



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### 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.**

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

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## April 2021 Meeting



On Wednesday, April 7th, we'll be welcoming nationally-known genealogist Peggy Clemens Lauritzen for a presentation titled **"Migration Trails Across America."**

America has been a nation on the move since the first landings in the colonies. From buffalo traces and Native American trails to rivers and canals, America has found a way to keep pushing "west." This presentation focuses on the most common means of travel in the New World. Migration trails and patterns will be discussed, as well as the many rivers and canals that interconnected us as a nation. Peggy's presentation will feature a case study of a "lost ancestor" from Essex County, Massachusetts.

For those of you who have never met her, Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG, FOGS, has an amazing ability to bring laughter into the lives of her audience members. One of her favorite photos is a picture of her mother on her way to a church picnic, then on to an afternoon of cemetery transcribing. It was taken just four days before Peggy was born!

Having grown up with parents that were deeply involved in genealogy takes her love of family history to a new level. Some people are amazed that she knew people that were actually born in the 1800s -- her own grandparents. Listening to the stories from bygone years, touching the fabrics from quilts, dresses, blessing gowns, and bonnets, all have added to the admiration of previous generations.

Peggy is a frequent lecturer at many local societies in Ohio, as well as family history seminars. She has presented at Brigham Young University and ICAPGen, and she has taught continuing education classes at several community colleges and Ohio State University. One of her proudest moments was achieving the credentials that qualified her to be an accredited genealogist, a credential she has maintained for twenty-four years, for it polished her research skills.

She is a featured columnist in *Reminisce* magazine, has written several Legacy QuickGuides, and has filmed as an instructor for Ancestry Academy. In 2018, she was honored to be awarded Fellow of the Ohio Genealogical Society and received the Laura G. Prescott Award for Exemplary Service to Professional Genealogy. She is a former researcher at Ancestry ProGenealogists. Peggy and her husband Kerry serve as Family History Center Directors in north central Ohio.

We're very much looking forward to this presentation on **Wednesday, April 7th at 6 PM EST**. We hope that you'll join us!

***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

Do you remember feeling bored as a child and the reaction that you'd receive if you told your parents or teachers about that feeling? A long list of sometimes undesirable activities would be suggested – clean your room, go outside, go play with your sister or brother, or read a book. I'm sure that you can recall those unwanted options and perhaps others.



I'm guessing that it's not too often that you feel bored now. Feeling tired of being cooped up because of the pandemic – absolutely! But not bored, because there are so many genealogy offerings to explore and so much personal genealogy to do! At our end, WMGS is working to prevent any of our members from experiencing that childhood feeling!

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to WMGS member Diane Romanosky for her recent presentation on finding WWI ancestors. Her story of discovering her great-uncle's story of his service for our country was heartwarming, and her resource list will serve us well in our own searches.

Our speaker at our monthly meeting, Marian Pierre-Louis, will present a long-awaited lecture on Massachusetts resources, which will benefit our members tremendously.

We're very excited that two other members will be offering presentations in March. Richard Reid, a noted Irish researcher, will explore the latest Irish resources available to us. The following week, Philip Johnson will be presenting a fascinating offering on the Hampden Railroad saga.



I hope you'll enjoy the article from our society's original newsletter, the *American Elm*. Originally published in 1973, the article recounts the memories of a World War I veteran. The entire *American Elm* collection is available on our website.

We've listed new suggestions for virtual tours, webinars, and more! And just for fun, read the article on early pioneers of Quebec, Louis Hebert and Marie Rollet, by my newly discovered 9th cousin, Dave Lapierre! It's a wonderful story of discovering where our shared ancestors lived. It's even more wonderful that he, his wife, and his children will remember this visit forever.

So much to do! Banish any thoughts of boredom.

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## Member Only Benefits

### Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Trainings

#### March 18 – 7 PM – A New Look at Irish Research

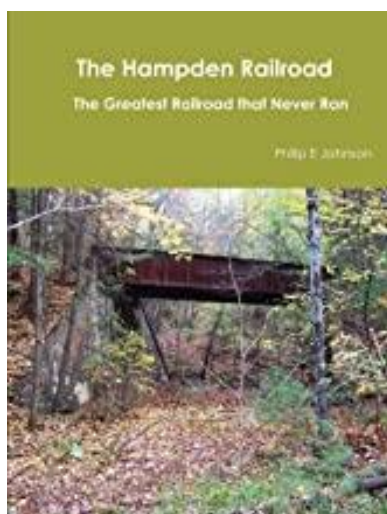


On Thursday, March 18th at 7 PM, WMGS member Richard Reid will be presenting a training session titled “**A New Look at Irish Research.**” Though it’s the day after St. Patrick’s Day, we’ll still be in an Irish mood!

This presentation is designed for those just starting their Irish research and for the veteran researcher. We’ll visit the new church records and civil records and websites that are being updated with new data daily. You will learn about some of the best free resources and subscription services. (Documents used in the presentation are the results of consultations performed by the Friends of Irish Research.)

Richard Reid is the director of both the Friends of Irish Research and the David Allen Lambert Library (DALL) which are based in Brockton, MA. The Friends provide training seminars, host a website full of research resources, and provide consultations in the Brockton facility or via email. The DALL is a comprehensive research library with thousands of physical books, microfilm collections, and over 18,000 digital books. Richard has worked in the computer industry and taught in high schools, trade schools, and colleges for over 35 years. He has co-authored four computer books and established several computer training centers in New England. He is an active member of over a dozen societies including the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, the Cape Breton Genealogical and Historical Association, and of course, WMGS. In addition to the computer and genealogical work, Richard also pastors North Baptist Church in Brockton.

#### March 25 – 7 PM – The Hampden Railroad



For those of us who are interested in local history, especially railroads, this is going to be a delight! WMGS member, Philip E. Johnson will be presenting a fascinating look at the Hampden Railroad. His presentation is based on his book, *The Hampden Railroad – The Greatest Railroad That Never Ran*, which was published in 2014. The work is the result of 30 years of research!

This story likely affected thousands of our ancestors from Westfield to central Massachusetts who may have worked on this railroad. Investors, local towns, and even the general public were impacted as well. Yet so little is known about this story.

Philip gives us a preview:

“Growing up in Springfield, Massachusetts during the 50's and 60's, I remember seeing the trains crossing in Winchester Square and by Watershops

Pond, and even across Five Mile pond when swimming with my family. Beginning with model trains and riding on tourist trains as a child, I have always loved trains. When I was in my early 20's, I had a job where I was a field service engineer in eastern Hampden County. This gave me ample opportunity to view many branch lines in operation and investigate abandoned lines. I became a member of Amherst Railroad Society as a young adult where I have remained a member for 40 years. As an engineer, I enjoy researching the history of random lines and can usually spot where a railroad once ran based on the slope of the terrain. Our family vacations many times had a railroad theme at least one day out of the week. I believe that all children should be given the opportunity to ride a train. We need to lobby in favor of more passenger trains to replace some cars, especially in cities. I keep hoping that passenger trains will soon return to the town I live in, Erving, Massachusetts.



The Hampden Railroad story is different, not a success story by any means. The railroad was built 1911-1913 to connect 2 parallel lines in central Mass in order to avoid changing trains in Boston. South and North Stations still have no connection. This is a story of how it was conceived, how it was built, and why it never operated.”

To see a preview of this story, you can watch an interview that Phil gave to the Monson-Palmer Public Television station at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAsoMG-oNAw>

Note: If you're interested in purchasing a copy of Philip's book in advance, it's available on Amazon. If you'd like an autographed copy, they are available for \$35.00 each by emailing Phil at: [Hampdenphil@gmail.com](mailto:Hampdenphil@gmail.com).

*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

# How a Webinar in 2020 Led Me to a Discovery from 400+ Years Ago

by Dave Lapierre

Over the last year, WMGS subscribed to the society package offered by Lisa Louise Cooke as part of her Genealogy Gems website and podcasts. This allowed us to show many of her recorded webinars as part of our monthly training events, including “Google Search Methodology.”

This was the first webinar that we showed as part of our subscription at our training session on February 27, 2020. It was so well done and so informative that we knew we wanted to show it again. We repeated it 11 months later, on January 28, 2021, when we had 35 members watch it via Zoom. Some members saw it both times -- I was one of those, and I am so glad I did. I learned a lot, and it led me to a great find.

It was the techniques that Lisa taught that led me to discover an amazing 6 minute video that shows the evolution of the land owned by Louis Hébert, my 10th great grandfather.

Louis Hébert is widely considered the first Canadian apothecary, as well as the first European to farm in Canada.

He married Marie Rollet on February 19, 1601 at the Church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France. Louis and Marie are my 10<sup>th</sup> great grandparents.

In the Spring of 1617, Louis became the first private individual to receive a grant of land in the New World from the French government.



Upon his arrival in Quebec, Louis selected 10 acres on a site that is today located in the city of Quebec, between Ste-Famille and Couillard streets, on the grounds of the Seminary of Quebec and the Basilica of Notre-Dame.

There is a monument in honor of Louis Hébert in Montmorency Park overlooking the St. Lawrence River in Quebec that symbolizes the importance of Louis Hébert and his family in the beginnings of Quebec.



On top is a statue of Louis holding a sheaf of grain in one hand and a sickle in the other.



On one side, wife Marie Rollet clasps her three children in her arms.



On the other side, son-in-law Guillaume Couillard has a plough in hand.

In 2016, we went to Quebec to visit family. While visiting Old Quebec City, we went to Montmorency Park and took pictures at the Louis Hébert monument.



Following the techniques I learned in Lisa Louise Cooke's webinar, I searched for Louis Hébert and where his land was in current day Quebec. What I found was a video that shows the evolution of Louis Hébert's land over 400 years, 1617-2017.

The video starts in 2017, showing a red square on the spot where the house stood, which is currently in the interior courtyard of the Seminary of Quebec. The timeline quickly goes back in time, shows his land and the home he built, and ends in 2017 at the base of the monument.

I also found a new cousin! Turns out that Louis Hébert and Marie Rollet are the 11th Great Grandparents of our own Jeanne Leblond and of her husband! Do any other members have Louis Hébert and Marie Rollet in their family tree? I'd love to know.

You can click the link below to watch the video. It is just over 6 minutes in length. I hope you enjoy it. I think you will agree it was a great find, and I owe it to Lisa Louise Cooke!

VIDEO LINK → <https://youtu.be/gclNjkVRW30>

## Memoirs from a World War I Veteran

Submitted by Dorothy Potter,  
Reprinted from *American Elm*, Vol. II, No 2, July 1973

Ray Ludington was born on Pynchon Street, Springfield in 1895 and spent his early childhood there.

"I remember when the old city hall burned. After the fire, the bell had fallen from the tower of the City Hall, and was buried in rubble. When the firemen were digging it out, I wriggled my way in where I could watch them and when they discovered that I was standing behind them, they just about turned white and they shooed me away, as that tower could have fallen and landed on my head. Always did like to be where there was something going on."



Received a clipping from a Springfield newspaper showing what was left of the Capitol Theatre. When I was a kid, I used to watch them pull the elephants and horses up to the second floor with a rope and pulley. They used to have the dog pound near there before they tore down the remains of the old City Hall, and I'd go over there every day to see the dogs.

When Aunt Addie died in 1909, the family hired a trolley car which took the casket and all the family to a cemetery in Thorndike, MA. The trolley went from Chicopee Falls by way of the tracks that went through Indian Orchard and Ludlow, the Bircham Bend-Palmer and Ware line.

In the days when they first began to have automobiles, cousin Jennie and her husband would drive up from Stafford Springs to visit Uncle George Brooks on a Sunday afternoon wearing their goggles, linen dusters, and long flowing scarfs. Roads were sandy with no pavement in those days."

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## 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.

### 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

#### March Virtual Tours & Offerings

##### Palmer Public Library – Palmer, MA

Vital Records of Palmer to 1850, town and school reports from 1852 to 1908, digital copies of the *Palmer Journal* newspaper begun in 1850, the *History of Palmer* (pub. 1889), *Inscriptions of Two Ancient Cemeteries* (pub. 1902), *Pictorial Palmer* (pub. 1896), and more.

### [Lawrence History Center – Lawrence, MA](#)

Lawrence, MA is often known as the “Immigrant City,” as many of our ancestors were drawn to this area to work in the huge mill complexes.

You’ll find an overview of the city, early city maps, and a history of the Industrial Revolution that led to the development of this city. Explore the online resources and learn about the Bread and Roses Strike of 1912 that may have impacted our ancestors throughout our country.

### [Quebec City – Quebec, Canada](#)

This site offers a long list of virtual tours of Quebec City and heritage sites including Montmorency Falls and the Ursuline Monastery. You can also tour Old Quebec, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure.

### [Virtual Tours of Ireland](#)

Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day by exploring the beautiful country of Ireland. Choose from a long list of historical venues to tour.

## **Library Updates**

### [Holyoke Public Library](#)

Two recorded lectures are now available:

**A Case Study of French-Canadian Genealogy** with Jack Keane

**The Newton Brothers: Building Industrial Holyoke, 1862-1899** with Will Melton

### [Westfield Athenaeum](#)

The library website now has a series of local history presentations called “History Chats” by Robert Brown, Ph.D, a retired WSU professor, with more being added monthly.

## **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](#)

- **Research in Canada: An Introduction** (March 4 at 2 pm)
- **St. Patrick’s Day Research Seminar** (March 17 from 11 am to 6 pm)
- **Home On The Range: U.S. Federal Land Records** (March 18 at 12 pm)

- **Tips and Tricks for Finding Elusive Records in FamilySearch** (March 23 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. Topics for March include the following:

- **British Genealogy Online: The Top English & Welsh Family History Websites** (March 2 at 8 pm)
- **La Madre Chiesa-Italian Catholic Parish Records** (March 3 at 2 pm)
- **The Ten Percent: Free People of Color** (March 5 at 2 pm)
- **Researching Ancestral Locations in Prussian Genealogy** (March 10 at 8 pm)
- **Reporting on Research: Standards Encourage Better Communication** (March 16 at 8 pm)
- **FamilySearch.org - 10 Links You Have to Try** (March 17 at 2 pm)
- **Tracing Your War of 1812 British Soldier** (March 19 at 2 pm)
- **20th Century Immigrants to the West Coast** (March 24 at 2 pm)
- **Fifty Overlooked Genealogy Resources in 50 Minutes** (March 31 at 2 pm)

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



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

- **Russell Shorto with Smalltime: A Story of My Family and the Mob** (March 2 at 6 pm)
- **Researching Urban Ancestors in the 19th and 20th Centuries** (March 18 at 3 pm)

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



### [Storrs Library](#)

**Paddy on the Railway: Irish and the building of the Great Western [Massachusetts] Railroad** with Dennis Picard (March 10 at 6:30 pm)

Register at: <https://www.longmeadowlibrary.org/>



## 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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WMGS is pleased to co-sponsor the following event!



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENEALOGICAL  
COUNCIL



## An Evening with Amy Whorf McGuigan

Author of “Finding Emma: My Search for the Family My Grandfather  
Never Knew:

Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 7:00 PM EDT via Zoom



Please join us for this free event! Amy Whorf McGuigan will take us on a compelling genealogical journey of discovery, beyond the names and dates on vital records, to reclaim the lost branches of John Osborne’s ancestry. To do so, she had to expand her research beyond commonly available records to include both public and private institutional records. These records are often considered unavailable, but Amy did the work required to gain access.

Along the way, John Osborne’s personal story—a story of survival against the longest of odds—is unearthed after being buried for more than a century. Amy’s work could be a master class in writing family history and in good old fashioned genealogical legwork. She will probe the question of whether learning and knowing something that was previously unknown—and that one has gone through life blissfully unaware of—actually matters.

**This presentation is free, but registration is required!**

**For more information, go to [www.massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e](http://www.massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e)**

## Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
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>WMGS Training via Zoom.</b> Richard Reid presents “A New Look at Irish Research.”
March 25, 2021 7 PM	<b>WMGS Training via Zoom.</b> Philip E. Johnson presents “The Hampden Railroad.”
April 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021	<b>NERGC Conference.</b> See the ad on page 9 for more details.
April 7, 2021 6 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting Online!</b> Peggy Clemens Lauritzen presents “Migration Trails Across America.”
April 12, 2021 6:30 PM	<b>WMGS Board Meeting via Zoom.</b>
April 22, 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.

**Dick Cowles  
Lynne Cowles  
James Cox**

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 Ascioti – 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 March 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.**