

# WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in  
MASSACHUSETTS

July 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 07

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

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**July 25, 2017, Tuesday** (7:00 pm - 9:00 pm): Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society presents Benjamin Railton's speaking on: "Remembering the Salem Witch Trials: The Limits and Possibilities of Public History" at the American Legion, Post #129, 22 Elm St, Gardner, MA.

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**August 11, 2017, Friday** (8:00 pm): The Irish Cultural Center presents The Young Dubliners in Concert at the Holyoke Elks Lodge, 250 Whitney Ave, Holyoke, MA. Doors open at 7:00 pm. Cash bar is available. The ICC invites you to an evening with the Young Dubliners, one of the most acclaimed Celtic rock's hardest working band in a rare New England appearance.

Tickets are general admission, table seating. Cost is \$18 for ICC Patrons, \$20 for general public, \$25 at the door. Tickets are available online <http://www.irishcenterwne.org/> or by calling the ICC at 413-333-4951.

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**August 31, September 7, 14, 21, 2017, Thursday** (5:15 pm - 7:00 pm): Basic Hands-on Genealogy with **Alan Doyle Horbal**, professional genealogist. Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065. 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 **all four** sessions. Questions, please phone Tenaya Bannon, Local History Librarian: 518-371-8622.

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## **New England Historical Genealogical Society (NEHGS) July Calendar of Events**

American Ancestors | 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116

**July 7, 2017, Friday** (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) Free Fun Friday Sponsored by the *Highland Street Foundation*. Explore NEHGS and your family history through special youth activities, introductory lectures, access to our resources and databases, and consultations. Fun for the whole family! Free Fun Fridays enable Massachusetts cultural venues to offer free admission to the general public. FREE, no registration necessary

**July 8 and July 29, Saturday** (10 am - 11:00 am): New Visitor Welcome Tour. This orientation and tour introduces you to the resources available at the NEHGS research facility. The tour is open to the public and attendees are welcome to use our resources following the tour. FREE, no registration necessary

**July 8, 2017, Saturday** (9:30 am - 12:00 pm): Irish Study Group: This Irish Genealogy Study Group gathers each month to talk about research problems and share solutions. Everyone is welcome and attendees are invited to stay and use the library resources afterwards. Contact Mary Ellen Grogan at megrogan@ix.netcom.com for more information. FREE, no registration necessary

**July 20, 2017, Thursday** (3:00 pm EST): Webinar: Boston Historic Catholic Records Online Presented by Jean Maguire, Library Director. Are you researching Catholic ancestors from Massachusetts or elsewhere in New England? Have you heard about the Historic Catholic Records Online project? NEHGS is digitizing and making available the sacramental records of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston from 1789 through 1900. These records, from more than 150 parishes, include baptisms, marriages, deaths, and other events in the lives of Roman Catholics in Massachusetts and beyond. *Please join us for this webinar in which we will discuss the history of Catholics in New England, what can be found in the records, the process of making them available online, and how to view and search them on AmericanAncestors.org.* FREE, please register

**July 29, 2017, Saturday** (2:00 pm -3:00 pm): Art & Architecture Tour: NEHGS has been collecting unique items of Americana and fine art since its founding in 1845. Learn the story behind items that illustrate life in early America. Tour attendees are welcome to use our resources following the tour. FREE, no registration necessary

**July 5, 12, 19, 26, and August 2, 2017, Wednesdays:** Live broadcasts Online Course: Researching Early New England. **Exclusively for NEHGS members.**

As a group, 17th-century New Englanders are arguably the most studied group on the planet. During this five-week course you will learn about the settlement of and migrations within New England, how to locate and utilize original and published records, and strategies for breaking down brick walls. Our panel of esteemed instructors includes Senior Genealogist Emeritus David Dearborn, FASG, Lead Genealogist of the Early New England Families Study Project Alicia Crane Williams, FASG; Senior Genealogist of Newbury Street Press and Editor of the Mayflower Descendant Christopher C. Child; Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert, and Director of Research Services Lindsay Fulton.

**Cost: \$125** Questions? Email [education@nehgs.org](mailto:education@nehgs.org) or call 617-226-1226

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## My Adopted Daughter's Search

BY BRENDA COTTER

I woke up very early one morning last summer and came downstairs to find my 21-year-old daughter in the middle of a Skype call, in tears. She motioned me over and whispered, "It's my birth parents."

I knew Charlotte had begun a search for them before her upcoming trip to China to celebrate her birthday, and now she had succeeded. She made room on her chair for me to join the conversation and, in a surreal moment, I looked into the faces of the two people who are the source of my beautiful oldest daughter.

I understand Charlotte's desire to know her genetic place in the world. I was adopted in the 1950s, a time when even the fact of adoption was often kept secret. From a young age, I knew I was adopted and the mystery of how I came to be created a deep curiosity.

I began researching my birth parents when I was about Charlotte's age. Through some good old-fashioned sleuthing, I was able to find and contact my birth mother and learn about my birth father, who had passed away. It would be impossible to express the wonder I felt looking into the somehow familiar face of my birth mother and seeing photos of my birth father with my front-tooth gap. Knowing where I came from made me feel whole.

Make no mistake: I wasn't looking for a new family. The man who raised me was not my "adoptive" father; he was simply my dad. It is my biological father who always gets the qualifier. My birth parents gave me a genetic heritage, nothing more and nothing less. Though there are profound losses inherent in adoption, if everything had not happened as it did, I would never have met all of the family, friends, teachers, and mentors whom I hold so dear. I would not be who I am.

For most people, their genetic heritage and their families are inextricably intertwined. It is taken for granted that you may have inherited your Uncle



Joe's huge ears, your Grandma's gift for painting, or your Mom's freckles. For adoptees, though, families and genetic roots are often cleaved. It's no wonder then that many adoptees seek to bring these important elements of who they are to light.

Having gone through the process myself gave me a lot of comfort with Charlotte's search. I understood her need to discover not only her genetic roots but also her cultural roots as a Chinese adoptee.

Yet when I sat down next to my daughter and looked into her birth parents' eyes, my peace and equanimity flew out the window. I was terrified the new connection would alter our relationship in

some as yet unknowable way.

Later, I reminded Charlotte that I always want to hear her real and true feelings, even if they might be hard or hurtful to me. She responded immediately: "I love you, Mom. That is real and true."

It's funny how life has a way of coming full circle. My daughter was reassuring me, as I had reassured my parents so many years ago. She was reminding me that the search for identity is, in all of its dimensions, one of the richest aspects of what makes us human.

*Brenda Cotter is a lawyer and a writer from Newton. Send comments to [connections@globe.com](mailto:connections@globe.com).*

**TELL YOUR STORY.** E-mail your 650-word essay on a relationship to [connections@globe.com](mailto:connections@globe.com). Please note: We do not respond to submissions we won't pursue.

Laura Krantz can be reached at [laura.krantz@globe.com](mailto:laura.krantz@globe.com). Follow her on Twitter @laurakrantz.

## Aa LEXICON

### Witch hunt

US Representative Seth Moulton had some Twitter fun in response to President Trump on Friday. Trump called the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate his campaign's Russia ties “the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history.”

Moulton's reply: “As the Representative of Salem, MA, I can confirm that this is false.”

Which got us wondering: Does the term “witch hunt” actually have anything to do with the Salem witch trials and executions of the 17th century? The use of “witch hunt” as a noun, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, didn't happen until 1885, but “witch hunting” as a verb was in active use even before Salem. Those early uses of the term were quite literal: hunting down accused witches, with the goal of torturing or killing them. The idea of a “witch hunt” in the metaphorical sense (i.e., the Department of Justice siccing Robert Mueller on Trump) is a 20th-century development.

*Boston Globe, May 19, 2017*

**American Ancestors Database News: Announcing Transcription Challenge!**

As we work on Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1798-1900, we occasionally run into some words or names that are very hard to decipher. Our volunteers and proofreaders do their very best, but occasionally we all get stumped. So we're enlisting your help.

Each week we will post some transcription challenges, with the problem names circled. Each problem name will be numbered. You can comment on the page with your idea of what the problem name should be, referencing the number of the problem name.

The Transcription Challenge page is accessible from Database News Home—you can find it on the right in the navigation bar (see the screenshot above).

by **Molly Rogers** | June 6, 2017 at 7:20 pm | Categories: Uncategorized | URL: <http://wp.me/p8jE0N-72>

Trouble clicking? Copy and paste this URL into your browser:

[tps://dbnews.americanancestors.org/2017/06/06/announcing-transcription-challenge/](https://dbnews.americanancestors.org/2017/06/06/announcing-transcription-challenge/)



***American Data Base Ancestors News:***

**St. Mary (Charlestown) Browsable Catholic Records by Molly Rogers**

We have a new addition to Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900: the records from St. Mary in Charlestown. St. Mary's was the first parish established as a separate parish from the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, in 1828. The Boston Public Library has a [Charlestown Flickr page](#) with images of St. Mary's interior, repairs to the roof, and a fire that happened in the building--scroll about three quarters of the way down the page to view these images.

***This addition consists of 10 new volumes:***

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1829-1855](#)**

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1856-1868](#)**

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1869-1887](#)**

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1887-1894](#)**

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1894-1897](#)**

**[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Baptisms 1897-1900](#)**

[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Deaths and Burials 1823-1831](#)

[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Deaths and Burials 1830-1836](#)

[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Marriages 1830-1868](#)

[St. Mary \(Charlestown\) Marriages 1869-1900](#)

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### **American Ancestors Database News**

Addition to the North American Cemetery Transcriptions by *Don LeClair* - 6/26/17

Five new volumes have been added to the North American Cemetery Transcriptions from NEHGS Manuscripts, 1642-1977 database which provide extensive coverage of Franklin County, Maine. The excellent indexing efforts of our volunteers has added over 30,000 new records and 57,000 new searchable names. The new volumes are:

- ME, Franklin: Various (MSS A 4724 Vol. 1)
- ME, Franklin: Various (MSS A 4724 Vol. 2)
- ME, Franklin: Various (MSS A 4724 Vol. 3)
- ME, Franklin: Various (MSS A 4724 Vol. 4)
- ME, Franklin: Various (MSS A 4724 Vol. 5)

Franklin county was formed from lands previously belonging to Kennebec, Oxford, and Somerset counties on May 9, 1838. It is in the west of the state, and as of the 2010 census, it was the second least populated county in Maine. Simon Titcomb, Jr., 1782-1830, is said to be the first child born to the settlers in Franklin County, and the transcription of his cemetery marker can be found here.

The index for these records includes birth and death records with full names, cemetery locations, and names of parents and spouses where available.

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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 for the August Newsletter is July 24, 2017. Thank you.***



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***