



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

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- **RENEW TODAY!! We now have PayPal**
 - **Letter from the President, Fran Malone**
 - **Wednesday, September 2, Pauline Cusson on French-Canadian research**
 - **Wednesday, October 7, "Cousin Russ" Worthington appearing virtually on City Directories**
 - **PBS "Genealogy Roadshow" is coming to Boston in the fall of 2016 - Apply to appear!!**
 - **Ancestry Library Edition coming for exclusive use by WMGS members**
 - **DAR - Patriot Records Project**
 - **Cemetery Project**
 - **Irish Cultural Center - BIG News**
 - **Genealogy events with Dave Robison**
 - **Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts is sponsoring Steve Morse October 10, 2015 at Elms College**
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SEPTEMBER RENEWALS!!



A message from Katy, WMGS Treasurer

Who doesn't love this time of year?! September means back-to-school, apple pies, beautiful autumn colors, and **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!** Yes, this is where I remind everyone to pay their yearly membership fee of \$25.

But don't fret because this year we've made it easier to pay. You can, of course, pay me at the September meeting (because everyone should be there!) or send a check in by mail, but now you can also pay online if you'd rather! Just go to our website with this link [JOIN](#), there is now a PayPal button.

YOU DO NOT NEED A PAYPAL ACCOUNT!! Any credit or debit card will do.

If you have any questions about using this new feature, please contact us. We thank you for your continued support!

Letter From the President, Fran Malone

Dear Friends,

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society has been an organization since 1972. Since that time we have been bringing quality programming to all of our members. We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of the month and our membership year runs from September through August... Besides our monthly meetings, we have added two Computer Research Workshops to help with your family research. These workshops meet on the third and fourth Thursdays of the month from September through June and assistance is available by two of our most experienced genealogists.

Our monthly meetings have featured local speakers as well as national speakers in the field of genealogy. Some of the speakers have appeared in person and others have come to us through the modern technology of Google "Hangouts" or SKYPE. Coming to us through SKYPE at one of our meetings in 2014-2015 was Maureen Taylor, the Photo Detective. She spoke to us on several things, but most importantly she showed us how to recognize hints in an old picture. There are hints that could and would determine a time period for your ancestor. We also heard from Loren Forastiere a local Funeral Director on what genealogy clues the funeral home can offer you. Our 2015-2016 year will start us off in September with Pauline Cusson, a genealogist from New Hampshire and an expert in French-Canadian Genealogy Research. Our October topic will be City Directories with "Cousin Russ" Worthington and November's topic will be Cemeteries, Gravestones, and

the Changing Customs here in New England.

The monthly meetings are not all about the speakers though. Some of our past programs have been binder workshops which help members organize their work and understand the importance of citing the various sources. We also have had panel discussions, show and tell, open mic, and field trips. The panel discussions have become very popular and give members a chance to ask questions of our more experienced members. The open mic lets members talk about their research while the field trips allow members a chance to do some research at the Genealogy Library at the Springfield Museums.

Our membership cost is only \$25.00 per year and is kept low so that all may join us. The \$25.00 will give you full membership for the year that includes the monthly meetings as well as the Computer Research Workshops and soon, Ancestry Library. Several of our meetings can be viewed on-line, and members will receive an e-mail with specific viewing instructions. For those just interested in the Computer Research Workshops, they are free to members. For non-members, it will be a cost of \$10.00. I think you will find this money is well spent. The benefits of membership include thought-provoking programs brought to you on a monthly basis.

In the meantime, please check out our website www.westmassgen.com for the latest updates. You can read our newsletter, get a genealogy hint, explore a new genealogy website, or maybe just connect with a lost relative from our surname board.

We can also be found on Facebook and in our Google+ Community if you prefer the social media.

Please contact us with your questions/thoughts and always feel free to share a story. We are looking forward to an exciting year so please join us at our next meeting. We would love to see you as well as hear from you.

Fran Malone, President
Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society

French - Canadian Research anyone? Wednesday, 02 September 2015

In September, we have the good fortune to "welcome home" a Western Mass native who will spend an evening with us on a favorite subject of many of our members.



Pauline Cusson

Pauline Cusson, board member of the [American-Canadian Genealogical Society](#) and an integral part of the success of several NERGC conferences, will be with us to discuss her specialty, French-Canadian, Franco-American and Acadian genealogy.

Her topic will be "*French-Canadian Research: Bridging the Gap*"

And in October...

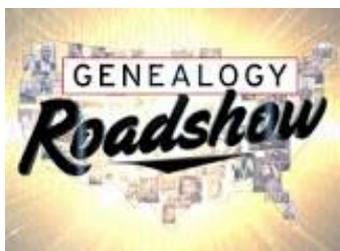
...we'll be visiting with our "old friend" Russ Worthington. Russ is Dear Myrtle's cousin who assisted us in our Google+ Hangouts with Dear Myrtle and with Judy Russell. Aside from being a leading expert in the complexities of Google Hangouts, Russ is quite accomplished in many fields including genealogy. I personally call on Russ for assistance with Find-A-Grave and Family Tree Maker/Ancestry.com.



He'll be giving us an in depth understanding in the use of *City Directories* which should be a vital part of everyone's search strategies.

He'll be coming to us from his home in New Jersey via a Google Hangout. Since we, ourselves, have become fairly adept at the technology, we expect the entire evening to go without a hitch!

That's Wednesday, 7 October 2015



PBS Series "Genealogy Roadshow" in Boston - Fall 2016

According to information recently received, Genealogy Road Show is planning to film an episode in the Boston area next fall. We're pretty excited about that inasmuch as

we're also trying to get them to Springfield in time for the 2017 NERGC convention. Maybe the fall taping will be broadcast in the spring and somehow, we can engineer a connection!

In any event, if you believe your family history hunt is worthy of documenting on a national level, click here: <http://genealogyroadshow.org/casting-page/> and you'll be taken to the casting application page. Better hurry and good luck!

Ancestry Library Edition coming for WMGS Members

Your WMGS board has been busy working out a subscription to Ancestry Library Edition for exclusive use by WMGS membership at the Agawam Senior Center's computer clinic.



It will be password protected to insure exclusivity. The Library Edition has many additional features including access to Newspapers.com, Fold3.com and AncestryAcademy. When you discover a document that you would like to keep, simply email it to yourself through a unique link on the page where the document is displayed.

To put the magnitude of this member benefit in perspective, the equivalent "All Access" subscription on an individual basis is \$44.99 per month or \$199 for a prepaid 6 month plan which equals \$398 per year. So your WMGS membership covers it for you! Tell your friends!! We love welcoming new members!

While we iron out the details, the plan is for our members who would like to take advantage of greatly expanded records availability, will be able to come to our "Genealogy Research Clinics" and log in with a unique password which will change every month.

Our regular schedule of the 3rd and 4th Thursdays of each month now will include another day. So far, we've scheduled Wednesday September 9 and Monday, October 5. We will be anxious to hear your feedback on this new member benefit!

The Irish Cultural Center at Elms College is moving to West Springfield!

All the details can be found in the announcement at their website. Click here: [ICC](#)



Patriot Records Project

Most people involved in genealogy have at least heard about the [Daughters of the American Revolution \(DAR\)](#). The DAR is a lineage society for women who have a direct ancestor who served in the Revolutionary War. The DAR is very active in helping schools and veterans groups, but they're also very active in historic document preservation. And you don't have to be a member (or even a prospective member) to take advantage of their records. The DAR's library in Washington DC has few rivals and is open to the public. But now they're working to do even more that will benefit genealogist and historians alike.

The [DAR](#) announced this summer that they have a new initiative called the [Patriot Records Project](#). "The purpose of this project is to save precious information from a collection of extant Revolutionary War era records. Oftentimes patriots have never been recognized because the record of their service is located amidst an obscure collection of loose, scattered and deteriorating papers housed in a variety of repositories. The majority of these Revolutionary War era collections have never been microfilmed or digitized, let alone indexed." The project has two parts. The first part will involve digitizing and indexing the DAR's own extensive collection. The second part involves the DAR reaching out to libraries, archives, historical societies and other repositories of Revolutionary War era records. With permission, DAR volunteers will then digitize and index those records too.

This is a huge project, and very good news for anyone who can trace ancestors back to that era. I certainly will be keeping a close watch on the progress of this project, as I'm sure many of you will too!

Click here [Patriot Records Project](#) to learn more! Thanks!!

Bridge Street Cemetery, Northampton

Northampton's historic Bridge Street Cemetery, established in 1663, is the oldest, unaltered cemetery in the city. And like so many other historic cemeteries, this one is showing some wear. But there is some good news in the cemetery's future. In addition to headstone restoration and structural work on one or two of the buildings, they're also looking to replace the chain link fence, possibly with more historically accurate barriers. A study has already been funded on the 20 acre cemetery by a local landscape company.

For the full story and see pictures of the cemetery, click [here](#).

Genealogy with Dave Robison

Upcoming events with Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. More details are available at by clicking [here](#).

The events include "Pulling the People Out of the Paperwork," a 6 session program at the East Longmeadow Public Library, 60 Center Square, East Longmeadow beginning Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 6:00 pm and continuing on Tuesdays until October 6th.

Polish research is the subject at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley at 6 pm.

Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Rd, Brimfield, MA is hosting a 4 session program on Monday evenings beginning September 21st. Please contact Sue Gregory for rates and availability at 413-245-9977.

The Museum School at the Springfield Library is hosting 2 different programs. The first is "ABC's of Genealogical Research," a 4 session evening program beginning Wednesday, September 30th at 6 pm. The next is "More Than Just Names and Dates," a 4 session morning program beginning Tuesday, October 6th at 10 am. Please contact Sarah Gogal at 413-263-6800 ext 377 for rates and availability.

More programs scheduled for 2016 will be announced in next month's newsletter.

[Old Bones Genealogy of New England](#)

Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

*Celebrating over 25 Years of Promoting
Family History and Genealogical Research!*



UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Leaving Dobrzechów: Immigration from a Galician Village

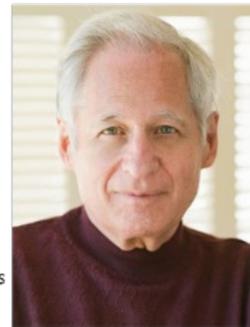
Thursday, June 18, 2015, 6:30 PM
Chicopee Public Library
449 Front Street
Chicopee, MA 01013

Ms. Patricia Yocum will speak on her published work *Leaving Dobrzechów: Immigration from a Galician Village* and the immigrants that came to work in the mills of Chicopee and Ware including discussion of her research techniques. **Free, bring a friend!**

A Day of Research Tools and Tips with Genealogy Guru Steve Morse

Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9:30 AM
Elms College
Chicopee, MA 01013

Steve's website began as an aid for searching the Ellis Island records and has expanded to become the most comprehensive research tool for genealogical research! At this all-day event, Steve Morse will present four (4) of his most popular talks! *A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools* will describe the range of over 200 web-based tools available in his *One-Step Webpage* and highlight the uses of each of them. *A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems* describes other utilities, such as genealogical search problems, Identity Theft, and DNA. See our website for more details!



Pre-registration and a small fee are required for this event and space is limited. Please visit our website later this spring for online registration. PGsMA members will also receive a registration info by mail.

pgsma.org

413-584-0039



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

STAY CONNECTED:



