

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

January 1, 2016 - Volume 04 Number 01

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

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**NEHGS New Visitor Tour ~ New England Historical Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA Wednesday, January 4 and Saturday, January 21, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

This free orientation introduces you to the resources available at the NEHGS research facility. Attendees are welcome to use our resources following the tour.

**Cost: Free, no registration necessary.**

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Building your Genealogical Skills, A Three-week Class at NEHGS, New England Historical Genealogical Society.

January 7, 14, & 21, 2017 : Saturdays (2:00-3:30 p.m.) NEHGS, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA ~ Presented by: Ann Lawthers, Genealogist at NEHGS

Take your research skills to the next level! With the sheer number of online resources at your fingertips, it's easy to become overwhelmed and form bad habits. Whether you are new to genealogy, want to refresh your skills, or learn best practices, this course will set you on the right path to getting the most out of your family history research. Topics include: how to record your findings, strategies for analyzing records, online research, and more. Each class includes skill-building exercises to help students apply their new found knowledge. **Cost: \$50** [Register here.](#) (Or Call [617-226-1226](tel:617-226-1226))

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**January 24, 2017:** Tuesday (7:00-9:00 P.M). Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society Membership meeting at the American Legion Post # 129, 22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA. Seema-Jayne Kenney will be discussing "**Immigration and Naturalization**"

The public is invited and a **\$2.00 donation** is appreciated from non-members.

**For more information contact Janet Fortunato at [queenkatt64@yahoo.com](mailto:queenkatt64@yahoo.com).**

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January 31, February 7, 14, 21, 2017: Tuesdays (10:00 am-12:00 pm): Basic Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal, professional genealogist. Berkshire Athenaeum, Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 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 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 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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Register at <https://www.rootstech.org/> today.

April 26 – 29, 2017, Wednesday – Saturday: The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference will be held at the Mass Mutual Center, 1277 Main Street, Springfield, MA. Click on links below to learn more about the agenda and to register.

NERGC 2017 Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past

REGISTRATION FOR NERGC 2017 IS NOW OPEN!

The 20-page 2017 NERGC conference brochure contains the full conference schedule, summaries of lectures, speaker biographies and information on available luncheons, banquets, research tour and special events. Register online at the link below. To register by postal mail, see page 19 of the brochure.

The 2017 NERGC conference brochure is available [here](#).

Register online [here](#).

For additional information about NERGC, visit their Web page, www.NERGC.org, their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/NERGC>, or their blog, <http://nergc.blogspot.com/>.

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*The articles that follow may be of interest to you, our Readers. Let us know what you think.*

*Best, Alan Doyle Horbal, Publisher*

**PROVIDENCE**  
**Genealogy collection offered by library**

The Providence Public Library has opened a large compilation of Rhode Island genealogical material to researchers. The library acquired the James N. Arnold Collection in November 2015 and archivists have finished processing it. The library says Arnold, who died in 1927, worked to provide accurate records related to Rhode Island history. Arnold, of Cranston, transcribed local church records, pension rolls, burial records, and town papers. The library says he published an eight-volume set on southern Rhode Island's history and the first comprehensive set of vital records for the state. When he died, the collection of research, publications, personal papers, and personal library was given to the Knight Memorial Library in Providence. The Providence library says many researchers have been eagerly waiting to access the compilation. (AP)

11/28/16 BOSTON CLUBS

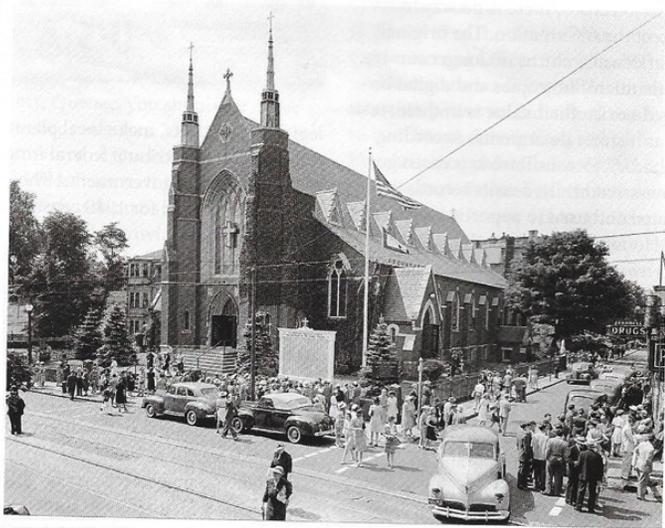
## NEHGS to digitize Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records

NEHGS is pleased to announce its partnership with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston to digitize the Archdiocese's archive of sacramental records. Over the next few years, NEHGS will scan and index these records, and make them available through a searchable database on AmericanAncestors.org. Spanning 1789 through 1900, the records include baptisms, first communions, confirmations, marriages, sick calls, deaths, and burials. The records are written in a variety of languages, including Latin, English, French, Italian, German, and Polish.

Encompassing more than 130 communities in Massachusetts, the Archdiocese of Boston is one of the largest Catholic dioceses in the country. It is also among the oldest American ecclesiastical dioceses, with the first public Catholic Mass in the Commonwealth celebrated in 1788. During the nineteenth century, Boston was a major port of entry for new Americans, especially those emigrating from majority Catholic countries like Ireland and Italy. We expect that many of our members will have ancestors whose lives are detailed in these records.

Upon completion, the database will contain an estimated 10 million searchable names—the largest genealogical collection of American Catholic records available online. This project will be a significant undertaking and we will be raising funds in support of it.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Jamaica Plain (Boston), August 22, 1943. Courtesy of Boston Public Library.



**NOTE:** “The 1940 census was the first census to identify the person who supplied a household's information to the enumerator. You can find the informant in any household by locating the X in a circle to the right of the person's

name.” - *Rhonda R McClure "Ask Our Genealogists" American Ancestor vol 17 no. 4 Winter 2016-2017.*

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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, 2017. Thank you.***



***Happy Searching!***

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