

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in
MASSACHUSETTS

May 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 05

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Visit our Website at: [www.wmarootsevents.wordpress.com](http://www.wmarootsevents.wordpress.com)

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**May 2, 9, 16, & 23, 2017, Tuesdays** (9:30 am-11:00 am): Basic Hands-on Genealogy with **Alan Doyle Horbal**, professional genealogist. Cheshire Senior Center, 119 School Street, Cheshire, MA 01225. Outline and instruction on researching the 1900,1910,1920,1930 and 1940 U.S. Census. Discover how to find your ancestors' emigration to the U.S. using the <http://stevemorse.org> website and the [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) website, along with several other databases. Discover how to search for family members outside of the U.S. using <http://familysearch.org>. We will explore England, Canada, Poland and other countries. All students must have an e-mail account and be computer literate. Limited space, please sign up for sessions.

**We ask that you attend all four classes. You may bring your own laptop. To register call (413) 743-9719.**

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May 5, 2017, Friday (12 noon - 1:00 PM): Researching WWI Veteran Ancestors Presented by David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist. New England Genealogical Historical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Researching World War I veterans presents unique challenges. In 1973 a fire destroyed 16 to 18 million personnel records for the U.S. Army between service years 1912 to 1960. Learn how you can start to reconstruct your ancestor's service using draft registration cards and enlistments, the US census, discharge papers, unit histories, and more.

Cost: Free Call 617-226-1226 or email education@nehgs.org

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**May 6, 2017, Saturday** (8:30am - 5:00pm): The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England presents its sixteenth Irish Language Immersion Day, a unique opportunity for all those with an interest in the language to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of this vital component of Irish culture. The program consists of two classes available at four levels (beginner through advanced), plus workshops, conversation groups, and a seisiún.

Cost is \$50 per person, \$45 for ICC Patrons, and \$15 for college-age and under students. Price includes lunch and refreshments throughout the day. Download a registration form or visit our website to learn more <http://www.irishcenterwne.org/>

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May 18, 2017, Thursday (6:00pm - 9:00pm): **Berkshire Family History Association** invites you to a genealogical program: The Rich Resources of Western Massachusetts and It's Not All on the Internet:

Using Alternative Resources presented by Dave Robison, Professional genealogist and owner of *Old Bones Genealogy of New England*. Country Club of Pittsfield, 639 South Street (Rte. 7 & 20), Pittsfield, MA 01201.

Light refreshments will be served. A free raffle will be held.

Pre-registration is required. A fee of \$10.00 will cover the cost of the program and refreshments. To receive a registration form, call 413-445-5521 or email bfhainc@gmail.com. Join BFHA or renew your membership (\$12.00/yr.) and receive free admission.

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**May 20, 2017, Saturday** (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM): Italian Family History Day, presented by the New England Historical Genealogical Society, at the Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts  
41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. Featuring keynote speaker, Mary Tedesco, co-host of Genealogy Roadshow, and Rhonda R. McClure, Senior Genealogist and a nationally recognized professional genealogist and lecturer specializing in New England and celebrity research as well as computerized genealogy. Rhonda is the compiler of more than 120 celebrity family trees.

Master how to use Italian resources and records on both sides of the Atlantic, learn how to apply for Italian dual citizenship, and gain the tools needed to plan your research trip to Italy. Whether you are just beginning your Italian family history discovery or have been researching for years, you won't want to miss this seminar

**Cost: \$125** Registration includes morning refreshments and lunch. Call 617-226-1226 or email [education@nehgs.org](mailto:education@nehgs.org)

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May 23, 2017, Tuesday (7:00pm - 9:00pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society presents Seema-Jayne Kenney speaking on "Immigration and Naturalization" at the American Legion, Post # 129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. For more information contact queenkatt64@yahoo.com

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**June 16 - 18, 2017: 2017 Ontario Genealogical Society Conference**, Ottawa, Ontario  
Members of the Ontario Genealogical Society and family historians from around the world are coming together in Ottawa this June to celebrate and collaborate. Please join us for three days of inspiring lectures, workshops, displays, and other exciting events.

For the first time at OGS, we are offering an Ancestry deep dive. Ancestry experts will hold a special event on how to get the most out of AncestryDNA®, and offer tips and tricks on their core family history product. Don't miss it!

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Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts Upcoming Talks

Free admission, bring a friend!

Now I've Found It, What Does It Say? Foreign Languages and Genealogical Research

By Prof. Jonathan Shea

Sunday, May 21, 2017, 2:00 p.m.

Framingham Public Library

This lecture will examine the various phonetic and grammatical features of record keeping languages used in nineteenth century partitioned Poland. Special attention will be given to features of the Slavic languages which confuse the English speaker. Various frequently encountered document formats, such as birth, marriage and death records will be viewed in Latin, Polish and Russian. A sample document will be examined in depth and translated. In addition phonetic features of Polish and English will be reviewed so that participants will gain a greater understanding of why and how surnames have been misspelled in the US. *This lecture is co-sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.*

The History of Polish Heraldry
By Marek Lesniewski-Laas, J.D., Honorary
Consul for the Republic of Poland
Thursday, June 22, 2017, 6:30 p.m.
Chicopee Public Library

Our speaker for our summer meeting will be Mr. Marek Lesniewski-Laas, the Honorary Consul for the Republic of Poland. The title of his talk is *The History of Polish Heraldry*. He will cover the concept of heraldry in Poland, noble and state heraldry, heraldry among Polish Jewry, the structure of the Polish nobles, how the nobility differed from other European countries and other features. The talk is illustrated with many colorful heraldic examples that were significant in the history in Poland. One might see the crest that Babcia spoke of!

Crossing the Ocean: Researching Family History in the Polish Archives

By Prof. Jonathan Shea

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 1 p.m.

Chicopee Public Library

This presentation will examine the record keeping practices in all three partitions and show frequently encountered formats of sample vital records of birth, death and marriage. Additional record types will also be discussed such as parish censuses, military draft lists, inventories, cemetery research, and others. Polish websites which contain indexes and digitized records will also be presented. The location of archival materials and access policies to archival collections will be discussed as well.

pgsma.org

413-584-0039



Update to Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 by Molly Rogers (April 6, 2017)

American Ancestors Data Base News (NEGHS) has added six new sketches to Western Massachusetts Families in 1790. This database focuses on families listed in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire counties, an area which includes parts of modern Franklin and Hampden counties as well. Sketches are submitted by NEHGS researchers and members and edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG.

If you are particularly interested in this area of research, you may want to consult one of our newest publications--the 3rd volume of [Western Massachusetts Families in 1790!](#)

The following sketches are new to this update:

[Martin Chamberlin \(Dalton\)](#)

[Amasa Cranson \(Ashfield\)](#)

[Elisha Mack \(Montague\)](#) (Elisha Mack may be of special interest to LDS genealogists--he was the brother of the grandfather of Joseph Smith.)

[Abner Phillips \(Ashfield\)](#)

[Lemuel Phillips \(Ashfield\)](#)

[Philip Phillips \(Ashfield\)](#)

[John Shattuck \(Conway\)](#)

Please note: *This database is available to Individual-level and above NEHGS members only. [Consider membership](#) .*

Database Tip: On the transcript page, click the plus sign next to any person's name. You can download a PDF of the entire sketch rather than having to download each page image separately.

Western Mass Roots Events Website: Click [here](#) to view a current listing of recurring regional genealogical activities on our website, sorted by day of the week.

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***For more information regarding the following, please click on the web addresses. You may have to hold down your "Control (Ctrl)" key and click in order to follow the link:***

**1. Mission Statement:**

<http://wmarootsevents.wordpress.com/mission-statement/>

**2. Submission Requirements:**

<http://wmarootsevents.wordpress.com/events/submit-an-event/>

**3. Polish Genealogy Terms**

<http://wmarootsevents.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/polishtoenglishgenealogyterms.pdf>

**4. Foreign to English Names:**

<http://wmarootsevents.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/givennames-list.pdf>

*The Deadline for submission for the June Newsletter is May 24, 2017. Thank you.*



*HAPPY SEARCHING!*