

# WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

January 1, 2016 - Volume 03 Number 01

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

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**Volunteers needed:** The Western Massachusetts Roots Events will be expanding the services provided to you by way of adding more information to its website. If you are interested in helping us with research and/or entering information on spreadsheets, please contact us at [wmarootsevents@gmail.com](mailto:wmarootsevents@gmail.com). Thank you, in advance. We know you will enjoy being a part of our team.

**Alan Doyle Horbal, Publisher**

**Western Massachusetts Roots Events Newsletter**

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## MORE CELEBRITY NEWS

### Maher, O'Reilly share roots

The PBS series "Finding Your Roots" has discovered that political television's polar opposite Bills — **Maher** and **O'Reilly** — are distant cousins. The revelation shocks the two men as it seems to tickle the show's host, Harvard University professor **Henry Louis Gates Jr.** The series, which had been put on hold following revelations that actor **Ben Af-**



**fleck** sought to quash news that he had a slave-owning ancestor, begins its third season Jan. 5. The Maher-O'Reilly episode airs a week later. The pugnacious Fox News Channel host (above right) is shown with the series-prepared book of his ancestry and is told he has a tie to a well-known personality. He turns a page to see a picture of Maher, the liberal host of HBO's "Real Time." "Oh, geez," he said. "You're going to have to put him on 24-hour medical watch. This ruins his career." Maher is more measured. "It just shows you what a great place America is," he said. "Because we're about as opposite as you can possibly get." DNA testing found that the two share a common male ancestor from Kingdom of Breifne in Ireland, which was in place from the 13th through the 17th centuries. (AP)

**BOSTON GLOBE ~ DECEMBER 17, 2015**

**January 7, 2016 Thursday (every 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs)** (11:00 am – 1:00 pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions 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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**January 13, 2016 Wednesday (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions. Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY – call (518) 792-6508 for more details. Former NARA-Pittsfield volunteer and professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty\*.

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**January 20, 2016 Wednesday (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed)** (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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**January 26, 2016 Tuesday** (7:00pm – 9:00pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. A View from the Gardner Scene with Mike Richard as speaker. Members free. Guest welcome for a **\$2.00** donation.

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**January 27, 2016 Wednesday (every last Wed)** (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\*.

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**Feb 3 ,9 ,16 & 23, 2016 Tuesdays** (10:00 am – 12:00 pm) Basic Genealogy, North Adams Public Library, 74 Church Street, North Adams, Massachusetts 01247 Phone: 413-662-3133 Alan Doyle Horbal, Genealogist, will show students how to conduct genealogical research. He will present an introduction to genealogy along with helpful hints for conducting your research. You will learn how to use the U.S. Census from 1790-1940 and the Ellis Island website to find relatives coming from Europe. Alan will also demonstrate international research for Canada, Poland, Galicia and England. You must be computer literate and have an e-mail address. Sign up is required by calling the library. This course is progressive – *you must take all four classes.*

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**February 4, 2016 Thursday (every 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs)** (11:00 am – 1:00 pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions 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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**February 10, 2016 Wednesday (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed)** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm): Professional assistance with your genealogy questions. Guilderland Public Library, 2228 Western Avenue, Guilderland, NY – call (518) 792-6508 for more details. Former NARA-Pittsfield volunteer and professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty\*.

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**February 17, 2016 Wednesday (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed)** (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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**February 23, 2016 Tuesday** (7:00pm – 9:00pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, American Legion Post #129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. Researching Maritime Ancestors in the National Archives with Jake Fletcher as speaker. Members free. Guest welcome for a **\$2.00** donation.

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**February 24, 2016 Wednesday (every final Wed)** (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\*.

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**March 1, 2016 ~ Monday** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm): Irish Genealogy. Clifton Park Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065 – Call (518) 371-8622 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](http://www.upstatenygenealogy.com)

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**March 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2016 Tuesdays** (10:00 am – 12:00 pm): Basic Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal, professional genealogist. Berkshire Athenaeum, Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield MA 01201. 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 or use a library one. Register at [Pittsfieldlibrary.org](http://Pittsfieldlibrary.org) by clicking on Calendar of Events or call (413) 499-9480 ext. 6. Class is limited to 12 with a waiting list after that.

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**February 9, 23, March 1, 8 Tuesdays** Sessions are 2 hours each Pulling the person out of the paperwork – More than just names and dates. Museum School at the Springfield Museums, 21 Edwards Street, Springfield MA 01103. For rates and registration contact Sarah Gogal (413) 263-6800 ext. 377. **Members \$85.00 Non Members \$100.00**

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**April 26-29, 2017 New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC 2017):** Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past. MassMutual Convention Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA 01103.  
We need volunteers to assist us in the planning and execution of this magnificent event that will be coming to Springfield, MA in 2017. Please contact Dave Robison [dave@oldbones.com](mailto:dave@oldbones.com) if you would

like to help. For more information about the conference visit the NERGC website at <http://www.nergc.org/>

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**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 in the February Newsletter is January 23, 2015. Thank you.***

***Happy Searching!***

