

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

October 1, 2016 - Volume 03 Number 10

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**October 4, 11, 18, 25, 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 [www.Pittsfieldlibrary.org](http://www.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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October 15, 2016, Saturday (2:00 pm): The Irish Cultural Center of Western New England presents Talk and Readings by Aideen Henry at the Collegian Court Restaurant, 89 Park Street in Chicopee, MA.

Irish writer Aideen Henry will be discussing her literary works. Henry lives in Galway and is a writer and a physician. She has published short fiction and poetry. Her work has been published in literary journals in Ireland, the UK and the US.

Free and open to the public. You may purchase food and drinks at the Collegian Court during the event. Learn more: <http://www.irishcenterwne.org/>

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**October 20, 2016, Thursday** (2:00 pm & 6:30 pm): The Chicopee Public Library, Chicopee, MA and The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts, with support from the Chicopee Cultural Council, present CSI Meets Roots: Meet a Forensic Genealogist! featuring Forensic Genealogist Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD., at the Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

**(2:00 pm)** *The Database Detective, and Not Just the Facts Ma'am, Give Me the Big Picture.* This lecture is a compilation of several talks that explore how forensics can aid in genealogical research.

**(6:30 pm)** *The Secrets of Abraham Lincoln's DNA.* This lecture details fascinating discoveries from her work as the Forensic Genealogist on the Abraham Lincoln DNA Project.

Colleen is the author of three books on Forensic Genealogy and the founder of [Identifinders.com](http://Identifinders.com), (which entails the fundamentals of Forensic Genealogy). She has been involved in several high profile forensic cases. Both talks are free and open to the public, but **registration is required for each event separately** due to seating capacity. Complete lecture description and registration details by Eventbrite can be found at [www.PGSMA.org](http://www.PGSMA.org).

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October 22, 2016, Saturday, (1:45 pm - 3:00 pm **and** 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm): The Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast, Inc. and Endowed Chair of the Polish and Polish American Studies Central Connecticut State University Institute of Technology, Business and Development, will present two lectures by Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. to help you learn about forensic genealogy and the latest innovations in DNA analysis:

A Different Kind of DNA Talk - 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

Genealogy and the Six Degrees of Separation - How to Find Anyone in the World - 3:30 pm - 4:45.

Colleen Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. is an internationally recognized forensic genealogist, the founder of *Identifinders International*. As a world traveler and multi-lingual, Colleen specializes in international cases. She has appeared on international radio and television programs.

The lectures will take place at Central Connecticut State University, 100 Main Street, 3rd floor, New Britain, CT. (Please note this event is taking place at CCSU's downtown campus and not the main campus.) Registration is from 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm. **Cost is \$20.00** - Refreshments will be served.

For more information and the Registration form, please go to http://www.pgsctne.org/Fitzpatrick_Colleen_Seminar/Seminar%20flyer.aspx

If you have any questions, please email Diane Szepanski, Seminar Chair, at Szepanski3@cox.net.

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**October 22, 2016, Saturday** (9:00 am - 4:00 pm): New England Historic Genealogical Society sponsors DNA Day - Everything you need to know about genetic testing for genealogy. Presented by American Ancestors, in partnership with AncestryDNA. DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608

DNA tests can break down genealogical brick walls, connect distant cousins, unlock mysteries, and even reveal long kept family secrets. But accurately deciphering results is not without its challenges. Join experts from American Ancestors and AncestryDNA for a full-day seminar on how to interpret DNA findings and apply that knowledge to your own family history research! Special guest Bill Griffeth, co-anchor of Closing Bell on CNBC and author of the new book ***The Stranger in My Genes***, will discuss how his own genetic findings altered his sense of identity and his family tree.

Beyond lectures you will have the opportunity to chat with genealogists and DNA experts, enter to win door prizes, browse select publications, purchase DNA kits, attend website demonstrations, take advantage of special discounts, and enjoy meeting other family historians. Bill Griffeth will be available to sign copies of ***The Stranger in My Genes***.

View Agenda and Register at <https://www.americanancestors.org/education/events-and-programs>

Questions? Call 617-226-1226 or email [www.education@nehgs](mailto:www.education@nehgs)

Cost: \$50 Seminar Only; \$75 Seminar & Lunch with Bill Griffeth

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October 27, November 3, 10, 17, Thursdays (10:00 am and 1:00 pm): The Polish Center for Discovery and Learning and The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts *present* *Genealogy for Beginners* at the Polish Center for Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA. Alan Doyle Horbal will present an introduction to genealogy along with helpful hints for conducting your research. You will learn how to use the US Census from 1850-1940 and how to find your family coming in at Ellis Island and to find relatives coming from Europe and making their way in the United States. Alan will also demonstrate international research for Poland, Galicia, Canada, and England. Alan Doyle Horbal has spent over 25 years researching his Ukrainian family that originated in Bartne and doing research at the Polish State Archive in Przemysł. He has taught genealogy classes at Williams College and throughout Massachusetts and is founder and editor of the *Western Massachusetts Roots Events Newsletter*. These classes are co-sponsored by the [Polish Center for Discovery and Learning](#) and the [Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts](#). *You must be computer literate and have an email address.* Admission is free, but registration is necessary. Register for either a.m. or p.m. class by going to www.pgsma.org/events

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**October 30 - November 6, 2016, Sunday - Sunday:** Salt Lake City Research Tour

*THIS TOUR IS NOW SOLD OUT. To be added to our wait list, please contact [www.education@nehgs.org](http://www.education@nehgs.org) or call 617-226-1226.*

Experience the world's largest library for genealogy and family history as NEHGS returns to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library for our thirty-eighth annual research tour. Activities include individual consultations with NEHGS genealogists, lectures, and other special events.

Tour includes: Preparatory webinar and access to tour webpage, Seven-night hotel stay, One-on-one consultations, Lectures, Three group meals, Orientations and repository tour.

Cost: Various options beginning at \$1,650 per person double room.

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November 4 -5, 2016, Friday & Saturday: Nashi Predky 2016 Conference Research Essentials: Combining the Basics with 21st century Technology. Ukrainian Cultural Center, 135 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873. Featuring nationally known speakers: Jonathan Shea, AG; Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz; Carl Kotlarchik; Shellee Morehead, CG and Michelle Chubenko,

Cost: \$ 45.00 Early Bird registration begins June 1st. Register before October 1st for a \$10 discount!

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*How about the following article in The Boston Globe!! If you would like to weigh in with your thoughts, please go to our website. With your permission, we may publish written comments that you wish to share on the subject with readers of the WMRE Newsletter.*

*We would love to hear from you...*

# Metro

THE BOSTON GLOBE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 | BOSTONGLOBE.COM

## TV anchor's DNA test revealed 'a deep dark family secret'

When **Bill Griffeth's** cousin asked him to take a DNA test a few years ago, he never would have guessed that his life would be changed forever.

Griffeth is a TV news anchor on CNBC, and he serves as a Trustee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, so he understood why his cousin enjoyed researching their family history: He loves genealogy, too.

But nothing in his career as a veteran professional journalist or amateur genealogist prepared him for what that DNA test revealed: that his father was not his biological father.

All sorts of thoughts raced through his head: Could his mother have had an affair? No way. Perhaps the test results were wrong.

"My life wasn't altered by an act of God. Instead, it was changed by the revelation of a deep dark family secret that, like a time bomb, had been ticking my whole life," Griffeth writes in his new book, "The Stranger in My Genes," a gripping memoir that chronicles the aftermath of learning this news, his search for his biological father, and the impact it had upon him and his family.

The memoir is available in hardcover and e-book format from the New England Historic Genealogical Society's online store at [www.americanancestors.org/store](http://www.americanancestors.org/store).



**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 November Newsletter is October 24, 2015. Thank you.

Happy Searching!

