



Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

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Upcoming Meetings

December 2021 Meeting



Have you wondered why your European ancestors decided to emigrate to the United States, beyond hearing they were told the streets were paved in gold?

Many factors pushed or pulled our European ancestors to emigrate to the United States. Genealogist Nancy E. Loe, MA, MLS will help us follow in the footsteps of ancestors who arrived between 1865 and 1920.

What did they experience when they decided to leave their homes and communities to sail to America? What was the voyage like? Discover essential and unusual resources for migration research for all United States ports.

Nancy will present **“European Immigrant Ancestors: Why They Left and How They Got Here, 1865-1920”** at our December meeting.

After a long career in libraries and archives, Nancy Loe is now a nationally-known and popular genealogy educator, researcher, and writer. She specializes in European migration to North America and Germanic, Scandinavian, and Scottish research. Nancy's website, sassyjanegenealogy.com, features a blog, e-books, and a free monthly newsletter.

Please join us on **Wednesday, December 1st at 6 p.m.** (*This presentation and handout will be archived in the Members Only section of our website.*)

January 2022 Meeting



We're starting off the new year with one of our favorite presenters, Thomas MacEntee, who will be presenting "The 1950 U.S. Federal Census – Are You Ready?" on **Wednesday, January 5th, 2022 at 6 p.m.**

Many genealogists remember the excitement around the release of the 1940 U.S. census in April 2012. Following the "72 year rule" for records at the National Archives, the results of the 1950 U.S. census will be made public on Friday, April 1, 2022. It's never too early to prepare for this valuable data related to U.S. genealogy research!

Tom will discuss the history of the 1950 U.S. census, the reasons why the 1950 U.S. census form is radically different from previous forms, and the ways that data will be accessed. In addition, he'll cover what you can do NOW to prepare for the release of the 1950 U.S. census and talk about volunteer projects related to indexing and finding aids. Finally, he'll cover how you can always get the latest information related to the release of the 1950 U.S. census data!

Thomas MacEntee is a genealogy professional specializing in using technology and social media to improve genealogy research and to connect with the family history community. What happens when a "tech guy" with a love for history gets laid off during the Great Recession of 2008? You get Thomas MacEntee, a U.S.-based genealogy professional who is also a blogger, educator, author, social media connector, online community builder, and more. Thomas has over 42 years of experience researching family history.

Thomas was laid off after a 25-year career in the information technology field, so he started his own genealogy-related business called High Definition Genealogy. Currently Thomas shares many of his articles and videos for free at GenealogyBargains.com!

Thomas describes himself as a lifelong learner who has finally figured out what he does best: teach, inspire, instigate, and serve as a curator and go-to guy for concept nurturing and inspiration. Thomas believes in success and that we all succeed when we help each other find success.

This will be our last visit with Tom for the foreseeable future, as he's announced he's entering semi-retirement! Thankfully, he's working on other projects that will keep him in the genealogy community for many years to come.

We hope you'll join us for Tom's presentation on **Wednesday, January 5th 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**

December is here already! We're entering this month with hopes of being able to enjoy the holiday season with family and friends in person this year, perhaps with a bit of caution and anxiety. We're not out of the pandemic just yet, but the positive trend is encouraging.



How wonderful it will be to share a meal, recipes, memories, and traditions with family and friends again. Last year, I didn't display as many family holiday heirlooms, nor did I make all of my usual holiday treats, as my holiday spirit was lagging. This year though, my baking supplies have been purchased, and I'm looking forward to lots of decorations and traditions. Maybe not a completely normal holiday, but closer.

But not everything! Since WMGS hasn't moved to hybrid events just yet, we're hosting our first-ever holiday Zoom party! We hope you'll join us and share in some holiday cheer, camaraderie, conversation, and fun. There's an invitation to our society's party in this newsletter, and we'd love it if you'd share some holiday photos and recipes with us. We have some enjoyable activities planned!

WMGS has some terrific presentations coming up in December and January to end 2021 and begin 2022. Our December speaker, Nancy J. Loe, will help us to learn more about our European immigrant ancestors, while in January, Thomas MacEntee will help us to prepare for the long-awaited release of the 1950 census next April. Our list of free online events occurring in December will keep our genealogy calendars full.

In case you need some holiday shopping ideas, we've included our list of genealogy gift ideas and discount information about Vivid-Pix software, which so many of us use.

We hope that this holiday season brings you joy, happiness, and lots of memories!

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You're Invited to Our First-Ever Holiday Zoom Party!

It's bring your own hot chocolate, hot mulled wine, hot cider, or something stronger if you'd like! Dress up in your holiday finery or your ugliest holiday sweater if you wish! Get in the holiday spirit!



We're hosting a genealogy-focused holiday Zoom party for members on **Thursday, December 9th at 7 p.m.** We'd love to have our members send in holiday photos from their childhoods or family collections. Do you have a photo of you or an ancestor sitting on Santa's lap? Or perhaps a photo of your family around the Christmas tree or enjoying a holiday gathering? Anything holiday related will be appreciated. We'll create a slideshow of the photos in the form of a genealogy timeline for everyone to enjoy!

We'll also have several holiday genealogy-related topics to get the conversation flowing. If you have a family recipe that you'd like to share, we encourage you to send it along so we can send it out in advance. (Wish we could send the actual cookies or treats through the mail, but we don't have the resources to do that!)

We'll talk about holiday traditions, favorite heirlooms, and cherished memories. And we'll host a holiday genealogy trivia game. Do you know all the vital records details of our beloved holiday figures? We'll see how many questions you can answer!

Send your photos or recipes to westmassgen@gmail.com. We hope that you'll join us at this virtual event! We look forward to visiting with all of you!

How to Participate: Members will receive an email notice in advance of the party. 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 party at the broadcast time.

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Articles

Give Vivid-Pix RESTORE This Holiday Season

Need a special gift for that tough-to-buy-for person on your list? How about a FREE copy of Vivid-Pix RESTORE? With the upcoming holiday season, Vivid-Pix is once again offering a buy one/give one offer until **January 3, 2022**.

Give the **GIFT** of
BETTER PICTURES!

VIVID-PIX
for yourself and family and friends!

**Give a Vivid-Pix
Electronic Gift Card!**

Vivid-Pix.com/giftcard
Save \$10 / 20%
Use Coupon: **3WestMAGenGCR**
Through Jan 3, 2022

Buy One Give One

Buy Vivid-Pix software for yourself
And receive a free
Vivid-Pix Electronic Gift Card.

Vivid-Pix.com/bogo
Save \$10 / 20%
Use Coupon: **3WestMAGenBR**
Through Jan 3, 2022

WMGS is an affiliate of Vivid-Pix RESTORE, which offers benefits to our members and to our society. Not only do WMGS members save 20% when they purchase Vivid-Pix RESTORE software, but for each purchase that members make using our discount code, WMGS earns 20% in revenue.

Normally, the software sells for \$49.95. Using our 20% member discount code, members pay only \$39.95. WMGS earns 20% of each sale or \$8. With the holiday promotion, you will get a copy at the reduced price of \$39.95, WMGS will earn \$8, and you will get a gift coupon code to send to whomever you choose giving them a FREE copy of Vivid-Pix RESTORE. It's like getting two for less than the price of one!

In September of 2020, Dave Lapierre presented a training session on using Vivid-Pix. You can watch the video and download the handout and slides. It is available in the Training & SIGS Handouts section of the Members Only page on the website. Dave demonstrated the many features that Vivid-Pix offers for restoring both pictures and documents. Dave also showed how he restored several pictures and documents that were submitted by members.

The special promotion codes/hyperlinks are below. Let the shopping begin!

This year there are two promotions available:

1. If you already own Vivid-Pix, you can buy a gift card for that special person on your list. You pay only \$39.99, and WMGS earns \$8.
2. If you do not own Vivid-Pix RESTORE, you can take advantage of the buy one/give one promotion. This offer provides you with a copy of Vivid-Pix RESTORE and gives you a gift card for another copy of the software. WMGS still earns \$8.

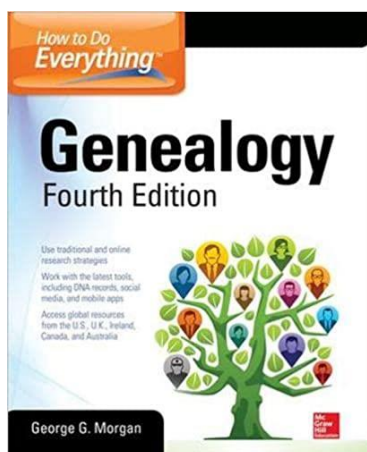
Promotions: These promotional discounts end on January 3, 2022.

1. RESTORE Gift Cards (20% off)*: https://www.vivid-pix.com/restore/giftcard?pop_code=3WestMAGenGCR
2. Buy One, Give One (20% off)*: https://www.vivid-pix.com/bogo-restore?pop_code=3WestMAGenBR

* **Important:** Once you click the link(s), the price will show as \$49.99. The discount will be automatically reflected in the cart after clicking Buy Now (before entering credit card info).

Genealogy Books Are Great Gifts!

Looking for a gift for someone interested in working on their family tree or a genealogy buddy who's been helpful to you this past year? Or perhaps you're hoping to get a young person interested in family history? If so, we've got some great suggestions for you. And if you've been especially nice this past year, you might want to treat yourself to one or two of them!



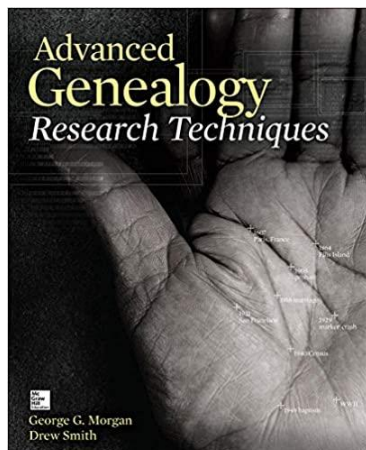
How to Do Everything: Genealogy, Fourth Edition

by George Morgan

Published by McGraw-Hill Education, February 2, 2015

Now in its fourth edition, this bestseller focuses on the basics of genealogy and explains a wide range of important skills that will be needed by the beginning genealogist. It's also a great resource for anyone wanting to brush up on their skills. Topics include a description of major record types, where to find records online and at archives, how to analyze and organize data, how to use internet search techniques to locate information on the internet, where to find civil registration, census, church records, military, property, immigration and naturalization records, and more. Suggestions on how to place ancestors in geographical and historical context, how to use social networking to conduct research, and how to break down brick walls are also included.



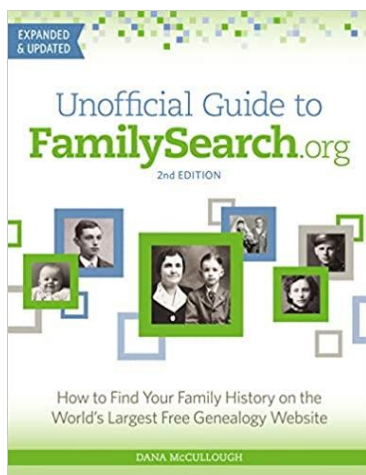


Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques

by George Morgan and Drew Smith

Published by McGraw-Hill Education, September 10, 2013

Although this book was written some time ago, the information provided by these internationally recognized genealogists stands the test of time. The authors describe more advanced skill sets, including how to take a more scientific and technical approach to solving research problems, how to formulate research strategies, how to analyze data and find weak spots, which methods are helpful to keep track of data, and how to use the FAN (family, associates, and neighbors) technique. The basics of using DNA are also described. Using a best-practices approach, the authors provide practical case studies that demonstrate how these techniques can solve complex problems in genealogical research.



Unofficial Guide to FamilySearch.org: How to Find Your Family History on the World's Largest Free Genealogy Website, Second Edition

by Dana McCullough

Published by Family Tree Books, Inc., August 4, 2020

Although most of this information is available in the Wiki section of the FamilySearch.org website, sometimes it's helpful to have a manual available to consult. Topics covered in this book include the FamilySearch.org's user family tree, a description of record types available on the website, search tips, and instructions for using the search form, the catalog, and the massive archive of digitized books. Readers will also find information on local Family History Centers and affiliated libraries and tips for preparing a research trip.

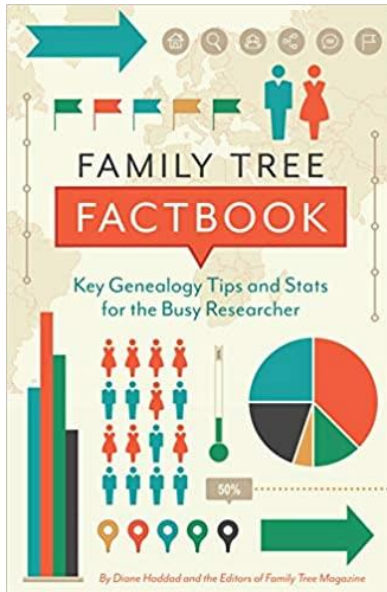


Family Tree Factbook: Key Genealogy Tips and Stats for the Busy Researcher

by Diane Haddad

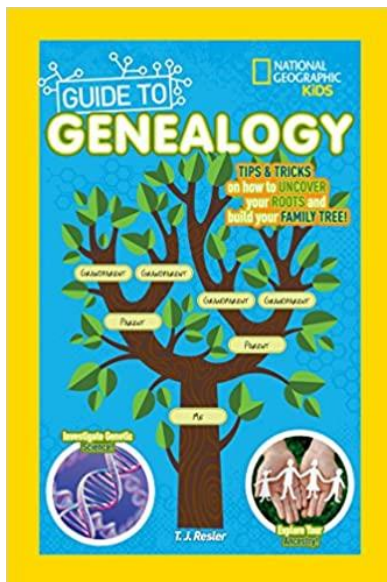
Published by Family Tree Books, illustrated edition, October 23, 2018

The chapters in this reference book contain tips on a wide range of subjects. Topics include the following:



- research basics
- U.S. state research
- libraries and archives
- names
- genealogy websites
- census records
- immigration
- military records
- cemeteries
- geography
- social history
- genetic genealogy
- photography

There's a section of charts and worksheets available, as well as a glossary of genealogy terms. Resource lists, definitions, dates, and important reference information are all gathered in a handy reference book that's perfect for keeping next to you while you're researching.



National Geographic Kids Guide to Genealogy – Illustrated Edition

by T. J. Resler

Published by National Geographic Kids, April 17, 2018

This book makes family research fun! Using a child-friendly, detective-type approach, the book describes tools and tips to help children sleuth out family history. Appropriate for children age 8 and above, this book is a great way to introduce genealogy to a grandchild or other child you know. Fun facts, colorful illustrations, and activities draw children into learning skills that will help them discover their ancestors and family history. Kids will learn how to get started with genealogy, how to create a family tree, where to find clues, and how to interview relatives. The book also discusses types of records, migration trails, and DNA testing. Even grown-ups will enjoy this book!



MASSACHUSETTS
GENEALOGICAL
COUNCIL

demand
M:O:R:E.

MGC: Open Records & Education



An Evening with David Silverman *This Land Is Their Land*

Tuesday, November 30, 2021, at 7:00 PM EDT via Zoom

In March 1621, when Plymouth's survival was hanging in the balance, the Wampanoag sachem, Ousamequin, and Plymouth's governor, John Carver, declared their people's friendship for each other and a commitment to mutual defense. Later that autumn, the English gathered their first successful harvest and lifted the specter of starvation. Ousamequin and 90 of his men then visited Plymouth for the "First Thanksgiving." The treaty remained operative until King Philip's War in 1675, when 50 years of uneasy peace between the two parties would come to an end.

America today has millions of people across the country who descend from those that were at the First Thanksgiving, many of whom try to understand the reasons behind their ancestors' actions during the 17th century. Often only heard from a one-sided perspective, Silverman provides a fresh view, adding new layers and insight to the conversation of a controversial time in America's history.

David J. Silverman is a professor at George Washington University, where he specializes in Native American, Colonial American, and American racial history.

This presentation is free, but registration is required!
For more information, go to www.massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e



Free 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

[Boston Public Library](#)

- **Genealogy: Immigration and Naturalization Records** (December 1 at 6 p.m.)

Chicopee Public Library

The Chicopee Public Library is again offering in-person genealogy open labs every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Experienced volunteers are available to answer questions and help you use the library's genealogy resources, which include American Ancestors, Ancestry, Fold3, Heritage Quest, FamilySearch microfilm, books, and more. Location: Computer Lab.

Contact: Chuck Abel by phone (594-1800 x3) or email (cabel@cwmars.org).

Please note: Masks are required for unvaccinated patrons and are recommended for those who are vaccinated.

Storrs Library - Longmeadow

- **All to the Tune of a Hickory Stick: A Look at Education in the One Room Schoolhouse with Dennis Picard** (via Zoom - December 15 at 6:30 p.m.)

Westfield Athenaeum

- **Paddy on the Railway with Dennis Picard** (December 2 at 6:30 p.m. [Register.](#))
- **History Bites With Director Guy McLain** (December 3 – all day). Check out the Westfield Athenaeum's [Facebook page](#) to see a brief video on the history of an interesting artifact from the library's archives.

New Offerings**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 December include the following:

- **The Top Ten DNA Do's and Don'ts** (December 1 at 2 p.m.)
- **Documenting Families or Communities Lost in the Holocaust by Bullets** (December 8 at 8 p.m.)
- **Navigating the NARA Website** (December 15 at 2 p.m.)
- **Effective Use of England's National Archives Website** (December 17 at 2 p.m.)
- **Uncovering Immigrant Origins Through Cluster Research** (December 21 at 8 p.m.)
- **Our Neanderthal Genetic Ancestry** (December 22 at 2 p.m.)

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

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

- **The Howe Dynasty: The Untold Story of a Military Family and the Women Behind Britain's Wars for America** (December 2 at 1 p.m.)

- **Stories from the Archives: Civil War Manuscripts** (December 9 at 3 p.m.)
- **Finding Royal Connections in Your Family Tree** (December 16 at 3 p.m.)



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

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
November 30, 2021 7:00 p.m.	MGC M.O.R.E. presentation. Daniel Silverman presents "This Land Is Their Land." See ad on page 9.
December 1, 2021 6:00 p.m.	WMGS Meeting Online. Nancy E. Loe presents "European Immigrant Ancestors: Why They Left and How They Got Here, 1865-1920."
December 9, 2021 7:00 p.m.	WMGS Holiday Party via Zoom!
January 5, 2022 6:00 p.m.	WMGS Meeting Online. - Thomas MacEntee presents "The 1950 Census: Are You Ready?"

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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 email 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, 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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Newsletter Deadline

**Please submit all information
for the next newsletter by
*December 15, 2021.***

**We welcome submissions
from our members!**

**If you have an article idea,
please let us know!**

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. (Note: The *American Elm* is now a searchable database!) 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.

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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Email Update

Please let us know if you have changed your email 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.