



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### February 2021 Meeting



We're excited that Michael John Neill will be joining us again at our February meeting. Michael's presentation to us last May on **Researching the Entire Family** was so well-received that we've asked him to return. Michael will be presenting another live webinar titled **"What It Does Not Say."** Many times, a record only scratches the surface of what was going on when that record was created. This lecture looks at why a record was created and how state statute, common practice, economic situations, family issues, and other factors may be the "real story" behind any document. Michael will also discuss how to determine (when possible) what those "unwritten" issues were.

Michael has been an active genealogical researcher since the early 1980s and has researched his or his children's families in most states east of the Mississippi River and several European countries. He has lectured nationally, gives day-long seminars, and regularly leads research trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Michael has a master's degree in mathematics and has been on the math faculty of Carl Sandburg College in Illinois since the early 1990s. His research interests include methodology, land records, the immigrant experience, chain migration, and researching female ancestors.

In addition to hosting, several blogs and Facebook sites, including [Rootdig](#) and [Genealogy Tip of the Day](#), Michael has recently published a collection of his most popular daily tips titled *Genealogy Tip of the Day*. It's a must read for all genealogists – guaranteed that you'll learn something new.

Mark your calendars and join us at our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, February 3rd at 6 PM.**

PO Box 418, West Springfield, MA 01090 | [www.WestMassGen.com](http://www.WestMassGen.com) | [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com)

## March 2021 Meeting



We're looking forward to our March 3rd, 2021 meeting, as we'll be joined by Marian Pierre-Louis, who will present a highly anticipated presentation titled "**Understanding Massachusetts Vital Records.**"

Marian Pierre-Louis is a genealogy professional who specializes in educational outreach through webinars, internet broadcasts, and video. Her areas of expertise include house history research, southern New England research, and solving brick walls. Since the rise in interest of genetic genealogy, Marian has become addicted to using DNA to help solve genealogy mysteries. Marian is the host of the [Genealogy Professional Podcast](#). She has also produced and hosted 100 episodes of [Fieldstone Common](#), a history podcast. Marian is the Online Education Producer for Legacy Family Tree Webinars where she produces online genealogy education classes. Once a month you'll find her as the evening host of Legacy Family Tree Webinars.

Most people know that Massachusetts has rich vital records dating back to the 1600s. Making the most of Massachusetts vital records requires understanding the nuances of the records. Marian will talk about original sources, such as town record books, as well as the many printed and database options. Learn how to use the "tan books," vital records from 1841, and all the lesser-known resources available.

Mark your calendars so you won't miss this important presentation on **Wednesday, March 3rd at 6 PM.**

***NOTE: Until our regular meetings resume, our events will be held virtually, as much as possible..***

***How to Participate: Members will receive an email notice in advance of the monthly virtual meeting. You will be required to pre-register via a link in the email. After that, you will receive another email with the link to join the meeting via Zoom at the broadcast time. Monthly meetings will be broadcast at 6 PM.***

***Do you have questions about using Zoom or need assistance to join our meetings and trainings? Just send us an email at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com). We're available and willing to help our members to access everything that WMGS has to offer!***

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## Message from the President

by Jeanne Leblond

After saying goodbye to 2020, we hoped for a calmer 2021. This year certainly isn't starting off calmly. Despite the challenges of our pandemic and our political situation, there's still brightness in our genealogical community. If you're like me, I am spending much of my quarantine time doing family research. I've also

been tuning in to lots of webinars as it seems that there are more available than ever before, and there's more time to watch them. I'm thoroughly enjoying them, while I add to my knowledge and skills.

In life, I try to see the glass as half full. As you read through this month's newsletter, you'll see why I take that approach. Yes, we still have challenges to face, but there are many bright spots as well. So many virtual events and resources are available to us in the coming months that my calendar is full. And many of them are free, which is absolutely amazing.

Start off with RootsTech which opens on Feb. 25th. Webinars from this free event will be accessible for at least an entire year. Check out the free webinars at Legacy Family Tree Webinars and Family Search. Consider signing up for NERGC 2021. Though not free, you can watch recorded webinars for 60 days. Check out the virtual resources that we've listed this month as well.

The events that I'm looking forward to the most are the live webinars that some of our members have offered to present. In the next few months, WMGS is offering sessions on WWI ancestry with Diane Romanosky, Irish Research with Richard Reid, and a presentation based on the book Philip Johnson has written called *The Hampden Railroad – The Greatest Railroad That Never Ran* (Available on Amazon, if you'd like to read it before his presentation.). Cara Seitchek has asked her friend and colleague, Howard Vincent Kurtz, who's had a long career designing costumes for Broadway plays, Hollywood films, and theater, to analyze member submitted photos for us at a live event. (Stay tuned for dates, times, and further details on all of these events.)

Now that I've given you some teasers to our coming events, perhaps you'll agree that the glass is half full. We have an abundance of riches to help us learn and help us stay connected to the genealogical community and to each other. Cozy up with your computer or tablet and join us at them.

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## Member Only Benefits

### Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Trainings

**February 18 – 7 PM**

**WWI The Forgotten War - Tips for Researching Ancestors Who Served with US Forces**

**Presenter: Diane Romanosky, WMGS Member**



Diane became interested in WWI after discovering a picture and military documents with her great uncle's name on them. Join us to get tips on how to determine if your ancestor served, where to find key information, resources for discovering your ancestor's WWI story, and ways to honor their service. The presentation will be illustrated with examples from Diane's journey of discovery into her great uncle's WWI service.

A lover of history and genealogy, Diane has been researching her family for over 30 years. Her areas of interest include WWI, New England, Pennsylvania, Ireland, Scotland and Poland. She has given presentations for genealogy clubs in the Boston Metro West area.

**February 25 – No Training** [We'll be at RootsTech (see registration info in this newsletter).]

*How to Participate: Members will receive an email notice in advance of the training sessions. You will be required to pre-register via a link in the email. After that, you will receive another email with the link to join the Zoom webinar at the broadcast time.*

*Note the time change for training sessions only. Training sessions will be held at 7 PM.*

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## Articles

### New Date for Postponed Presentation by Thomas MacEntee



We've rescheduled our January 6th presentation that was postponed because of the events at the Capitol. Thomas MacEntee will now be presenting **"Don't Chop Off That Branch! A Genealogy Arborist's Handbook"** on **Wednesday, May 5th, 2021** at **6 PM EST**.

We extend our thanks to Thomas for graciously offering to postpone his presentation so that members could follow the events in Washington, DC.

## NERGC Conference Participation Decision

When the decision was made to convert the NERGC 2021 conference to a virtual event, new participation agreements were needed from NERGC consortium members. Although WMGS signed the original participation agreement as one of the sponsoring societies for the conference in Springfield, the board unanimously voted not to sign the new participation agreement for the virtual conference. The board carefully deliberated the risks and benefits involved and decided that the risks of signing were too great for WMGS.

NERGC is a consortium of New England genealogy societies. WMGS participated as a sponsor in 2017 and 2019. The participation agreement includes a requirement to help with the work involved to produce the conference. Each society chairs a committee which requires many hours of volunteer work. In addition, societies are required to provide another 25 hours of volunteer time during the conference.

In exchange, societies that sign the agreement share in any profits. WMGS benefited by earning approximately \$2000 in each of the past two conferences. That certainly was a wonderful addition to our budget.

However, sponsoring societies must also share in making up any deficits incurred by the conference. Since preliminary expense figures for producing a virtual conference were very high with no guarantee of a profit, our Board felt that the risks were too great for our society. A large deficit might put our financial situation at risk.

We are sitting out the 2021 virtual conference, but we will consider participating again in 2023.

We encourage our members to sign up for the NERGC 2021 virtual conference and to consider volunteering their time. (See the advertisement below.)

## Virtual NERGC 2021 April 1—May 31, 2021



Springing From the Past  
Into the Future

Three Gathering Days with scheduled presentations.

Sixty On-Demand presentations.

Special Interest Groups, Speaker Chats, Ancestors Road Show, and Exhibit Hall throughout the 61 day event!



Angie Bush



John Grenham



Pat Richley-Erikson

Plus another 48!

Visit [www.NERGC.org](http://www.NERGC.org) for details on the presentations and registration.

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## RootsTech Connect 2021

**RootsTech  
Connect  
is free in  
2021!**



For the first time ever, RootsTech, the annual family history conference sponsored by FamilySearch, will take place completely online. Usually, RootsTech is a 4-day event held annually in Salt Lake City, Utah. However, because of the pandemic, the entire event will be held virtually from February 25th-27th, 2021. Incredibly, it will be completely **free** this year!

**RootsTech Connect 2021** will offer a combination of both livestream and on-demand content to participants from around the world. For the three days of the online event, attendees will have the opportunity to interact with speakers, exhibitors, and fellow attendees through live-chat and question & answer opportunities. Because of the differences in time zones, sessions will also be available to view on-demand after the

conference concludes. Even better, sessions will be available for viewing for at least a whole year!

**Roots Tech Connect 2021** will feature keynote speakers, dozens of classes, and over 300 breakout sessions, along with a virtual expo hall marketplace that you can visit from home. This is the largest family history conference in the world and you don't have to even travel to participate in it.

To attend the live event and to access the on-demand sessions, you must pre-register. Again, the conference will be completely free and you can attend sessions from the comfort and safety of your home.

<https://www.rootstech.org/rootstech-connect-2021-registration?lang=eng>

## How Did Your Ancestors Meet?

In honor of Valentine's Day, we asked WMGS members to share stories describing how their ancestors met. We heartily thank everyone who responded!



My parents, Theresa Dorval (Marie Ange Amanda Jeanette Therese Dorval) and Raymond Lapierre, met in 1950 at the Roseland Ballroom in Holyoke. Mom said it was love at first sight. My Dad asked her if she would be back the next week. Coyly, she replied "Maybe, we'll see." The next weekend he spent the entire night dancing with her, and she told him that if he was going to dance every dance with her, he would have to pay her way in. I'm not sure if he paid her way in, but he did find his way into her heart. They were married on July 10, 1954 and were married for 61 years.

- Dave Lapierre



My parents met at the Valley Arena in Holyoke, a venue similar to our civic centers of today. My father was a soda vendor working in the aisles, the same exact job as we see today except he had to carry heavy wooden crates with glass bottles. It was bingo night, 1938, and he finally got the courage to hand my mother an orange soda as he ran down the aisle. She smiled. Two years later they were married and eventually celebrated 52 years together. Whenever I ordered an orange soda my mother would always say "Orange is my favorite flavor, do you know why?"

- Dorothy Cichonski



We've always wondered how my husband's parents met. Henry Leblond and Rita Breault were married on June 24, 1939 at Assumption Church in Chicopee, where Rita and her family were living. Henry and his family were living in Holyoke. He was 28 and she was 21.

Both of my husband's parents died when they were in their 40s and none of their children knew how they met. By the time I became interested in genealogy and started asking my husband's aunts and uncles, no one could tell me for sure, except one aunt said that Henry's car broke down in front of Rita's house, and she came out to check what was happening.

That story didn't seem plausible, because Henry didn't get his license and his first car until the early 1950s. No one else in either family had a car at that time either.

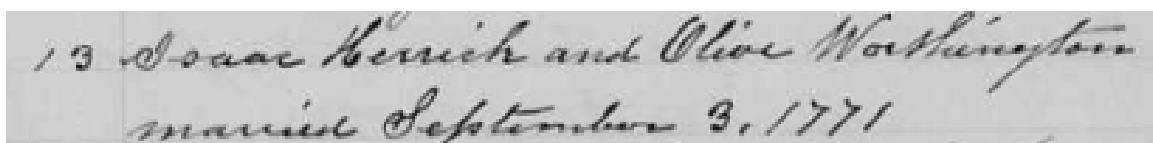
When the series of WWII Draft Cards for Young Men, 1940-1947 were released last year, I started researching all of the men in both families. I discovered that both Rita's father and Henry's older brother listed that they were working at the Farr Alpaca Co. in Holyoke when they signed their cards. Could some matchmaking have been involved? We'll never know for sure.

- Jeanne Leblond



I read that my 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents, Isaac Herrick, Jr. and Olive(t) Worthington, met when he was traveling from Preston, Connecticut to settle in Worthington, Massachusetts, where he had been granted some land from a relative. He stopped by a Worthington Tavern in what is modern-day Agawam, where Olive was working. (I don't think her surname was related to the name of the town, however.) They married in Brimfield on September 3, 1771 and settled in Worthington, carrying her belongings through a river on horseback. I still need to do more research on this couple, and I still haven't found any more information about Worthington Tavern, but I'm eager to learn more!

- Joanne Mason



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## Golden Rules of Genealogy

by Thomas MacEntee

1. **There is No Easy Button in Genealogy.** You will work hard to find your ancestors. Genealogy will require more than passion; it will require skills, smarts, and dedication. Don't believe the hype of instant hints, smart matches and shaky leaves. If it were that easy, the journey of discovering our roots would have little or no meaning.



2. **Research from a Place of “I Don’t Know.”** Your genealogy research will likely run counter to your cherished family stories. It will upend your preconceived notions about certain events and people. It will change the way you think about your ancestors. This can only happen if you research with an open mind and take off the blinders.
3. **Track Your Work and Cite Your Sources.** When I started out in genealogy, I’ll admit I was a name collector and would “dump” almost any name into my database. Years later, I am crossing out entire branches of a tree that never really should have been “grafted” on to mine. Use a research log, track your work, cite your sources, and analyze data before it is entered into any software or online family tree program.
4. **Ask for Help.** The genealogy community is populated with people of all skill levels and areas of expertise, most of whom want to assist others. There are no stupid questions; we all started as beginners. There is no right way to ask. Post a query on Facebook or ask a question during a webinar or email your favorite genealogy rock star.
5. **You Can’t Edit a Blank Page.** Which means: you have to start in order to have something to work with. That project you keep putting off, like publishing your family history, won’t complete itself. Commit yourself to move from “obsession” to “reality.” Remember: A year from now, you’ll wish you had started today.
6. **Work and Think Like Your Ancestors.** While I’m not sure about your ancestors, mine were resourceful and developed tools and skills to get what they wanted. They were not “educated” per se, but they had “street smarts” and knew where to go so they could learn new things. Also make sure you have a plan; my ancestors didn’t just wake up one day and on a whim decide to come to America and make a better life. They had a plan, they had a network of people to help them, and they made it happen.
7. **You Do Not Own Your Ancestors.** Researching your roots can create emotional connections to not only your ancestors, but to the actual research itself. Many people become “possessive” of their ancestors and fail to realize that a 3rd great-grandparent is likely the ancestor of hundreds of others. You can’t take your research or your ancestor with you when you die; take time to share your research and be open to differences in information and research when collaborating with others.
8. **Be Nice. The Genealogy Community is a Small Place.** While there are millions of people searching for ancestors, genealogists worldwide have developed a community with relatively few degrees of separation. Whether it is online in a Facebook group or in-person at genealogy conference, it is likely you’ll already know someone. Being “genealogy nice” is not fake; the connections with other researchers tend to be deep and genuine. We know that all of our roots are inter-locked and a genealogist can’t always go it alone.
9. **Give and Be Abundant.** Exchange information freely with other researchers; don’t hold data “close” to you or exchange it in lieu of something else. Most genealogists who have heard me speak know my own story of abundance: Don’t let your hand keep a tight grip on information. Let it go. Once your hand is free, it can be open and ready to receive the next good thing coming your way.

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## Free Online Offerings

\*Note: Our list of offerings has grown so much that we'll only publish new items each month. If you missed something, our complete list of previous offerings is available in the Members Only section of our website.

### February Virtual Tours & Offerings

#### Fitchburg Historical Society – Fitchburg, MA

Explore the online archives that tell the story of one of Massachusetts's earliest 19th century industrial cities. Located in Worcester County, Fitchburg attracted many immigrants to work in the mills located there. Watch episodes of their "I Remember When" video series.

<https://www.fitchburghistoricalsociety.com/>

#### Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association- Deerfield, Massachusetts

The society's "American Centuries: Views from New England" site features a digital collection of objects and transcribed documents from the Deerfield Memorial Hall Museum and Library. Images of early American art, family life, work, leisure, military, religion, and even rituals are available for browsing. The website covers a broad selection of topics, from Native American and African American presence in the area, to Shays' Rebellion, the American Revolution, and the Civil War, to the early 20th century.

The website is geared to a variety of age levels, with many resources for young children and educators. It's a great website to explore with younger family members as well.

<http://americacenturies.mass.edu/>

#### Berkshire Museum – Pittsfield, MA

This site offers digital experiences that differ from our other selections. From virtual narratives, to podcasts, to stories of legendary locals, to exploring myths, it's a fun website to explore.

<https://explore.berkshireremuseum.org/art-of-the-hills-narrative>

## *Other New Offerings*

### [Chicopee Public Library](#)

- Online Genealogy Meet-up (Tuesdays from 2 pm to 4 pm)

This group meets every Tuesday on Zoom. Feel free to ask questions, give advice, or just listen. Email the library at [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) to get the Zoom link sent to you.



### [FamilySearch.org](#)

- **Using the FamilySearch Catalog** (February 1, 2021 at 12 pm)
- **Overview of FamilySearch** (February 2, 2021 at 12 pm)
- **The Tired, the Poor, and the Huddled Masses: U.S. Immigration 1820-1954** (February 4, 2021 at 12 pm)
- **African American Records and Strategies: Post-1865** (February 18, 2021 at 12 pm)

More information is available at

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars)



### [Legacy Family Tree Webinars](#)

Legacy Family Tree offers free webinars, but you must register for them. If you can't watch the webinar at the scheduled time, they are available for free for one week. If you become a member, they are free long-term. Eleven free webinars are planned for February. Topics include:

- **Researching Your Maine Ancestors** (February 10 at 8 pm)
- **How to Locate an Ancestor in Ontario, Canada West or Upper Canada (When You Don't Know Where They Lived)** (February 19 at 2 pm)
- **Polish Genealogy Online - Portals And Databases** (February 24 at 2 pm)

See the entire list at <https://familytreewebinars.com>



### [New England Historic Genealogical Society \(NEHGS\)](#)

- **Stories from the Archives: Samplers** (February 11 at 3 pm)
- **Black Families of Revolutionary-era Plymouth, Mass.** (February 25 at 3 pm)

More information: <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#fc>



## RootsTech Connect

- **Annual Conference** (Feb. 25-27) with free access for an entire year. [Register here!](#)



## **WMGS Monthly Presentations and Trainings**

Join our upcoming presentations and trainings from home. Our schedule of webinars and trainings is available in our newsletter and on [our website](#). Members will receive an email with a link to join the presentation at the scheduled time. Be sure to join in at that time, as some presentations can't be placed on our website per the contract with our presenter.

In addition, catch up on archived presentations in the Members Only section of our website. There are over 25 videos available of our monthly presentations and 12 individual training videos from the DNA Boot Camp from Hack Genealogy.

*Special thanks to Jeanne Leblond for her help compiling these listings!*

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## Brick Wall Queries

### **How to Submit or Respond to a Query:**

**Submitting:** Queries and responses should be sent via email to [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com) or submitted through the Contact Us section on our website. Non-members should submit their payment (\$5.00 per query) via the Donate tab on the website. Members are entitled to post three (3) queries per month.

**Responding:** Please send your response directly to WMGS. To aid in matching answer to question, please identify the question you are answering by using the month of the newsletter and the question number. (example Oct 2018-Q1, Oct 2018-Q2) Answers submitted should include the source(s) of information found or specific information on a website or database. WMGS will forward the response to the person who asked the question, post it in the next newsletter, and archive it on our website.

**Note:** Because of space limitations, WMGS reserves the right to limit the number of queries that are listed per newsletter. When necessary, queries will be posted in the next available issue. WMGS and its members are not responsible to conduct research, to provide answers for the query, or for the accuracy of the information posted or received. Always verify any information received by checking its source.

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## Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
February 3, 2021 6 PM	<b>WMGS meeting online!</b> Michael John Neill presents “What It Does Not Say.”
February 8, 2021 6:30 PM	<b>WMGS Board Meeting via Zoom</b>
February 18, 2021 7 PM	<b>Training via Zoom.</b> Diane Romanosky presents “WWI The Forgotten War - Tips for Researching Ancestors Who Served with US Forces”
March 3, 2021 6 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting Online!</b> Marian Pierre-Louis presents “Understanding Massachusetts Vital Records.”
March 8, 2021 6:30 PM	<b>WMGS Board Meeting via Zoom</b>
March 18, 2021 7 PM	<b>Stay tuned for our new events. More information is coming in the next newsletter.</b>
March 25, 2021 7 PM	<b>Stay tuned for our new events. More information is coming in the next newsletter.</b>

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## New WMGS Members

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc. (WMGS) welcomes our newest members.

**Mary Moore  
Kristina Verny**

We hope that they will avail themselves of all that WMGS has to offer and that they find success in the hunt for family ancestors.

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## About Us



The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society was founded in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts in 1972, and officially incorporated on 6 February 1973. We are devoted to the research and documentation of our family ancestry and history. We also assist others in the pursuit of discovering their ancestry.

We meet year-round on the first Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. We welcome non-members and beginning genealogists. Please join us!

Most of our membership is from the Western Massachusetts area, but a number of our members live all over our country and have ancestors from Massachusetts or New England.

We receive numerous inquiries each month via U.S. mail and e-mail from people looking for information on area families. Our members are happy to volunteer to research these requests.

Jeanne Leblond – President	Dave Lapierre – Webmaster & Technology Coordinator
Dave Lapierre – Vice President	Joanne Mason – Newsletter Editor
Deborah Woodford – Treasurer	Carol Lynne Bagley & Joanne Mason – Facebook Editors
Jeanne Lockhart – Assistant Treasurer	Jeanne Leblond – Surname & Queries Editor
Dorothy Cichonski – Secretary	Bob Whitney – Fundraising Coordinator
Deborah Woodford – Membership	Diane Ascoti – Founder
Carol Lynne Bagley, Hillary Schau, and Terry Pearsons – Directors	

## Meeting Details

We generally meet year-round for our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, from 6 pm to 8 pm at the Agawam Senior Center, located at 954 Main Street in Agawam, Massachusetts. On rare occasions, a holiday or other significant event may disrupt that schedule causing a meeting to be held on the second Wednesday. You will be informed of date changes well in advance.

Our Special Interest Group meetings and training sessions are typically held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month from 6 pm to 8 pm, also at the Agawam Senior Center. However, some of these sessions are held on different days of the week, depending on the availability of each session's host. Check our monthly calendar for each month's schedule.

*(Note: Until further notice, WMGS will hold meetings online. Please watch your email for instructions, and feel free to contact us at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com) with any questions.)*

Occasionally, inclement weather causes the Agawam Senior Center to close. If our presenter is coming to us via a webinar and gives us permission to do so, we will broadcast the presentation live to our members via the internet, using a web-based platform, such as Zoom. Members will be emailed the link before the meeting.

Also, when a speaker allows us to record a presentation or a webinar, we archive the presentation in the Members Only section of our website. Many of our monthly presentations have been recorded and are available, along with handouts, in the Members Only section of our website.

We look forward to you joining us at our next meeting or event!

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## Membership

The Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society is a growing group of members, both local and from around the United States. We welcome you to join our society!

### **Reasons to Join Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society:**

1. Meet people with similar interests in family history and genealogy.
2. Attend monthly meetings featuring local, regional, and national presenters.
3. Attend our Special Interest Groups meetings, trainings, and classes.
4. Receive access to our archive of previously recorded presentations and handouts, DNA Boot Camp videos, Western Massachusetts and Massachusetts genealogical resources (with links), and handouts in the Members Only section of our website.
5. Receive assistance from our members on your family research.
6. Access our library of resources including books and CDs.
7. Serve as a volunteer, coach, or as a member of the Board of Directors.
8. Join us on exclusive WMGS field trips.

One of our key "member benefits" is access to the **Members Only** section of our website, which contains archived recordings of our previous speakers from around the U.S.: Judy G. Russell, Maureen Taylor, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Elissa Scalise Powell, Dr. Shelley Murphy, Nora Galvin, 'Dear MYRTLE' a/k/a Pat Richley-Erickson, Russ Worthington, Melissa Barker, Jennifer Alford, and many more! Our Members Only section also includes handouts from many of those meetings and historical copies of the *American Elm*, the original WMGS newsletter publication, which contains genealogical material and family trees from our early members. Once we receive your membership application, we will send you a welcome letter with the confidential password to access the Members Only section of our website.

### **Membership Dues:**

Annual membership runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

Membership rates are:

- \$30 for an individual membership
- \$45 for a couple of the same household

- \$15 for students
- \$500 for lifetime membership

If you are new to our organization, click [here](#) for the WMGS Application for Membership; the image is near the bottom. Click to open the pdf to view, save, and print.

There are three ways to join or renew your membership:

- Pay by cash or check at the monthly meeting.
- Print and mail an application, found on the Join/Renew page of our website (if a new member) along with your check, or, if renewing, just the check to  
WMGS, P.O. Box 418, West Springfield, MA 01090-0418.
- Use the secure PayPal button on our website (you **do not** need to have a PayPal account, just use your debit card or credit card). Here's the link to our Join/Renew page: [JOIN](#)

**Note: All FIRST TIME MEMBERS must complete and submit an application by mail with your check, or as an attached link in a separate email to us when using PayPal as your payment, so that we have all the necessary information for our membership list.**

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## Newsletter Deadlines

**Please submit all information to be entered into the next newsletter by February 15, 2021.**

We are looking for articles written by our members. Have you been to a repository or a federal or state archive? Have you been to where your ancestors lived? Have you tried a new gadget or software? You do not have to write the article yourself. If you would like to do an interview about a subject, that would be helpful as well. What are you interested in? Tell us, share your knowledge.

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## How to Contact Us:

Have a question, comment, or suggestion for someone at WMGS?

Need information about your membership status or how to access our Members Only material?

Want to send in a query or provide an answer to one?

Have a comment or suggestion for us?

**There are two options available for contacting us via email:**

Our **Contact Us** page on our website has an easily completed form to use. First enter your name, email address, topic, and the name of person to whom the email is being sent. Then, write your message and click on Submit.

Or you can send an email directly to us at: [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com).

Of course, you can also correspond with us by sending mail to:

WMGS, Inc.  
P.O. Box 418  
West Springfield, MA 01090-0418

**Note: Please do not write directly to any board member's personal or business email. For legal reasons, our board members cannot conduct WMGS business using emails, other than through WMGS. Thank you for your consideration.**

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## E-Mail Update

Please let us know if you have changed your e-mail address, mailing address, and/or phone number. We want to make sure that you continue to receive all of our updates, meeting reminders, and electronic newsletters. Just send your name and new email address to us at [westmassgen@gmail.com](mailto:westmassgen@gmail.com).



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**The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.**