

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

September 1, 2015 - Volume 02 Number 09

- Our new Web Master has been busy behind the scenes of our monthly newsletter!
- You can now *Visit our New Website at:* www.wmarootsevents.wordpress.com in order to see what is going on in the "Western Mass World of Genealogy".
- *You can also Like Us on our new* [Facebook page](#). You can visit to take part in discussions, make comments or ask questions.
- Interested in more information on Steve Morse's visit to Elms College on October 10th? Connect to a page devoted to the discussion points and events to take place:
<http://wmarootsevents.wordpress.com/events/steve-morse-at-elms-college/>

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*Are you interested in the recent controversy surrounding actor Ben Affleck's appearance on the PBS genealogy program, Finding Your Roots? We've opened discussion threads on both our [website](#) and our [Facebook page](#) if you would like to comment or ask a question.*

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• **August 31, 2015** – Fall semester 2015 Polish language Courses at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain:

Polish 111 Beginning Polish. Meets Tuesday and Thursday, 6:55-7:10

Polish125 Intermediate Polish. Meets Tuesday and Thursday, 7:20-8:35

Note: Persons aged 62 and over DO NOT PAY TUITION only a small administrative fee. It is also possible to audit the classes and not receive a grade or credits. Whether you take the class for credit or not the administrative fee still applies. The Fall semester begins August 31. Register as early as possible to avoid class cancellations. Not sure what level is appropriate for you? Contact the professor at <[sheaj@ccsu.edu](mailto:sheaj@ccsu.edu)>.

• "I have it but I can't read it." Many researchers, after receiving vital records from Poland, realize that they can't read them. An upcoming series of lectures will help get you started on the road to comprehension. Presentations on how to read documents in Polish, Russian, and Latin will be held at the **Polish American Foundation 27 Grove Hill, New Britain, Connecticut**. There is a modest charge to attend the presentations and pre-registration is requested. Please contact Dorena at <[drw726@aol.com](mailto:drw726@aol.com)> for further information. The dates are as follows:

**September 12, 2015 – Polish • October 17, 2015 – Russian • November 7, 2015 – Latin.**

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September 2, 2015 Wednesday (6:00pm -8:00 pm): The Western Mass Genealogical Society, Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA will present Pauline Cusson, board member of the American-Canadian Genealogical Society will discuss *French Canadian Research: Bridging the Gap*. Pauline specializes in French-Canadian, Franco-American and Acadian genealogy.

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**September 3 – December 3, 2015 Thursdays** (6:50pm – 8:45pm) taught by Kathleen Gilhooly

**September 8 – December 8, 2015 Tuesdays** (6:50pm – 8:45 pm) taught by Chip Costello:

Irish Language Classes, Irish Cultural Center, Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013, (413-265-2537). This class focuses on all four language skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening in an interactive, enjoyable experience for those with little or no prior study of the language. There are two class options. *Cost is \$150; ICC members receive a \$50 discount.*

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September: 8, 15, 22, & 29, Tuesdays (10:00am – 12:00pm): Basic Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal, professional genealogist. Richmond Free Library, 2821 State Road, Richmond, MA 012545, (413) 698-3834. 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 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.

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**September 8 - October 13, 2015 Tuesday through** (6:00-7:00 pm): "INTRODUCTION (and MORE!) To GENEALOGY and FAMILY RESEARCH". We begin each one hour session at 6:00 pm. After each session there will be Q&A time of about 30-45 minutes. East Longmeadow Public Library, 60 Center Square #2, East Longmeadow, MA 01028. Registration encouraged at 413-525-5432.ext. 8. Sign up for an informative, **6 session program** of learning the ins and outs of family research. We begin at the beginning: What are you looking for? How do I find it? What do I do with the information after I have it? What is and isn't on the internet. Census records, birth marriage and death records, city directories, military pension records, immigration, naturalization. The dangers of public family trees. You will be given access to dozens of research assistance websites, Facebook pages, blogs and documents.

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September 16, 2015 Wednesday (at 6:00 pm): "POLISH FAMILY RESEARCH – OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES" South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA 01075 Learn about the basics of researching your Polish ancestors: Resources, documents, how to handle "brick walls," how to expand and verify the information you may already have. You will be given access to dozens of research assistance websites, Facebook pages, blogs and documents. Registration encouraged. Please contact the South Hadley Public Library at 413-538-5045.

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**September 17-19, 2015, Thursday – Saturday:** New York State Family History Conference will be held at Syracuse/Liverpool Holiday Inn, 441 Electronics Parkway, Liverpool, NY, This is a regional conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. For a list of speakers and cost of registration, visit [www.nysfhc.org/index.html](http://www.nysfhc.org/index.html) .

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September 20, 2015, Sunday (1:00pm – 4pm) The Polish Genealogical Society of MA and the Lowell Polish Cultural Committee invite you to Planting and Growing Your Polish Family Tree. To be held at Dom Polski/ Polish National Home, 10 Coburn Street, Lowell, MA 01850. There will be free translation of short documents as well as PGsMA volunteers to answer questions. For more information

Featured speakers: Alan Doyle Horbal "Beginning Your Genealogy"
Sara Campbell "Overlooked Municipal Records"
For more information visit www.PGSMA.org

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**September 21, 2015 - October 19, 2015 Monday** (6:00-7:00 pm): "PULLING THE PEOPLE OUT OF THE PAPERWORK": Hitchcock Free Academy, 2 Brookfield Road, Brimfield, MA 01010. This is a 4-session, comprehensive program to assist those with interest in delving deeper into their family histories. Each session is immediately followed by a 30 – 45 minute Q&A period. You will be given access to dozens of research assistance websites, Facebook pages, blogs and documents. Your research questions will be answered and we will work on breaking through your brick walls. Establish goals, find the right paths to the answers and what to do with the data you collect. You will be given access to dozens of research assistance websites, Facebook pages, blogs and documents. For availability, please contact at 413-245-9977 to register. *Hitchcock Free Academy charges \$40 for residents of Brimfield, Holland, Sturbridge and Wales. All others pay \$45.*

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September 22, 2015, Tuesday (7:00 pm – 9 pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. From Sicily to America: a daughter's determination to unravel the mysteries surrounding her father's life, with Virginia Gerante Carter as the speaker. Members free. *Guest welcome for a \$2.00 donation.*

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**September 30, 2015 – October 29, 2015 Monday** (6:00pm - 8:00 pm) four sessions (*Skips October 7*): "The ABC's of Family Research", Springfield Library and Museums, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103. Starting from scratch? Started but not sure how to get the research going again? Simple steps to organize your research and track your results. Your children and later descendants will thank you many generations from today! Includes access to hundreds of documents, websites, Facebook pages, charts and other useful information. For information, please contact Sarah Gogal 413-263-6800 ext. 377. *The Springfield library charges \$80 for members of the Springfield Library Association and \$100 for non-members.*

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October 2, 3, 2015 (Saturday PM & Sunday All Day): The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast will hold its Annual Conference at Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley Street, New Britain, CT. Speakers will cover many subjects that will help you understand the many ways to conduct your Polish genealogical research. Some of the subjects covered in lectures include:

- Digital News: Utilizing Online Newspapers in Your Genealogy Research
- Notary Records in Poland (with Emphasis on the Notary Records of the 19th Century)
- *For more information, visit the Society's Conference website:*
<http://www.pgsctne.org/ConferencesEvents.aspx>

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**October 6 – 27, 2015 Four Tuesdays** (10:00 am – 12:00 pm): "Pulling the Person out of the Paperwork: More Than Just Names and Dates!" Springfield Library and Museums, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield, MA 01103 Brick walls? Too many ancestors with the same name? Branching outside the United States? Canadian research? United Kingdom? Northern Ireland? Finding your ancestors very often means finding their occupations, their neighbors, their immigration records...in other words, their

stories. *The Springfield library charges \$80 for members of the Springfield Library Association and \$100 for non-members.*



**October 8, 2015 Thursday** (6:30 pm - 7:30 followed by Q&A): “Search Strategies You Never Thought Of...Search Sites You Never Heard Of.” Morse Institute Library, 14 E Central Street, Natick, MA 01760. It’s something we all face: ruts!! By our very nature, we always seem to settle into a certain “modus operandi” which worked for us in the past. That’s the bad news; the good news is that every month, every week and indeed, every day, there are new collections, new websites, Facebook pages, new blogs...literally hundreds of new nooks and crannies where we need to point our cursors. All this with the caveat that “It’s not all on the internet” and Abraham Lincoln’s famous words: “If it’s on the internet, it’s true!” So what are we looking for, how can we find it and what do we do with it once it’s on our screens? Please register for planning purposes with Karol Bartlett, Morse Institute 508-647-6520



**October 10, 2015, Saturday** (8:30am -4pm): The Polish Genealogical Society of MA will present A Day of Research Tools and Tips with Steve Morse. Mr. Morse is the creator of his One-Step Data Base at [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org). The presentation will be held at Elms College, Mary Dooley College Center, 291Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. Pre-Registration is required for this event.

*Stephen Morse, PhD received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society, first-ever Excellence Award from the Association of Professional Genealogists and two awards from Polish genealogical societies.*

For more information and to register visit [www.pgsm.org](http://www.pgsm.org). *Admission is \$10 for current members and \$20 for non-members.*



**October 27, 2015, Tuesday** (7:00pm – 9:00pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. I Found My Village, Now What? Locating vital records in Poland using online resources, with Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz as speaker. Members free. Guest welcome for a **\$2.00** donation.



**October 25 - November 1, 2015:** NEHGS Research Tours & Program - Salt Lake City, Utah

NEHGS offers a wide range of guided research tours for family history researchers at all skill levels. Research tours include intensive days devoted to research at libraries, archives, and historical institutions, one-on-one consultations, presentations by NEHGS genealogists and local experts, and special activities



**October 15 - 17, 2015:** Boston Research Programs ~ Research Getaway

The NEHGS research library in Boston holds millions of documents, manuscripts, records, books, microfilms, photographs, artifacts, electronic resources, and other items that preserve and reveal our history. Travel to our headquarters and explore our treasures with personalized assistance and

guidance from our expert staff. For pricing, availability or to register visit [AmericanAncestors.org/events](http://AmericanAncestors.org/events) or contact: NEHGS Education, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116 (617) 226-1226 or (toll free) (888) 286-3447

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November 17, 2015, Tuesday (7:00pm – 9:00pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. Creation of Quabbin Reservoir with J.R. Greene as speaker. Members free. Guest welcome for a **\$2.00** donation.

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**Reoccurring genealogical activities by weekday:**

**Each Monday** (11:30am – 1:45pm): Mondays with MYRT online at Google+ Hangout. An international panel of up to ten professional genealogists discuss genealogical issues, websites, blogs, seminars, webinars, books, etc. around the world. Watch at home on your computer! See previous broadcasts at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Participate by following Dear MYRT's "community" at Google+ where you can ask questions and offer opinions or suggestions. For more information, contact Dave Robison at [dave@oldbones.info](mailto:dave@oldbones.info).

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Fourth Monday of each month: (7:00pm - 9:00pm): Shrewsbury Genealogy Club meeting. Sharing, self-help, occasional guest speakers, infrequent field trips. Meets at the Temporary Shrewsbury Public Library Site, 214 Lake Street, Shrewsbury, MA 01545. Call Library (508) 841-0081 or Club Master, George C. Brown, (508) 872-9142 for details or directions. All Shrewsbury Genealogy Club events are free of charge.

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**Each Tuesday** (10:00am - 4:00 pm) Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013: 413-594-1800 ext. 3 Open Genealogy Lab. Practice your genealogy research skills – a volunteer genealogist will be available to help you. *Walk in*.

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Fourth Tuesday (7:00 pm – 9:00 pm) Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society meet at the American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. Membership is open to all who are interested in family history. Guest welcome for a **\$2.00** donation.

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**Third Tuesday** of every month (6:30-8pm): Dickinson Library, Main St., Northfield, MA 01360 - Walk in Genealogy gathering. Casual sharing of research and ideas. Meets in Local History room. Access to all of the genealogy related materials. People available with laptops who can access Ancestry.com, Heritage Quest, New England Historical and Genealogical Society, etc.

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First Wednesday of every month (6:00 pm – 8:00pm): Monthly meetings of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

For more information email WestMass@gmail.com.

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**Third Wednesday** of every month (10am-12pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions. Crandall Library, 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY, 12801 - Call (518) 792-6508, ext. 239 for more details. Former NARA-Pittsfield volunteer and professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty\*.

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Final Wednesday of every month (11am-2pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions. Irish American Heritage Museum, 370 Broadway, Albany, NY, 12207 - Call (518) 427-1916 for more details. Former NARA-Pittsfield volunteer and professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty. You can also view Lisa's upcoming events at her website: www.upstatenygenealogy.com

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**Each Thursday**, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm: Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front St., Chicopee, MA 01013: 413-594-1800 ext. 3 OPEN GENEALOGY LAB -- *when there are no genealogy classes*. Practice your genealogy research skills – a volunteer genealogist will be available to help you. *Walk in*.

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First Thursday of every month (10am-1pm) ~ Professional assistance with your genealogy questions 10:00am-11:00am by appointment only. 11:00am – 12:00pm Drop in. 12:00pm-1:00pm: Discussion group. Clifton Park Library, 475 Moe Rd., Clifton Park, NY 12065 - Call (518) 371-8622 for more details. Former NARA-Pittsfield volunteer and professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty*.

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**First Thursday** of every month (6pm-8pm): Carnegie Library 1, Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 Walk in Genealogy Gathering every month. Casual sharing of research. No library hours for public so we have use of the computers and history resources.

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Third and fourth Thursday September through the following June, (6pm – 8 pm): Genealogy Coaching Labs. Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001. Free to members of the Western Massachusetts Genealogical Society; Non-members \$10.00 per session. On-line and off-line guidance and discussion by professional genealogists.

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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 enter 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 in the October Newsletter is September 23, 2015. Thank you***



***Happy Searching!***