

# WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in  
MASSACHUSETTS

September 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 09

~~~~~

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

Like Us on our [Facebook Page](#)

---

**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.

~~~~~

**September 6, 2017, Wednesday** (6:00pm - 8:00pm): The Western Massachusetts Genealogy Society, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA will feature Diane Brooks-Sherry, genealogist, speaker, researcher and educator speaking on **DPLA (the Digital Public Library of America)** a fabulous source for free digitized books.

~~~~~

**September 16, 2017, Saturday** (12:00pm): Irish Cultural Center, 429 Morgan Road, West Springfield, MA, will present **JFK Centennial: The Western Mass Connection**. The lecture is on the late President John F. Kennedy's ties to and impact on Western Massachusetts, at the ICC's Irish House Restaurant and Trinity Pub. The talk will include an overview of the life of Kennedy, with specific references to his ties and visits to Western Massachusetts.

The lecture, presented by Wayne E. Phaneuf and Anthony Cignoli, is free and open to the public. *The event is co-sponsored by the Irish Cultural Center and the Springfield Museums.* Phaneuf is a noted author, local historian and Springfield Republican Executive Editor. Cignoli is a political and government affairs professional.

~~~~~

**September 26, October, 3,10,17, 2017, Tuesdays** (5:15 pm only): **Evening Genealogical Classes for Those Who Work During the Day. 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> 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.

We ask that you attend all four classes. **You must bring your own laptop** . 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. **All students must have an email account and be computer literate. Limited space, please sign up for sessions.**



**October 9, 2017, Monday, Columbus Day** (10:00 am): **October is Polish-American Heritage Month.** You are invited to visit Northampton this Columbus Day on October 9 and join the festivities to observe your Polish heritage and the role that this has played in United States history.

Polish-American Heritage Month is a national event celebrating Polish history, culture and pride. The idea was conceived in Philadelphia in 1981 by Michael Blichasz, a fourth generation Polish-American and was celebrated for five years in Pennsylvania. It focused on the contributions of less famous Polish-Americans who had made an impact on American life. In 1986 the national leadership of the Polish American Congress joined the Polish American Heritage Month Committee to expand the program nationwide. The campaign period was moved from August to October to enable school children to take part more easily and October is the month when the first Polish settlers came to Jamestown Virginia in 1607.

At about this same time, the Polish Heritage Committee was formed in Northampton with a focus on celebrating the contributions of General Casimir Pulaski, a Polish-born patriot who founded the American cavalry and assisted General George Washington's fight for victory in our own Revolutionary War.

This has grown into **a full day of celebration** coinciding with Columbus Day in October each year when local churches, civic groups, schools, marching bands, military units and Polish-American organizations hold their **annual parade on King and Main Streets of this city. The day begins with a Polish-American High Mass at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Church on King Street starting at 10:00 am and is followed by a parade through the center of the city to Pulaski Park on Main Street.**

Here, we join our elected representatives to offer tributes to our Polish-American heritage and culture with speeches, presentations and musical performances reminiscent of traditional Americana. **The festivities conclude with a light buffet in the community room of the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish on Hawley Street.**



**October 24, 2017, Tuesday** (10:00 am - 11:30 am): **Genealogy for Beginners**, a four-part class. Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013. **FREE**

## Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts

*October 28, 2017, Saturday, (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)*

### **Crossing the Ocean: Researching Family History in the Polish Archives** by Professor Jonathan Shea

**Chicopee Public Library, 449 Front Street, Chicopee, MA**

This Presentation will examine the record keeping practices in all three partitions (Austrian, Prussian and Russian) and show frequently encountered formats of sample vital records of birth, death and marriage. Additional record types will also be discussed such as parish censuses, military draft lists, inventories, and cemetery research. Polish websites which contain indexes and digitized records will also be presented. The location of archival materials and access policies to collections will be discussed as well.

Jonathan Shea is a professional genealogist specializing in Eastern Europe and Ireland. He frequently presents workshops nationwide on the topics of document translation, immigration history and European archival resources. He is the President of the Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut and the Northeast and serves as editor of its journal, Pathways and Passages.

*ALSO, on the same day following this event:*

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**Polish Center of Discovery and Learning**  
**33 South Street, Chicopee, MA**  
**3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

You are invited to visit the Host Organization of the PGSMA Genealogical Research Library for light fall-themed refreshments and to explore the rich collection of artifacts, photographs and personal items that document the proud heritage of Polish-American life.

Galleries include a reconstruction of a typical 19th Century Polish Peasant Cottage, a stunning display of regional clothing and ceremonial costumes, folk art including hand-crafted szopki krakowskie and carvings as well as our Genealogical Research Library. These are housed in an 18-room, 130 year-old building that was renovated and converted into the Polish American museum and culture center that it is today.

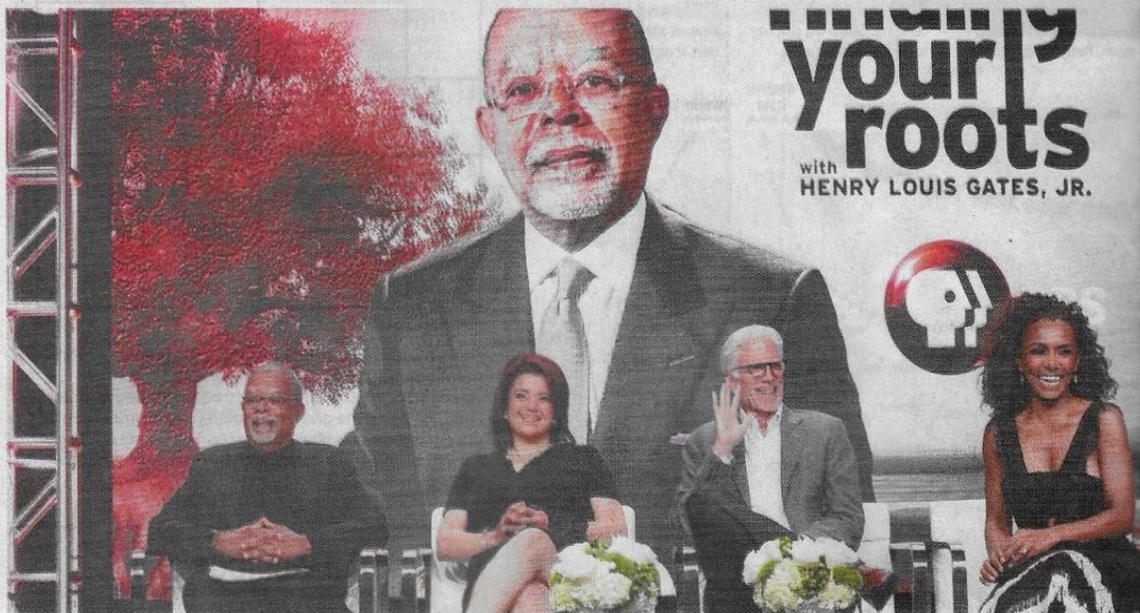
Come enjoy the Polish Center as well as our relaunched Genealogical Library in the company of your fellow members and guests.

**Admission to both events is free, but registration is required. Please go to our website, [pgsma.org](http://pgsma.org) to sign up and let us know that you will join us.**

~~~~~

# Names

MARK SHANAHAN & MEREDITH GOLDST



"Finding Your Roots" host Henry Louis Gates Jr. with Ana Navarro, Ted Danson, and Janet Mock in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## Gates shares 'Roots' revelations about Danson, David

**Henry Louis Gates Jr.**, director of the Hutchins Center for African & African American Research at Harvard, was at the Television Critics Association Press Tour in Beverly Hills on Monday to talk about his PBS show, "Finding Your Roots," which kicks off a new season in October.

Gates was joined by stars whose histories have been explored on the show, including author **Janet Mock**, political commentator **Ana Navarro**, and actor **Ted Danson**, who — according to *Deadline* — discovered that he's the descendant of a slave owner. Danson revealed that one of his great-great grandfather's slaves was **Venture Smith**, who wrote "A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Venture, a Native of Africa, but Resident above Sixty Years in the United States of America, Related by Himself." ("Finding Your Roots" was the subject of controversy in 2015 when **Ben Affleck** asked the show not to reveal that one of his own ancestors owned slaves.)

Gates also confirmed Monday that the new season of "Finding Your Roots" will feature an episode that confirms "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star **Larry David** and US Senator **Bernie Sanders** are related. According to Gates, they share some "identical DNA."

BOSTON GLOBE

## American Ancestors Database News:

### [Database Name Spring Cleaning](#)

by [Don LeClair](#)

We have been making some updates to better standardize our database names and make them more convenient for your research. Highlights include:

- **Location oriented databases** – They are consistently prefixed. For the United States and Canada, they will start with the city and state or province code, followed by the description, and ended with the year range for that collection (when possible). For databases from other countries, they will start with the country name. Examples include:
  - o Massachusetts: Jewish Cemeteries from American Jewish Historical Society, 1875-2012
  - o New Castle, NH: Record Book, 1745-1937
  - o Australia: Fortune Hunters, 1808-1857
- **Census** – National census start with the country name then year and description, and local censuses have the city and state or provide code followed by the year. Examples include:
  - o Norway: Census, 1875
  - o Massachusetts: 1855 State Census
  - o Framingham, MA: Census of the East Ward, 1837
- **Journals and Periodicals** – These start with the name of the journal and periodical. If the database contains only extracted records and dates from the journal or periodical, a description and year range is included. Examples include:
  - o Connecticut Nutmegger
  - o Albany Argus: Records of Deaths and Marriages, 1826-1828
  - o New Hampshire Gazette: Vital Records, 1756-1800

Of course, you can always browse the [Database List A-Z](#) to search the full range of databases if you don't immediately find what you are looking for. And if you have bookmarked specific pages or saved search results in your trees – fear not, these references will be automatically redirected to use the new database names.

[Don LeClair](#) | June 20, 2017 at 1:15 pm |

~~~~~

### [Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880](#)

by [Don LeClair](#)

We are very excited to announce the creation of a new searchable database of authenticated *Mayflower* Pilgrim genealogies; [Mayflower Families Fifth Generation Descendants, 1700-1880](#). The General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) has published the very well-known series of books *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations: Descendants of the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth, Mass., December 1620* which document the first generation of

descendants of the Pilgrims. Also known as the “Silver Books” this series is organized with separate volumes for each for these founding families.

Through a [newly announced partnership](#) with GSMD, American Ancestors is delivering this database with a full index of the fifth-generation descendants coupled with the page images for those people. The volumes in this collection are aligned with the volume numbers of the original series of books. Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers, we are releasing the following volumes today:

- Chilton, James and More, Richard (Vol. 15)
- Eaton, Francis (Vol. 9)
- Fuller, Edward (Vol. 4)
- Fuller, Samuel (Vol. 10)
- Howland, John (Vol. 23, p. 2)
- Priest, Degory (Vol. 8)
- Winslow, Edward (Vol. 5)

This database index includes birth, baptism, marriage, death, and deed records for these individuals, and where available, the names of parents and spouses.

[Don LeClair](#) | July 13, 2017 at 11:48 am

~~~~~

## [Western MA Families in 1790: 7 new sketches](#)

by [Molly Rogers](#)

We have added seven new sketches to **Western Massachusetts Families in 1790**. This database focuses on families listed in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire counties, an area which includes parts of modern Franklin and Hampden counties as well. Sketches are submitted by NEHGS researchers and members and edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG. To learn more about the sketch creation process, please consult this [introduction](#) to the project. The following sketches comprise this update:

[Caleb Barton \(Lanesborough\)](#)

[Joseph Blodgett \(Greenwich\)](#)

[Elijah Hollis \(Lanesborough\)](#)

[Gideon Hull \(Granville\)](#)

[Josiah Hunt \(Williamsburg\)](#)

[Jabez Spaulding \(Windsor\)](#)

[Jesse Spaulding \(Windsor\)](#)

Please note: *This database is available to Individual-level and above NEHGS members only.*

[Consider membership.](#)

[Molly Rogers](#) | July 25, 2017 at 4:22 pm

~~~~~

## [New Sketches for Western Mass. Families in 1790](#)

by [Molly Rogers](#)

Today we're announcing three new sketches in **Western Massachusetts Families in 1790**, one of our study projects by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG.

This database focuses on families listed in the 1790 census in historic Berkshire and Hampshire counties, an area which also includes parts of modern Franklin and Hampden counties.

If you are particularly interested in this area of research, you may want to consult one of our newest publications—the 3rd volume of [Western Massachusetts Families in 1790!](#)

The following sketches are new to this update:

[James Kendall \(Ludlow\)](#)

[Oliver Knox \(Blandford\)](#)

[Gad Wait \(Ashfield\)](#)

Please note: *This database is available to Individual-level and above NEHGS members only.*

[Consider membership.](#)

[Molly Rogers](#) | August 24, 2017 at 10:07

~~~~~

***The Summer 2017 issue of the Register, America's premier genealogical journal***, is now available online for NEHGS members. (Log in to read the digital version. If you receive the Register in print, you should receive it soon if you have not received it already.)

The lead article treats the Higginson family of Warwickshire and its nine descendants who came to colonial America. Other articles treat John Ramsdell of Lynn, Massachusetts (with new information on Nathaniel Turner); William Trowbridge alias Bent of Framingham, Massachusetts, and Nova Scotia; George Robinson of Watertown, Massachusetts, and his children and grandchildren; the families of Amariah and David Rockwell of Coventry, Connecticut; Blandford, Massachusetts, marriages; and New England Articles in Genealogical Journals in 2015.

Concluded in this issue is the article on William H. Johnson (1791–1863), a free man of color of Tyringham, Massachusetts, with an extensive account of his great-grandson, Edward Elcha (1885–1939), a brilliant early twentieth-century photographer. Examples of Elcha's work are on the front and back covers of the issue. Also concluded are the Wylley and Cramphorne families of Hertfordshire, and unpublished vital records of Union, Connecticut.

**Visit the Register online to read the new issue and to browse past issues.**

~~~~~

**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 October Newsletter is September 24, 2017.**

**Thank you.**



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***