

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

November 1, 2016 - Volume 03 Number 11

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

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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](http://www.pgsma.org/events)

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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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*Here is another article on DNA (from the Berkshire Eagle) that you may find interesting. Any thoughts?*

**Alan Doyle Horbal**  
**Publisher**

10/23/2016

berkshireeagle.com

**STRANGE BUT TRUE**

## *Chimerism: Two DNA codes in one person*

By Bill Sones  
and Rich Sones, Ph.D.

**Q** What is "chimerism," and how did this rare condition almost send Lydia Fairchild to jail for surrogacy fraud?

**A** First, the back story: Fairchild was an unmarried mother of two, pregnant again, and recently separated from the children's father. When in 2002 she requested government assistance for her children, her home state of Washington requested DNA tests to verify that they were hers, and she willingly agreed, says Dan Lewis in his book, "Now I Know More." But the DNA didn't match, and the authorities concluded that she was a surrogate, keeping children for herself in order to collect welfare payments.

Despite photos from the delivery room and testimony from the delivering obstetrician, the government was unmoved. Since Fairchild was pregnant, the court ordered that her delivery be witnessed and a DNA test be given immediately afterward. Again no DNA match, again charges of a complicated con game, and prospects of untold years in prison for Fairchild.

Fortunately, her lawyers learned of another woman with a similar condition caused by the extremely rare chimerism. As Lewis quotes ABC News, "In human biology, a chimera is an organism with at least two genetically distinct types of cells, that is, someone meant to be a twin. But while in the mother's womb, two fertilized eggs fuse, becoming one fetus that carries two distinct genetic codes — two separate strands of DNA."

A pap test revealed that Fairchild did have two different sets of DNA and was declared innocent of all charges.

**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 December Newsletter is November 23, 2015. Thank you.

Happy Searching!

