

September 2014

*A monthly publication
on behalf of the*



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 418 • West Springfield, MA 01090

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News

Greetings,

We hope everyone had a terrific summer. It's hard to believe fall will be here soon. We are very excited to kick off our 2014-15 year, especially as we expand our technology capabilities. In this edition of our electronic newsletter, you will find:

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We're looking forward to seeing everyone at our first meeting on **Wednesday, September 3, 2014** at the Agawam Senior Center.

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WMGS Calendar of Events

Wednesday, September 3, 2014:

The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society will hold their first meeting of the 2014-15 year. The meeting will be from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, Massachusetts.

Our speaker will be Mark A Wilmot, USMC Master Sargent (Ret) who has many impressive lifetime achievements. His program is titled "How Do I Frame My Life Story," a night in which we should all learn about capturing important life details for our genealogy and family research. Mark served as the Communications, Security and Avionics Chief for a Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS Saipan. His conceptualization of future products continues today with the Emergescan [High-Definition walk-thru scanning for emergency rooms], and development of Lifetime Fitness Testing technology based on weight-lifting and common exercises, but most importantly, his vision of a new world sport called super scoreball (see www.superscoreball.org). Mark has written several books, including a guide to writing life stories, which is titled Sharing Your Life Story In The Digital Age, and From Vision To Reality. He has helped many people with their poetry and life story books, and currently provides writing, editing, and publishing services to individuals with specialized knowledge through his web site which is www.prandpictures.com .

Thursday, September 18, 2014 and Thursday, September 25, 2014

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, October 1, 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. October is Family History Month, so members are encouraged to bring a friend to our meeting.

Our October meeting will feature a uniquely presented program presented by "Dear Myrtle" a/k/a Pat Richley Erickson. Dear Myrtle bills herself as "Your friend in genealogy." She is a nationally renowned genealogist who has been

researching, writing, teaching, lecturing and blogging genealogy since the 1980's. She conducts several series on genealogical subjects via Google+ Hangouts, the medium with which we'll see her program. Her regular broadcasts include "Mondays with Myrt," "Wacky Wednesdays," "Genealogy Game Night" among others. We'll see and interact with her live from Salt Lake City, Utah. You can read about her here <http://tinyurl.com/lclqtfe> and follow her work from the links in the left hand column of that page.

Save the Dates

Mark your calendars. Below you will find the 2014-2015 events for the WMGS:

October 1, 2014 – Dear Myrtle” a/k/a Pat Richley Erickson

November 5, 2014 – Dick Eastman, publisher of “Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter” available at www.eogn.com

December 3, 2014 – Holiday Dinner: Join us for a pot luck dinner. Socialize with fellow genealogists while dining to holiday music. Participate in “Open mic” session to share your genealogy research tips, websites, and suggestions.

January 7, 2015 – Field Trip: The Lyman and Merrie Woods Museum of Springfield History

February 4, 2015 – Judy G Russell “The Legal Genealogist”

March 4, 2015 – To be determined

April 1, 2015 – To be determined

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 will be 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.

2014

September 18
September 25
October 16
October 23
November 20
December 18

2015

January 15
January 22
February 19
February 26
March 19
March 26
April 16
April 23
May 21
May 28
June 18

Fall Meeting of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

Thursday, October 16, 2014, 6:30 PM

Chicopee Public Library

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

Mr. Joseph Manning, a former social worker and historian, will speak on **The Lewis Hine Project: Tracking down the lives of child laborers.** Manning will show some of these historic photographs, tell the stories of the immigrant child laborers in them, and talk about the exciting process of searching for descendants. Several of the stories at this presentation will be about Polish children. **FREE.** Bring a friend.

Genealogy with Dave Robison

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

- Wilbraham Public Library
25 Crane Park Drive
Wilbraham, MA 01095
“Genealogy and Family Research”
Tuesdays, September 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2014 at 6:00 PM
- 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) 10 AM to Noon
“The ABC’s of Family Research”
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
- “A Researcher’s Dream: The Archives at the Museum of Springfield History” September 27, 2014 at 10:30 AM. Location to be announced.
- Yellow House Community Center for Learning
1479 North Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069
“Genealogy and Family Research - Pulling the People out of the Paperwork”
Thursdays October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 2014 at 6:30-8:00 PM

Chicopee Public Library Becomes Family History Center Affiliate

Did you know that the Chicopee Public Library is now affiliated with the Family History Center in Ludlow? This change means an additional location, expanded hours, and access to resources. For more details, please see:

<http://www.chicopeeregisteronline.com/pdfs/cr05.29.14.pdf>

NERGC Conference

Save the Date: The next New England Regional Genealogical Consortium date has been scheduled for **April 15-19, 2015**. It will take place in Providence, Rhode Island. Dave Robison will be one of the featured speakers. His topic is titled "Search Strategies You Never Thought Of---Search Sites You Never Heard Of!" For more details, please see their website: <http://www.nergc.org/Conference-Home-Page.html>

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

New WMGS Website Link

Are you having trouble remembering the name of our website? We've solved that problem. A new link has been established: www.WestMassGen.com

Our existing website will remain the same, including the original web site address. However, you can now type www.WestMassGen.com as a second way to access the site. Special thanks to Dave Robison for suggesting and establishing this simplified feature.

Join Us on Google+

There is now a Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Community on Google+. We currently have over 100 members from all over the world, collaborating and sharing information.

To join: You will need a gmail account and a google+ id. Check out this site with easy to follow directions:

<http://www.google.com/+/learnmore/getstarted/guide.html>

After your + account is set up, join our Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Community through the following link:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/communities/109742774980945180341?hl=en>.

Please note: Once your gmail and google accounts are established, you do not need to use your Gmail account or tell anyone of your Gmail account address. So there's no need to be concerned about maintaining an additional email account.

YouTube Video

We are so excited about our upcoming season that we decided to make a YouTube video to share with you.

Check it out at the following link: <http://youtu.be/U531CFhLeEg>

Change in WMGS Officers

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Katy Krause, who was recently appointed to the position of Treasurer. She replaces Dave Robison, who will advance to the position of Vice President.

Special thanks to Beckie Cross for serving as our Vice President. We appreciate your work Beckie, and hope to see you at future meetings.

Historical Society Collaboration

We are pleased to announce a new collaboration between WMGS and our local historical societies. Each month we will introduce a different historical group in our newsletter, and a representative from the group will be invited to attend our monthly meeting. At the start of the meeting, we will introduce the representative and their organization. After the meeting, attendees can network and speak to the representative. Special thanks to our newest board member Katy Krause for volunteering to coordinate this project.

September Spotlight: Agawam Historical Society

The Agawam Historical Association is a private, non-profit organization working to preserve historic materials, documents, and landmarks pertaining to the Town of Agawam and to provide educational opportunities concerning Agawam's history. The Association operates the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum at 35 Elm Street, and the Thomas Smith house (c1757) at 251 North West Street in Feeding Hills. All Association meetings are free and open to the public. To learn more please visit <http://www.agawamhistoricalassociation.org/>

A representative from the Agawam Historical Society will attend our September meeting.

“It’s All Online and It’s All True” ---
Abraham Lincoln
by Dave Robison, Old Bones Genealogy of New England

The whimsical quote in the title of this article is something I found somewhere ... probably online... and I thought I'd share it with you. I was hoping it would be a humorous segue into today's subject.

It occurred to me as I was watching WDYTYA, that if anyone took a tally of what was discovered on line, specifically by the show's sponsor, Ancestry.com, and what needed to be researched in libraries, archives, repositories, church records, town halls, private collections, et al, that it would clearly demonstrated that no, as a matter of fact, it's NOT all online!

The amount of data that can be discovered at home by logging in to a variety of websites both free and subscription is quite definitely increasing, seemingly by leaps and bounds. We see numbers such as so-and-so "...has added 3,500,000 records..." with some more and some less. Without knowing how many more records there are to index and post, it almost seems as though we're nearly done so who needs the libraries, archives, repositories, church records, town halls, private collections, et al?

I've seen estimates that the internet contains 5% or less of the available data. Others estimate upwards of 15%. But the fact remains that even the sponsor of a very popular program dealing with genealogical research which is itself an internet based research resource still employs dozens of professionals to get the job done. If Ancestry.com needs professionals to put their program together, how can any hobbyists or private family researcher or professional genealogist hope to do better? I'm just sayin'!

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.oldbonessearch.com

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Membership Dues: Show Your Support

We are officially kicking off our annual membership drive. Dues for the year are just \$20, and can be paid at our September meeting. New members: Please complete our Application for Membership at www.WestMassGen.com and return with your dues. Can't make it to our next meeting? Use the coupon below to send us your payment.

Reasons to Join our Society

1. Meet people with similar interests of family history and genealogy
2. Attend monthly meetings featuring local and national presenters
3. Receive assistance from our members on your family research
4. Attend our free genealogy research clinics held twice per month (\$10 per session for non-members)
5. Share our library of resources including books and cds
6. Opportunity to serve as a volunteer, coach or member of Board of Directors

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. We rely on our membership funds to provide quality speakers throughout the year.

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership Renewal 2014-2015

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 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 October 2014. Please forward your information by September 20, 2014 to Susan Levenson at: WestMassGen@gmail.com

Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society 2014-15 Executive Board Members

Officers:

President: Fran Malone
Vice-President: Dave Robison
Secretary: Janet Curley
Treasurer: Katy Krause

Committee Chairs:

Newsletter Mailing Coordinator: Marilyn Powers

Newsletter Editor/Publisher
and Webmaster: Susan Levenson

Newsletter Assistant: Bill Thompson