

# WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

May 1, 2016 - Volume 03 Number 05

~~~~~

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

Like Us on our [Facebook Page](#)

---

**May 1, 2016, Sunday** (2:00 pm): The Polish Genealogy Society of Massachusetts and the Jewish Genealogy Society of Boston Joint Meeting will present **Books of Residents & Other Valuable Polish Records** by Fay and Julian Bussgang at the Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.

There are many valuable genealogical resources in Poland beyond vital records, some of which are now available online. The most informative are Books of Residents (Księgi Ludności). These are 19th–20th century municipal registration books that have survived for many towns. They contain detailed information about all the inhabitants in each household who had their legal residence in that community. Other useful documents include business directories, passport and I.D. applications, notary records, as well as deportation-to-Siberia records, professional and military records. Fay and Julian Bussgang will show examples of data from these sources and explain how to access them. *This talk will focus on documents that are not connected to any particular religious group but apply to all who have roots in Poland.* Admission is free, please bring a friend.

~~~~~

**May 3, 10, 17, & 24, 2016 Tuesdays** (10:00 am – 12:00 pm): Basic Hands on Genealogy, Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040, Phone: 413-420-8107. 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.

~~~~~

**May 5, 2016, Thursday** (10:00 am - 12:00 am/ OR 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm): Intro to FamilySearch.org at the Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201. FamilySearch.org is a resource for learning about your family history. FamilySearch has been actively gathering, preserving and sharing genealogical records worldwide for over 100 years. FamilySearch is a nonprofit organization sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Class instructors will be library volunteers, Janet Rogge and Angela Rifkin, along with Vera Silva. *Limited to 10 participants.*

Register online at [www.pittsfieldlibrary.org](http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org) and click on the Calendar of Events page or contact the Local History Department at 499-9480 x6. Please register for one session only. Register soon as classes fill up fast.

~~~~~

**May 7, 2016, Saturday** (8:30 am - 5:00 pm): The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England will be holding its Irish Language Immersion Day at Elms College, 291 Springfield Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. This is a unique opportunity for everyone with an interest in the language to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of this vital component of Irish culture through classes, workshops and conversation groups. The

cost is \$50 per person, \$40 for ICC members, and \$15 for college-age and under students. *Price includes* lunch and refreshments throughout the day. Please register by April 25. For more information visit our website <http://www.irishcenterwne.org/irish-language-immersion-day/>.

~~~~~

**May 12, 2016, Thursday** (10:00 am - 12:00 pm/ OR 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm): Intro to Ancestry.com at the Berkshire Athenaeum, 1 Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Ancestry.com is a commercial database created to help you discover your family history and build a family tree with the world's largest genealogy website. Search birth records, census data, obituaries and more! Class instructors will be library volunteers, Janet Rogge and Angela Rifkin, along with Vera Silva. *Limited to 10 participants.*

Register online at [www.pittsfieldlibrary.org](http://www.pittsfieldlibrary.org) and click on the Calendar of Events page or contact the Local History Department at 499-9480 x6. Please register for one session only. Register soon as classes fill up fast.

~~~~~

**May 24, 2016, Tuesday** (7:00 pm - 9:00 pm): The Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society will host Jeff Carpenter who will be discussing Understanding & Using Results of Your DNA Tests at the American Legion, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. Jeff is a genealogy enthusiast and has been a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc since 2004. Jeff became interested in DNA in 2007 when he had his own DNA tested. He has been interested in genealogy since 1984 and has spoken on genealogy DNA related topics for several area organizations.

Guests are welcome for a \$2.00 donation. For more information contact Janet Fortunato at [jeenkatt64@yahoo.com](mailto:jeenkatt64@yahoo.com)

~~~~~

**May 26 June 2, 9, 16, 2016, Thursdays** (12:15 pm – 2:15 pm) Basic Genealogy, Adams Council on Aging, Adams Visitor Center, 3 Hoosac Street, Adams, MA 01220, Phone: 413-743-8333. A team of Western Mass Roots Events members, lead by Alan Doyle Horbal, internationally know genealogist, will show students how to conduct genealogical research. They will present an introduction to genealogy along with helpful hints for conducting your research. Students will learn how to use the U.S. Census from 1790-1940 as well as 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 ACO 413-743-8333. This course is progressive – *you must take all four classes. If you have a laptop computer please bring it for sessions three and four.*

~~~~~

**June 1, 2016, Wednesday** (6:00 pm – 8 pm): The May meeting of the Western Mass Genealogical Society, Agawam Senior Center at 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA will have its meeting & election of officers followed by a Panel Discussion by Fran Malone, Dave Robison and Bruce Cortis, who will field your research questions. This with also be a virtual meeting available to the membership. For more information see [www.WestMassGen.com](http://www.WestMassGen.com).

~~~~~

**June 26, 2016, Sunday** (2:00 pm - 5:00 pm) The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts is delighted to host this free Sunday afternoon talk about Polish Immigration in Worcester County. The talk will be held at Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, 34 Ward Street, Worcester, MA 01610. The speaker is Barbara Proko, granddaughter of Polish immigrants. Over the past two decades, she has traced her ancestral Polish lines back to the 1700s, largely through microfilmed Latin, Polish, and Russian records of Roman Catholic parishes in the Lida region. After the event, volunteers will be available to talk with attendees about their research interests and the PGSMA. Short translations of Polish documents will be provided on a first come first served basis. Light refreshments will be served. Event registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/worcester-powiat-polonia-in-central-massachusetts-tickets-20492734320?aff=es2>

~~~~~

**July 6, 2016, Wednesday** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm): Western Mass Genealogical Society meeting at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA with guest presenter Margaret Rose Fortier: [Andiamo! Finding Your Italian Family.](#) For more information see [www.WestMassGen.com](http://www.WestMassGen.com).

~~~~~

**August 3, 2016, Wednesday** (6:00 pm – 8:00 pm): Western Mass Genealogical Society [Field Trip to the Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum Springfield Archives at the Springfield Museums, Springfield, MA.](#) For more information see [www.WestMassGen.com](http://www.WestMassGen.com).

~~~~~

**[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.

~~~~~

***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 June Newsletter is May 23, 2016. Thank you.](#)**

***Happy Searching!***

