



## Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### May 2021 Meeting



We're always excited when we have a visit by our good friend, nationally and internationally known Thomas MacEntee! We originally had this presentation scheduled for our January meeting, but Tom graciously offered to postpone his visit so that everyone could stay updated on the breaking news happening in our Capitol that day. In fact, we're going to have back-to-back visits from Tom, as he is also going to be joining us for our June meeting when he'll be presenting "**Backing Up Your Genealogy Data**," a topic that many of you have asked us to address.

Tom, founder and CEO of High-Definition Genealogy, LLC, is the author of over 10 genealogy books and editor of over 100 publications. After spending more than 25 years in the information technology field, Tom branched off into genealogy education and marketing. Known as one of the most generous genealogists in the field, he shares many of his articles and videos for free through his [Genealogybargains.com](http://Genealogybargains.com) website and Facebook groups to keep us updated on the latest in genealogy education and offerings in the marketplace.

In May, Tom's topic will be "**Don't Chop Off That Branch! A Genealogy Arborist's Handbook.**" Many of us will relate to this dilemma. You're at a crossroads when it comes to years of genealogy research: Should you delete an entire branch of your family tree due to faulty research? Or is there a better way to correct family history research errors and salvage information that took years to find? Tom will address the problem of bad research, help you decide if your research is bad or just sloppy, help you map out a correction plan, and help you salvage that branch.

Be sure to join us virtually for our monthly meeting on **Wednesday, May 5th, 2021 at 6 PM.**

## June 2021 Meeting



On June 2nd, Tom MacEntee will be joining us again to present “**Backing Up Your Genealogy Data.**”

Have you ever experienced a data loss when it comes to your genealogy research? Not yet? Well, if not, have you prepared for what might happen if your hard drive fails? What if your laptop is lost or stolen? Learn the basics of backing up all your genealogy data including identifying data, common backup methods, and how to use free online programs to help you make sure your data will always be available!

Mark your calendars for this very important presentation and be sure to join us virtually on **Wednesday, June 2nd 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



May is one of my favorite months of the year! Warmer weather, sun, and flowers! I've written in the past about the many flowers that I've inherited from my family that trigger fond memories. May is the month when they start to bloom, starting with Nana's lily of the valley, then Aunt Ruth's Japanese irises. They're followed by my father's lilacs, Nana's fragrantly perfumed shrub roses, my mother's oriental lilies, and finally Cousin Ed's rose of Sharon. As I walk around the yard, the sight of these flowers popping up makes me smile and brightens my mood.

Recently I remembered a favorite childhood activity. Do you recall making May baskets in art class as children? We'd make them out of fancy paper, trim them with lace, and add a ribbon handle. I recall filling them with flowers, often paper ones, and bringing them home for our mothers to hang on a door handle. That would be followed by other crafts or perhaps seedlings we'd grown to bring home to Mom for Mother's Day.

It's fitting that we'll have Tom MacEntee present to us on how to cultivate and prune our genealogy trees this month. It's also fitting that we'll have Brian Rhinehart present to us on finding War of 1812 ancestors. I hope you'll also enjoy the memories of Memorial Day that some of our earliest members shared back in the *American Elm* in 1986.

May is a time for remembrance, but it's also a time for renewal. May is the month for our annual meeting, elections, a review of our finances, a new budget, and discussion of plans for the coming year. We hope that you'll be able to join us at our annual meeting following Tom MacEntee's presentation on May 5th. This year, the Southern California Genealogical Society has provided our society with a free Standard Registration as a giveaway to promote their conference. We'll hold a raffle for this prize following the business portion of the annual meeting. You'll need to be in attendance to win, so we hope you'll stay after to join us.

I hope that as you see flowers about you, they brighten your days as well. Enjoy the memories of your May events, but also enjoy this May and all that it has to offer.

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## Member Only Benefits

### Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Trainings

We have two exciting presentations coming up with Brian Rhinehart, a professional genealogist specializing in the War of 1812, the Civil War, and research and record retrieval at the National Archives and other repositories.



#### **May 20th – 7 PM – Navigating the Records from The War of 1812**

From bounty land to pensions, there is no shortage of genealogical records for soldiers from the War of 1812. Learn how and why these records were created, how to make sense of them, and what those records can contain for your ancestors!

You'll learn about different types of records and where to find them, including bounty land records, pension and military service records, and more.

#### **June 17th – 7 PM – Was My Ancestor in the Civil War?**

Over ten percent of the US population fought in the Civil War in the 1860s. Was your ancestor one of them? Learn some tips on how to determine if your ancestor was in the Civil War, using (mostly) free resources.

These presentations are parts one and two of a three-part series. The third presentation, titled "I Have a Civil War Ancestor... Now What?" will be offered in the fall.



Brian Rhinehart is a graduate of Boston University's Certificate of Genealogy Research and the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records (GenFed) in Washington, D.C. He's attended the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and has completed the ProGen (Professional Genealogy) Study Group.

A direct descendant of six Civil War soldiers, Brian specializes in Civil War and War of 1812 records at the National Archives in Washington, DC and has retrieved military files for hundreds of clients there.

*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

# Annual Meeting Will Be Held on May 5th

Our annual meeting will be held on **May 5th**, following our presentation by Thomas MacEntee. At the meeting, our Treasurer will give a brief financial report. We will then conduct our annual elections, with those in attendance at the virtual meeting casting their ballots by an anonymous poll. The Nominating Committee will present the slate of candidates for election as officers and directors of our society. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

The following positions are up for election to two-year terms:

President  
Treasurer  
Director (two positions)

We will also review our plans for the upcoming year. As previously mentioned, we have decided to postpone our Founders Award again this year. We hope to be able to present this award in person in 2022.

As a special bonus, we will have a raffle with one lucky member winning a free Standard Registration for the Southern California Genealogical Society Jamboree to be held virtually on June 11th and 12th! This registration will allow the winner to attend six live lectures and 20 recordings of their choice.

\*Note: You must be attendance at the annual meeting to win this prize.

Please join us at this meeting.

# Learn More With Ancestry Academy

by Joanne Mason



Ancestry.com has a wealth of genealogical research bells and whistles, depending on the subscription you choose. But did you know you can access Ancestry Academy, the site's library of educational videos, for free?

I didn't realize this until I read Nancy Hendrickson's "[Ancestry.com for Free? 7 Ways to Research With No Subscription](#)" in the January/February 2021 issue of *Family Tree* magazine. There, you'll find a brief summary of what Ancestry Academy has to offer, but I thought it would be fun to delve even further.

Ancestry Academy divides its video library into 11 categories:

**[Five Minute Finds.](#)** This section is a grab bag of videos, all under five minutes long. Topics include census records, agricultural schedules, and tips for using Ancestry and its related sites, Fold3 and Find A Grave.

**[Researching Your Military Ancestors in the US.](#)** This section includes research videos for the Civil War, World War I, and the War of 1812. You'll also find videos on pension application files and tips for using Fold3, an Ancestry-related site.

**[Newspapers.com.](#)** Searching newspapers and obituaries for information about your ancestors? Check out this category. (Note: Newspapers.com is another Ancestry-related website.)

**[Getting The Most Out Of Ancestry.](#)** Even if you've been using Ancestry for years, there is always more to learn. In this section, you might find research paths you hadn't considered before.

**[Researching a State.](#)** This collection offers state-specific research information on Illinois, [Massachusetts](#), Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, and Virginia.

**[Researching Outside the United States.](#)** Here, you'll find tips for researching English, Italian, Irish, German, and French-Canadian genealogy.

**[Methodology and Skills.](#)** Build your skills in a variety of areas, including African American research, Canadian records, church and religious records, cemetery information, and more.

**[Find a Grave.](#)** Learn more about this helpful cemetery resource (also related to Ancestry). You'll find out how to set up a Find a Grave account, add memorials, and edit your information.

**[Understanding DNA.](#)** What should genealogists know about DNA? Look here for videos on the science behind DNA testing and how to link the connections you make with your research.

**[Did You Know?](#)** This category offers videos on house histories, lineage societies, non-population schedules and more.

**Census Records.** Here, I enjoyed a series of videos called “Who is that Tick Mark? Using Early Census Records.” It helped me understand all those slash marks on early census pages.

Within each topic listed above, you’ll often find several more related videos. For example, the series “You Found What in the 1940 Census?” includes 14 videos, and “Mining Obituaries for New Evidence” offers 10.

Wherever you are in your genealogical journey, you’re sure to find something of interest in Ancestry Academy.

## Memorial Days Past

**As remembered by Frances Jones, #38 and Gertrude Lyons, #132  
Reprinted from the *American Elm*, Vol. 15, No. 1, Spring 1986**

“Memorial Day! We used to call it ‘Decoration Day’ because on that day we children all carried bouquets to the ‘Old Cemetery’ or the ‘New Cemetery’ to decorate the graves of the soldiers of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We knew where to place our bunches of wild flowers for American flags had already been set in their iron markers.”

“Of course, the preparation had been made weeks before when Miss Hooper or Miss Pease (later Mrs. Nelson Carew) had taught us ‘Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean,’ ‘Tenting Tonight,’ ‘The Battle Cry of Freedom’ and other Civil War songs and poems. Miss Pease reminded us that when her father was in the Union Army he had seen Lincoln, and Mrs. Shute, also a teacher, told how as a little girl she walked down the streets of Springfield, Illinois, holding Lincoln’s hand!”



“The day before the exercises, we children went into the fields, to gather daisies, buttercups, and perhaps our neighbor’s lilacs. White daffodils were usually ready too. We walked to the Village Green for the ceremonies held around the old Civil War canon, and Rev. C. B. Bliss was always on hand to take a photograph of the children – gay with their flowers, flags, and best clothes.”

“After the First World War, the day became more formal as the American Legion took over the preparations, and by 1920, Charles Henry Burleigh had presented to the town (Hampden, MA) the Soldier’s Monument. During the Second World War, the canon was contributed to the war effort. A parade became part of the ceremony which now honors the veterans and Gold Star Mothers of all wars. For many years, Rep. William J. Sessions was our patriotic speaker.”

“As more people come to live in and love our little town and the ‘old timers’ remember the days of just a few gathered together, shall we be glad that as we enjoy our family reunions, we can still take one day to remember those who came before.”

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Southern California Genealogical Society

# *jamboree 2021*

*Two Online Virtual Conferences*

**The Genes in Your Family**



**Genetic Genealogy**

Friday & Saturday

June 4 & 5, 2021

25 Programs—20 Expert Speakers  
Recordings available until Oct. 3, 2021

**The Stars in Your Family**



**Genealogy Jamboree**

Friday & Saturday

June 11 & 12, 2021

56 Programs—51 Expert Speakers  
Recordings available until Oct. 10, 2021

For full descriptions of each conference, visit the *jamboree* website:

**[www.genealogyjamboree.com](http://www.genealogyjamboree.com)**

## 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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## 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.

### May Virtual Tours & Offerings

#### [Freedom Trail - Boston, MA](#)

Take virtual tours of early Boston, including the Old South Meeting House, King's Chapel, Park Street Church, Paul Revere's house, King's Chapel Burial Grounds, Massachusetts State House, USS Constitution and its museum, the MA 54th Regiment Memorial, Faneuil Hall, Copp's Hill Burying Ground, Granary Burial Ground, Old North Church, and more.



## [Swift River Valley Historical Society – New Salem, MA](#)

This society helps to preserve the history of the four towns which now lie beneath the Quabbin Reservoir - Dana, Prescott, Enfield, and Greenwich. Though the society does not have collections available online, the site contains links to many interesting videos, documentaries, old photographs, and oral histories of former inhabitants of these towns.

## [Maine State Archives Bicentennial Projects](#)

The Maine Virtual Reality experience lets you tour several historical places in Maine, including the State House, Fort Knox State Historic Site, West Quoddy Head Lighthouse and Park, and Old Fort Western in Augusta. Images and documents from the Maine State Archives relating to the state's history and an extensive list of historical material is included in its digital collections. There's also a helpful list of historical societies in Maine, along with links to them.

## [Library 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.

- **Genealogy 101: First Steps in Tracing Your Family Tree** (May 27 at 2 pm)

Please email the library at [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) to register and get your Zoom link.

Have you always wanted to learn more about your family history, but just don't know where to start? Julie Szczepankiewicz will demystify the process for you in an introduction to genealogy research that's geared toward novice researchers. Topics covered will include identification of research goals, organizing information, basic research methodology and evidence analysis, and an introduction to some of the key websites that will help you gather information to build your family tree.

*[This program is brought to you with federal funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (through a CARES Act Grant) and administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.]*

## [Other New Offerings](#)

### [FamilySearch.org](#)

Classes and webinars are free, but registration is required. To find classes go to Research Wiki, enter Webinars in the search box, click Family History Library, then Classes & Online Webinars, select Month, then Class.

- **Getting Started with Finnish Research** (May 1 at 11 am)
- **Denmark Regional Series: Bornholm** (May 1 at 12:15 pm)
- **Early Tax Records of Sweden: Part 1** (May 1 at 2:30 pm)
- **Early Tax Records of Sweden: Part 2** (May 1 at 3:45 pm)
- **University of Tromso: Norwegian Historical Data Center** (May 1 at 5 pm)
- **Using the Family Search Catalog** (May 3 at 12 pm)
- **Using the Family Search Wiki** (May 4 at 12 pm)
- **Skimming the Surface: A Look into Ontario Land Records** (May 6 at 12 pm)
- **What's New at Family Search** (May 11 at 12 pm)
- **Overview of Family Search** (May 18 at 12 pm)
- **The United Colored Troops and Buffalo Soldiers: History, Records, and Strategies** (May 20 at 12 pm)
- **Navigate, Add, Edit, Standardize, and Print on FamilySearch Family Tree** (May 25 at 12 pm)
- **Ask Your United States and Canada Research Questions** (May 27 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 May include the following:

- **Solving a Brick Wall with DNA – A Case Study** (May 5 at 2 pm)
- **Researching the Descendants and Ancestors of the Weeping Time People** (May 7 at 2 pm)
- **DNA Downer: Strategies for Dealing with DNA Fatigue** (Blaine Bettinger, May 12 at 8 pm)
- **The Paternal Ten: Searching for Missing Heirs** (May 18 at 8 pm)
- **Notion for Genealogists** (May 19 at 2 pm)
- **Researching Canadian Nurses, Pilots, and Sailors in the First World War** (May 21 at 2 pm)

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



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

- **Shalom/Salem: Archival Stories from Salem's Jewish Community** (May 3 at 3 pm)
- **Stories from the Archives: Diaries** (May 6 at 3 pm)
- **The Untold Story of Jewish Families and Their English Country Houses** (May 13 at 4 pm)
- **Artful Stories: Paintings from Historic New England** (May 21 at 4 pm)

- **Using the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Archives for Family History Research**  
(May 27 at 3 pm)

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



## 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 and Carol Lynne Bagley for their help compiling these listings!*

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## Brick Wall Queries

**New: Q-24 – FULLER, Elsie** – Looking for marriage record or any information on Elsie Fuller, b. 1771, Lanesboro, MA, dau. of Zadock Fuller and Alice or Else Porter (Silver book Vol. 10, p. 110). May have wed Joseph Platt, b. 6 May 1775 in Lanesboro. (Submitted by Susan Garman)

### 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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## New WMGS Member

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

**Nancy Dart**

We hope that she will avail herself of all that WMGS has to offer and that she finds success in the hunt for family ancestors.

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## Calendar

DATE/TIME	EVENT/PLACE
April 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021	<b>NERGC Conference.</b> See the ad on page 8 for more details.
May 5, 2021 6 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting Online!</b> Thomas MacEntee presents “Don’t Chop Off That Branch! A Genealogy Arborist’s Handbook.”  <b>WMGS Annual Meeting will follow this presentation!</b>
May 10, 2021 6:30 PM	<b>WMGS Board Meeting via Zoom.</b>
May 20, 2021 7 PM	<b>WMGS Training via Zoom.</b> Brian Rhinehart presents "Navigating the Records from the War of 1812."
June 2, 2021 6 PM	<b>WMGS Meeting Online!</b> Thomas MacEntee presents “Backing Up Your Genealogy Data.”
June 14, 2021 6:30 PM	<b>WMGS Board Meeting via Zoom.</b>
June 17, 2021 7 PM	<b>WMGS Training via Zoom.</b> Brian Rhinehart presents “Was My Ancestor in the Civil War?”
June 30, 2021 7 PM	<b>MGC M.O.R.E presentation:</b> "An Evening with John D. (Jack) Warner, Ph.D. Archivist, Commonwealth of Massachusetts" Register: <a href="https://www.massgencouncil.org/">https://www.massgencouncil.org/</a> (More information to come in our next newsletter.)

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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 the 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 May 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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