

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

February 1, 2019 - Volume 6 No 2

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***April 3-6, 2019, Wednesday - Saturday: The 15th New England Regional Genealogical Conference, presents Family - A Link to The Past and a Bridge to The Future.***

DoubleTree by Hilton Manchester Downtown Hotel, 700 Elm Street, Manchester, NH 03101. Hotel Phone: 603-625-1000

For more information on the conference - The fifth 2019 New England Regional Genealogical Conference E-zine is now available at <http://www.nergc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/NERGC-2019-E-zine-5.pdf>. It includes Conference registration information, important hotel updates, and much more.

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Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053 (860) 229-8873 www.pgsctne.org

The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut was originally established to actively promote the research of Polish-American families in the Connecticut River Valley and to unite all persons interested in genealogy. Realizing that there is, at present, no Polish genealogical society which concentrates on our nearby "neighbors" in other parts of New England nor in the middle Atlantic states of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Delaware, we have broadened our scope and changed our name to the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc.

We have been busy gathering parish and community histories, recording Polish cemetery inscriptions and amassing all sorts of data from this area which will assist Polish-Americans in all of the northeastern states to recapture their Polish past.

Question for the Month: I have observed in various articles in both genealogical and non-genealogical periodicals conflicting statements regarding surnames ending in "ski" claiming that names of this type indicate noble status. Can you please comment?

Answer: The fact that your name ends in “ski” does not by any means indicate that you are irrefutably descended from nobility. While many noble families bore these type of surnames, they later became widespread among the peasantry. We have observed in parish registers dating from the beginning decades of the nineteenth century that priests added “ski” to peasant names to make them “sound nicer”. Our ancestors however had no idea that the priest was recording their names in this fashion because most were illiterate and it would never enter into their head to go check what the priest wrote in a baptismal register.

The peasants did not use these embellished names in their daily lives. Further along in the century names in the registers frequently reverted back to their original forms, although some families retained the surnames containing “ski”. So you may find in the course of your research that your surname appears in different forms.

To illustrate this here are some examples from a parish that our society has indexed. Names which appeared as Golik, Duchnik, Klim, Zając and Wojtasz were transformed by the record keeper into Golikowski, Duchnowski, Klimaszewski, Zajączkowski and Wojtaszewski respectively. NONE of these families were of noble origin. Essentially the ski suffix is simply a linguistic mechanism which changes a noun into an adjective. This can be clearly seen in the names of Poland’s current provinces which are all adjectives derived from nouns (i.e. zielonogórski from the city of Zielona Góra or podlaski from the noun Podlasie).

The name of the Polish language newspaper in Chicago (Dziennik Chicagoski) also clearly illustrates this linguistic phenomenon. Chicagoski is simply the adjectival form of Chicago. So your ski name didn’t turn you into a noble. It turned you into an adjective.

And while on the subject of “fake news”, the next time you hear someone state “My grandfather’s name got changed at Ellis Island” immediately tell them NO! NO! NO! This is yet another false statement that has been circulating for decades. Names were NOT changed at Ellis Island by immigration officials. They were changed, either forcibly or voluntarily long AFTER your ancestor took his or her first steps into a new world.



One set of identical twins, two different ancestry profiles...

At least that’s the suggestion from one of the world’s largest ancestry DNA testing companies.

Last spring, Marketplace host Charlsie Agro and her twin sister, Carly, bought home kits from AncestryDNA, MyHeritage, 23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA and Living DNA, and mailed samples of their DNA to each company for analysis. Despite having virtually identical DNA, the twins did not receive matching results from any of the companies.

In most cases, the results from the same company traced each sister’s ancestry to the same parts of the world — albeit by varying percentages. But the results from California-based **23andMe** seemed to suggest each twin had unique twists in their ancestry composition.

[For more info on this phenomenon, check out the following websites:](#)

<https://dnatesting.com/the-fascinating-trouble-with-twins-and-dna-paternity-tests/>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/dna-ancestry-kits-twins-marketplace-1.4980976>

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### [New posts on American Ancestors Database News:](#)

*American Ancestors by New England Historic Genealogical Society*

#### [The New Register is Here - Volume 172, Fall 2018](#)

**The Fall 2018 issue of the Register**, America's premier genealogical journal, is now available online *for NEHGS members*. (Log in to read the digital version. If you receive the Register in print, you should receive it soon if you have not received it already.)

The lead article shows how the rare first name of William Godfrey's first wife led to the registers of the London parish where they were living before emigration to New England. Other articles treat George Harris of Salem, Massachusetts, and John Bentley of Rhode Island and New York. Continued in this issue are the English Overton family and its many New England descendants and Updates for some Great Migration immigrants. Concluded in this issue are Joseph Mason of Cummington and Plainfield, Massachusetts, and Joel S. Thrall of Vermont, Quebec, and Ohio. The annual feature, Additions and Corrections, are to various articles published from 2001 to 2018.

Concluded in this issue is John Leavitt of Rockingham County, New Hampshire.

*Visit the Register online to read the new issue and to browse past issues.*

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[New Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 sketches](#)

Today we've added eight new sketches to **Western Massachusetts Families in 1790**. This study project focuses on heads of families enumerated in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire counties, also including modern Franklin and Hampden counties. This current update rounds out the collection of sketches for Volume 4, which will be published in the spring. Sketches for this project are submitted to editor Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG by NEHGS members and other interested researchers. If you are interested in submitting a sketch for Volume 5, please review our [Submission Guidelines](#). The new sketches are listed below:

[Andrew Walton \(Chester\)](#)

[Job Seward \(West Stockbridge\)](#)

[Paul Rawson \(New Marlborough\)](#)

[Robert Hull \(Granville\)](#)

[Parker Dole \(Shelburne\)](#)

[Isaac Dole \(Shelburne\)](#)

[William Congdon \(Washington\)](#)

[Ebenezer Burbank \(Springfield\)](#)

By ***Molly Rogers***

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790: new sketches

Today we've added three new sketches to **Western Massachusetts Families in 1790** from Dalton, MA. Dalton is named for Tristram Dalton (see portrait above), who was a U.S. senator from Massachusetts from 1789-1791. This study project focuses on heads of families enumerated in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire counties, also including modern Franklin and Hampden counties. Sketches for this project are submitted to editor Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG by NEHGS members and other interested researchers.

If you are interested in submitting a sketch for Volume 5, please review our [Submission Guidelines](#). The new sketches are listed below:

[Justin Cole \(Dalton\)](#)

[Abraham Porter \(Dalton\)](#)

[Andrew Spaford \(Dalton\)](#)

By ***Molly Rogers***

New: Franklin County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1812-1915

Today we're announcing a new database, [Franklin County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1812-1915](#). This database was created from digital images and index contributed to NEHGS by the [Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Archives](#). The collection contains the records of 18,089 Franklin County probate cases filed between 1812 and 1915. The probate cases include wills, guardianships, administrations, and various other types of probate records. The cases range in length from one to over 530 pages, with a total of over 440,600 individual file papers.

Franklin County was created in 1811 from the northern third of Hampshire County. Earlier probate records in the area may be searched in our companion database, [Hampshire County, MA: Probate File Papers, 1660-1889](#).

To learn more about how to navigate this collection, be sure to watch our short video, [How to Search Massachusetts Probate File Papers](#).

By ***Molly Rogers***

[New Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784 sketches from Sharon, VT](#)

Today we're announcing five new sketches in Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784. These sketches feature heads of families from Sharon, Vermont. Sharon was established in 1761, named for Sharon, Connecticut. In 1805 it became the birthplace of Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of the Latter Day Saints. Scott Andrew Bartley's study project tracks heads of families who lived in Vermont prior to the Revolutionary War. His sketches so far have focused on Windham and Windsor counties.

The new sketches are listed below:

[Howe, Jonathan \(Sharon\)](#)

[Hutchins, Silas \(Sharon\)](#)

[Marsh, Isaac \(Sharon\)](#)

[Russell, Josiah \(Sharon\)](#)

[Spaulding, Reuben \(Sharon\)](#)

By [Molly Rogers](#)

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## [Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784: new sketches and updates from Strafford and Hartford](#)

Today we've added 4 new sketches to [Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784](#), from Strafford, Vermont. We've also updated eight other sketches from Strafford and Hartford, Vermont. Scott Andrew Bartley's study project tracks heads of families who lived in Vermont prior to the Revolutionary War. The new sketches are listed below:

[Parish, Ezekiel \(Strafford\)](#)

[Pennock, James \(Strafford\)](#)

[Pennock, Jesse \(Strafford\)](#)

[Pennock, Samuel \(Strafford\)](#)

The following sketches were updated:

Baldwin, Isaac (Strafford)

Chamberlain, William (Strafford)

Gillett, John (Hartford)

Marsh, Abel (Hartford)

Marsh, Eliphalet (Hartford)

Pennock, Aaron (Strafford)

Pinneo, Daniel (Hartford)

Strong, Benajah (Hartford)

By [Molly Rogers](#)

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2019 Sundance Film Festival - Ancestry & SundanceTV Present: Railroad Ties Ancestry (Full Film).

To view this 25-minute film, go on You Tube and search for "Ancestry Railroad Ties". This tells an interesting story of slavery and The Underground Railroad in New York.

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1. Mission Statement:

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

2. Submission Requirements:

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

3. Polish Genealogy Terms

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

4. Foreign to English Names:

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

**The Deadline for submission for the March 2019 Newsletter is February 23, 2019.**

**Thank You!**



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***