



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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Upcoming Meetings

July 2021 Meeting



We're pleased that John Putnam will join us again to present "Peopling Colonial New England: 1620-1787," the third lecture in his New England series.

From several small coastal settlements in the early 17th century, the early settlers and their descendants, as well as new immigrants, migrated to other parts of the New England frontier over the next 150 years. Many reasons led to these migrations, which infilled the settlement of most areas of New England by the time that the new Republic was established in 1787. As this presentation will demonstrate, there were many ebbs and flows in this process over this time period. Why should this matter to genealogists? If you had ancestors in this region, this presentation will help you understand why your ancestors were part of this dynamic process, where and how to look for your ancestors in this area, and how the population pressures in colonial New England continually pushed the borders outward. If your ancestors lived elsewhere, this New England settlement model became a template for the future development of the rest of the country and fueled the settlement of many areas of the remaining U.S.

A native of Western Mass, John grew up on a farm in Southwick, graduated from UMass Amherst, and earned a master's degree in political science from the University of Colorado. He now resides in Colorado. He's the past president of the Pikes Peak Genealogical Society, a fascinating speaker, and a 12th-generation American! Join us on **Wednesday, July 7th at 6 p.m.** for a virtual presentation via Zoom!

August 2021 Meeting



We had such a great response to Marian Pierre-Louis' presentation to WMGS last March that we've asked her back for another visit. This time, she'll be presenting **"Warning Out and Settlement Law in Early New England."** Come find out about "strangers taken in" records, "warning out" records, and settlement law. Settlement law impacted all New Englanders whether rich or poor, transient or long-time resident. Discover what records were created as a result and why. You will be surprised at the level of detail you can find about your ancestors. Marian Pierre-Louis will take you into the depths of these rarely discussed New England records to reveal a wealth of information about your ancestors.

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.

Join us for this intriguing and helpful presentation on **Wednesday, August 4th at 6 p.m.**

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 p.m.*

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. 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

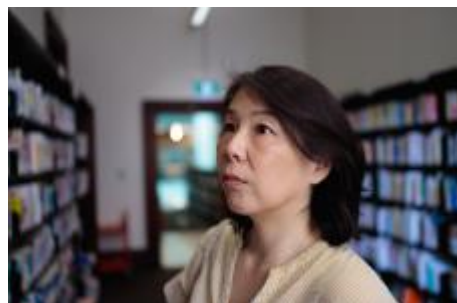
by Jeanne Leblond

Does time seem to be flying by faster than ever to you? Has the pandemic and being cooped up changed your sense of time, as it has mine? It's a cliché, but it's hard to believe that we're heading into July already.

Although we're still a long way off from the end of the pandemic and a return to the new normal, we hope that you have been able to spend some time with your family members and friends and perhaps enjoy some of your usual activities. It's been wonderful to be around people again and to actually see smiles on their faces.

Have you made plans for your summer yet? Do your plans include staying close to home or heading out to a local museum, gardening, reading a great book, exploring new genealogy databases, or perhaps watching some of the archived presentations on our website? So many options to explore!

Local events are returning slowly, though with restrictions in some cases, but the Fourth of July will again be celebrated with parades and fireworks in some communities, the Springfield pancake breakfast will be held in August, and the Big E is on track to return. All good news!



Libraries, historical societies, and archives are beginning to open their doors to a few visitors, giving those of us who love to research directly in records the opportunity to do so. I've missed being able to touch books and printed material, but what I've missed the most is the chance to talk to others about what we're researching. Sometimes even share a bit of joy with others, even though they may be strangers who happen to be there that day. Remember that exclamation of pure excitement and joy when someone finds an ancestor that's eluded them for years? Bingo! Found him! The genealogy happy dance!

We've been asked by members when we'll be returning to the Agawam Senior Center (ASC). Unfortunately, we have no concrete information to share with you yet. We've been following news and guidance about plans for re-opening the senior center, but the information relates to members of the senior center and citizens of Agawam, not to community use of the facility. We've been fortunate to be able to reserve the ASC's facility for our meetings, but we realize that the priority is to provide services to senior citizens first.

In the meantime, the board continues to work on details for our transition to a hybrid model. There's no playbook for this and we're doing our best with our volunteer board and their limited time.

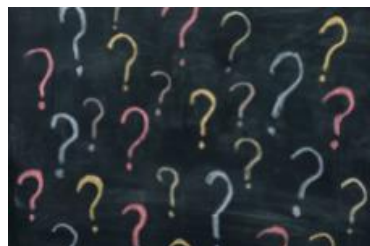
We've been blessed with wonderful presentations by our speakers at both our monthly meetings and training sessions during the pandemic, and we hope that you'll continue to join us at them. Our program committee has scheduled some fantastic presentations for this summer and fall. We're looking forward to sharing them with you! Enjoy the warm weather, sun, and all the other joys of summer!

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Member Only Benefits

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) & Trainings

July 22nd - 7 p.m. – That Scoundrel George



We're going to be trying something new this night. With permission from Legacy Family Tree Webinars, we'll be rebroadcasting a webinar presentation called "That Scoundrel George" by nationally known genealogist Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL. After the presentation, we'll have a short discussion about the topic.

Judy Russell's description of her webinar has piqued our interest: "Tracking a rascally ancestor through the records can be great fun and a great challenge. When every record he ever left appears to be a lie, where is the truth to be found?" A genealogist with a law degree, Judy G. Russell is a lecturer, educator, and writer who enjoys helping others understand a wide variety of genealogical issues, including the interplay between genealogy and the law. She has a bachelor's degree in political science and journalism from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. and a law degree from Rutgers School of Law-Newark. She also holds Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer credentials from the Board for Certification of Genealogists where she serves as a member of the Board of Trustees. She has worked as a newspaper reporter, trade association writer, legal investigator, defense attorney, federal prosecutor, and law editor. Until her retirement, she was an adjunct member of the faculty at Rutgers Law School. Judy is a Colorado native with roots deep in the American south on her mother's side and entirely in Germany on her father's side. Visit her website at www.legalgenealogist.com.

August 26th – 7 p.m. – Preserving Your Family Treasures - Choosing the Right Storage Solutions



Buffered or unbuffered? What does acid-free really mean? What is the best way to preserve my family Bible? Abby Shaw from Hollinger Archival Products will answer these questions and more about the best storage solutions for your family papers, photos, and textiles. Please bring your questions about your treasures to the meeting and she can recommend the approved method of storage.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to get professional advice from Abby Shaw. After Abby's presentation, we'll have time to ask for advice on preserving our family heirlooms and treasures. We're hoping that you can join us and share your items on camera for Abby's evaluation. We're letting you know early about this event, so you'll have plenty of time to dig your items out of closets and other hiding spaces and prepare your list of questions!

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 p.m.

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Hitting the road for genealogy research this year?

We'd love to hear about it!

Share your
story with
WMGS!



Whether you're jetting across the ocean or visiting a cemetery across town, we're always interested in WMGS members' discoveries!

Send your story - even a paragraph or a photo - to
westmassgen@gmail.com for possible inclusion in the WMGS newsletter!

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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.

Library Offerings

Chicopee Public Library

- **Online Genealogy Meet-Up** (Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.)

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

Storrs Library - Longmeadow

Both of these programs will be offered via Zoom:

- **The Adventures of Benjamin Franklin** (July 12 at 6:30 p.m. [More info and registration link](#))
- **Strange History of New England** (July 28 at 6:30 p.m. [More info and registration link](#))

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.

- **Using the FamilySearch Catalog** (July 5, 12 p.m.)
- **Adding Memories to the FamilySearch Family Tree** (July 6 at 12 p.m.)
- **Using the FamilySearch Mobile Apps** (July 13 at 12 p.m.)
- **Introduction to Latter-day Saint Church Records** (July 15 at 12 p.m.)
- **Using the FamilySearch Wiki** (July 20 at 12 p.m.)
- **What's New at FamilySearch** (July 27 at 12 p.m.)
- **The Research Process: Analyzing and Evaluating U.S. Records** (July 29 at 12 p.m.)

More information is available at

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars



Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh

This organization is offering several free Zoom webinars in July. For event descriptions and registration links, please see [their website](#).

- **Friends of Friends: Quakers and African American Communities** (July 12 at 7 p.m.)
- **False News, Profane Speakers and Disobedient Children: Early Pennsylvania Laws** (July 13 at 7 p.m.)
- **Tales from the Research Genealogical Trenches** (July 14 at 7 p.m.)
- **Pennsylvania German Social History: Furthering Research by Understanding Your Ancestors** (July 15 at 7 p.m.)



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 July include the following:

- **Death is Not the End - Litigation Remains: Exploring Australian Wills & Probate** (July 6 at 10 p.m.)
- **Grandpa's Eyes and Grandma's Hair: Tracing the Origin Physical Traits with Genetic Genealogy** (July 7 at 2 p.m.)
- **Comparing Jewish Resources on the Giant Genealogy Websites** (July 14 at 8 p.m.)
- **Using Irish Newspapers and Other Printed Material** (July 16 at 2 p.m.)
- **The Time of Cholera: A Case Study About Historical Context** (July 20 at 8 p.m.)
- **That Scoundrel George** (July 21 at 2 p.m.)
- **Specialized Lineage Societies - More Than Just DAR, Dames and Mayflower** (July 28 at 2 p.m.)

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



New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

- **What's New at AmericanAncestors.org** (July 8 at 3 p.m.)
- **The Great Dissenter: The Story of John Marshall Harlan, America's Judicial Hero** (July 8 at 6 p.m.)
- **Reimagining Historic House Museums** (July 9 at 4 p.m.)
- **Plunder: A Memoir of Family Property and Nazi Treasure** (July 20 at 6 p.m.)
- **The Great Migration to New England: Conventicles to Companies to Congregations** (July 22 at 3 p.m.)

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.

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Brick Wall Queries

Answer: Q-24 – FULLER, Elsie - Possible helpful information may be available in the following book, *North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000* [database online]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. (This book is available on Ancestry.com with access at some local public libraries or through a subscription.)

There are references to the family living in Halifax and Worthington, MA. These may be places to look for a marriage record if one in Lanesboro has not been found. Also consider looking in Pittsfield, MA as Lanesboro is very close to that city. (Submitted by Lisa Swigart)

How to Submit or Respond to a Query:

Submitting: Queries and responses should be sent via email to 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
July 7, 2021 6 p.m.	WMGS Meeting Online! John Putnam presents "Peopling Colonial New England."
July 22, 2021 7 p.m.	WMGS Training via Zoom. Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL presents "That Scoundrel George" courtesy of Legacy Family Tree Webinars.
August 4, 2021 6 p.m.	WMGS Meeting Online! Marian Pierre-Louis presents "Warning Out and Settlement Law in Early New England."
August 26, 2021 7 p.m.	WMGS Training via Zoom. Abby Shaw presents "Preserving Your Family Treasures - Choosing the Right Storage Solutions."

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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 p.m. 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, Cara Seitchek, and Joanne Mason – Directors

Meeting Details

We generally meet year-round for our monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. 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 3rd & 4th Thursdays of the month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., 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 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 1st to August 31st 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 Deadline

**Please submit all information
to be entered into the next
newsletter by **July 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 and 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.

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.



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The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions.