our own Bruce Cortis, another longtime member of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical

Society. When he and I compared notes, it turns out that we are 9th cousins 3 times removed!

Samuel Chapin's daughter, Hannah, married into the Hitchcock family which, after 3 generations, married into the Newton family. The Newton family married into the Bassett family. Some of the other family names along the way were Norton, Newton, Blodgett and Tuggey. These were the family names of the women marrying into those families. My maternal grandmother was Hazel Adel Bassett who married Clement Alexis Dickson (a Canadian!!) whose daughter, Beatrice was my mother.

Bruce's line takes him up to another daughter of Deacon Chapin, Catherine. From there, Bruce's line goes through Bliss (another founding family of this area), Holcomb/Holcombe, Dayton, Palmer to Cortis. The family names of the women marrying into this line were Bronson, Olds, Loomis, Case and Buell.

So the lesson here is simple: Always be respectful of the people you associate with. You might meet up with them at a family reunion!

Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England and Vice President - New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists

E-mail: dave@oldbones.info

Website: www.oldbones.co (NOT .com) Blog: www.oldbonesearch.com

©2014 Old Bones Genealogy of New England - All Rights Reserved.

Published with Permission by the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

Surname Project Update

This summer we will take a two month break from publishing our monthly newsletter. During this time we will work on updating our Surname List. The last names that our members are researching are found on the annual membership forms. We summarize the names, and send an e-mail to confirm that the information is okay to publish. If you are a new member, or have submitted your surnames recently, please watch for an e-mail. Once you confirm the data, we will include it on our Surname List. In the meantime, you can check out the current Surname List on our website:

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

As always, if you have any updates to the Surname List, please contact Susan Leverson at WestMassGen@gmail.com

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, 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 2014. Please forward your information by August 20, 2014 to Susan Leverson at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2014-15 Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Beckie Cross
Secretary: Janet Curley
Treasurer: Dave Robison

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher
and Webmaster: Susan Leverson