

October 2013

*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>

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## News

Greetings,

Fall is officially here, and it's a great time to continue your family research.

Be sure to check out the following items in our newsletter this month:

- Upcoming Events (pages 2-4)
- National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair (page 5)
- Susan Levenson's Genealogy Hint (page 6)
- Membership (Page 8)

We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at the Agawam Senior Center.

## WMGS Calendar of Events

### **Wednesday, October 2, 2013:**

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. October is Family History Month, so members are encouraged to bring a friend to our meeting.

Lisa Dougherty will be our speaker. Ms. Dougherty is a Professional Genealogist who specializes in research in upstate New York, tracing Irish ancestors to their place of origin in Ireland. She also assists with heir searching, consultations and workshops.

### **Thursday, October 17, 2013 and Thursday, October 24, 2013:**

New! The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will host a Genealogy Research Clinic. 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.

### **Wednesday, November 6, 2013:**

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will meet from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts. October is Family History Month, so members are encouraged to bring a friend to our meeting.

Maureen Taylor, Nationally known Author, Lecturer, Genealogist, Historic Photo Expert will present “Preserving Family Photographs – 1839 to Present.” (Note: Maureen will speak to us via SKYPE.) For more information about our speaker, please see her website: [www.maurentaylor.com](http://www.maurentaylor.com)

## Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2013-2014 events for the WMGS:

**November 6, 2013** - Maureen Taylor, Nationally known Author, Lecturer, Genealogist, Historic Photo Expert will present "Preserving Family Photographs – 1839 to Present." (Note: Maureen will speak to us via SKYPE.)

**December 4, 2013** – Holiday Dinner

**January 8, 2014** – Field Trip to The Lyman and Merrie Woods Museum of Springfield History

**February 5, 2014** – Dave Robison, WMGS Treasurer and owner of [www.Oldbones.co](http://www.Oldbones.co) will speak about "Search Strategies You've Never Thought Of – Search Sites You've Never Heard Of"

**March 5, 2014** – Denise Martinez from the Chicopee City Clerk's office

**April 2, 2014** – Speaker to be determined

**May 7, 2014** – Election of officers; Speaker to be determined

**June 4, 2014** – Last monthly meeting and dinner

### **Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast**

**Friday, October 11, 2013 and Saturday, October 12, 2013**

**"2013 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.pgscne.org/EventsConferences.aspx>

### **Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts**

**Thursday, October 17, 2013, 6:30 PM**

**"Genealogical Holdings at the Massachusetts Archives"**

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

Archivist and Reference Librarian Ms. Jennifer Fauxsmith will speak on Genealogical Holdings at the Massachusetts Archives. She will discuss vital records, passenger lists, naturalization records, and other information of genealogical interest which can be found at the Archives at Columbia Point. There are many opportunities for volunteer work at the archives. FREE. Bring a friend.

Polish Center of Discovery & Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013

Phone: 413-592-0001 Website: [www.polishcenter.net](http://www.polishcenter.net)

## Genealogy Research Clinics

**New!** We are pleased to announce that Fran Malone, President of WMGS, and Dave Robison, Treasurer of WMGS and owner of [www.oldbones.co](http://www.oldbones.co) will team up to host “Genealogy Research Clinics.”

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

Sessions will be held on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month in the computer room of the Agawam Senior Center. Mark your calendar for the following dates:

### **2013**

September 19  
September 26  
October 17  
October 24  
November 21  
December 19

### **2014**

January 16  
January 23  
February 20  
February 27  
March 20  
March 27  
April 17  
April 24  
May 15  
May 22  
June 19

Special note: If you are planning to attend a Genealogy Research Clinic, please be sure to add your name and phone number to our sign up list. If a clinic needs to be canceled, we will call you.

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

## Genealogy Website: **National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair** by Susan Levenson

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, the National Archives hosted a virtual genealogy fair. During the two day session, many genealogy presentations were given. Here are some of the topics discussed:

- Military records
- Alien files
- Native American records
- NARA on-line records
- Union Civil War Pension files
- Records from Freedman's Bank
- Military and civilian personnel records
- Navy deck logs

Did you have a chance to attend? If not, don't worry. The presentation slides are still available on-line. Just click on the link:

<http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/>

Some of the presentations were also recorded. Once you're on the page listed above, just click on the link entitled "View Recorded Sessions."

Happy researching!

## Genealogy Hint: **What Are You Looking For?** by Susan Levenson

If you've started to build your family tree, you know first-hand how easy it is to get lost in the on-line records. You have good intentions by going to a website to look for something in particular. During your research, something else may seem interesting, so you follow that lead. Before you know it, it's two o'clock in the morning, and you've ended up researching something completely different than what you originally planned. Following your nose isn't always bad. In fact, I've found some great documents by this way.

However, sometimes it's necessary to regroup and think about what you are truly looking for. Consider taking out a piece of paper, and creating a Research Priority List with the top five items you would like to find. Make sure you're specific. Here are a few examples:

- Birth certificates for your paternal great-grandparents
- Siblings of your maternal great-grandparents
- Immigration records for a specific surname and/or time frame
- Addresses and homes of ancestors who first arrived in the United States
- 1910 Census files for your paternal great-grandparents
- Newspaper announcement for the wedding of your grandparents

As you can see, the list can go on and on. By identifying your top priorities, you can focus your efforts and find what you're looking for. When you get off track, simply regroup by reading your Research Priority List. To make it easy for you, we are including a blank form called "My Research Priority List" in our newsletter this month. (See page 7)

# My Research Priority List

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Surname:**

**Description (Birth Certificate, Census etc.)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Notes:**

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## Membership

Just a reminder: WMGS annual membership dues should be paid by October 15th. 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.

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### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership Renewal 2013-2014**

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

## 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 November 2013. Please forward your information by October 20, 2013 to Susan Levenson at: [WestMassGen@gmail.com](mailto:WestMassGen@gmail.com)

### **Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2013-2014 Executive Board Members**

#### **Officers:**

President: Fran Malone  
Vice-President: Beckie Cross  
Secretary: Jane Okscin  
Treasurer: Dave Robison

#### **Committee Chairs:**

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher  
and Webmaster: Susan Levenson