

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in
MASSACHUSETTS

October 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 10

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**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.*

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October 6, 13, 20 & November 3, 2017 (10:00am - 12:00pm): Dalton Sr. Center will sponsor **Basic Hands-on Genealogy** with Alan Doyle Horbal, professional genealogist. Cathi Iuliano and Susan Clapper Bedard from the Western Massachusetts Roots Events will be assisting with the presentation. *Classes will be held at The Dalton Public Library, 462 Main Street, Dalton, MA 01226, 413-684-2000.* You will have the opportunity to see and learn how to use the following Census records 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census.

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**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 23, 2017, Monday (7:00pm – 8:30pm): Western Massachusetts Jewish Genealogical Society** will present Jewish Genealogy: Naming Patterns and the Value of Jewish Cemetery Records with Nolan Altman, VP of Jewishgen and Board Member of International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, at Congregation B'Nai Israel, Library Room, [253 Prospect St, Northampton, MA](#). Jewish memorial plaques, headstone inscriptions and burial records can provide crucial information to genealogists. Hebrew name inscriptions, based on patronymics, can link together two generations of Hebrew names unlike any other source document. This can be especially helpful when trying to link first generation American ancestors to their European families. Through photographic examples and case studies, you will see what information and symbols are found on stones and how the information can help to create your family tree. This talk is open to those of all levels who are considering researching their Jewish roots. It is **free** and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. If you have any questions, please visit [www.WMJGS.org](http://www.WMJGS.org) or email Jonathon Podolsky at [genealogy@podolsky.cc](mailto:genealogy@podolsky.cc).



**October 24, 2017, Tuesday (7:00pm -9:00pm):** Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society presents Darren Barry speaking on **How Fitchburg's Abolitionists Preserved the True Meaning of the Civil War for Seven Decades** at the American Legion, Post # 129 at [22 Elm Street, Gardner, MA](#). The public is welcome.

For more information contact: [queenkatt64@yahoo.com](mailto:queenkatt64@yahoo.com).



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



**October 28, 2017, Saturday, (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm): The Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts** presents **Crossing the Ocean: Researching Family History in the Polish Archives** by Professor Jonathan Shea at the 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 (3:00pm - 5:00pm): OPEN HOUSE** at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA  
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](#) to sign up and let us know that you will join us.



Happy Searching!  
WMRE



**October 25, November 1, 8, 15, 22, 2017, Wednesday (10:00am - 12:00pm) and, if enough sign up, (1:00pm – 3:00pm):**

**Polish Center of Discovery and Learning**, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 413-594-1800. **Basic Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal**, professional genealogist. Cathi Iuliano and Susan Clapper Bedard from the Western Massachusetts Roots Events will be assisting with the presentation. You will have the opportunity to see and learn how to use the

following Census records 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.

**There will be a combined class on November 22 at 11:00am** to discuss research in Poland. Alan has been to Poland twice while conducting his own research.

We ask that you attend all four classes. You may bring your own laptop. Laptops are not needed for the first class. To register contact the Polish Center 413-592-0001. **A donation to the Polish Center of \$15.00 for all 5 classes is recommended.**

*All students must have an email account and be computer literate. Due to a limit in size of the class, we urge you to sign up early.*

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November 14, 2017, Tuesday (10:30am): Introduction to Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal, professional genealogist. At the Berkshire Athenaeum, Pittsfield's Public Library, Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201.

General outline and instruction on how to research your family tree. Sponsored by the *First Resistance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Great Barrington, Massachusetts*. The Chapter invites the public to attend.

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**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.)

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

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American Ancestors Data Base News:

New browsable Catholic records from Dorchester and Charlestown

[St. Ann \(Dorchester\) Baptisms, 1889-1900](#)

[St. Catherine of Siena \(Charlestown\) Baptisms, 1888-1893](#)

[St. Catherine of Siena \(Charlestown\) Baptisms, 1893-1898](#)

[St. Catherine of Siena \(Charlestown\) Baptisms, 1898-1900](#)

[St. Catherine of Siena \(Charlestown\) Confirmations, 1894-1900](#)

[St. Catherine of Siena \(Charlestown\) Marriages, 1888-1900](#)

Molly Rogers | August 10, 2017

Update to Maine: Marriages by Reverend H.F.A. Patterson, 1854-1892

We have updated the index to [Maine: Marriages by Reverend H.F.A. Patterson, 1854-1892](#) to enable searches by first name and last name, spouse names, dates and locations. It is also still possible to do a Keyword search on the full transcription. Reverend Henry Fitz Allen Patterson served the Maine Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church. This database is an index of Rev. Patterson's hand-written marriage records.

Don LeClair | August 11, 2017

Sunday, September 3, 2017

SOCIAL QS

When's the wedding? It already happened

By PHILIP GALANES
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Q Due to an immigration problem, my son and his fiancée were married in a very small ceremony attended only by close family and friends.

They plan to have a large event after the bride's immigration issues are resolved.

We have not told others about the wedding because it will dull the excitement of the big event, and the bridal couple wants to stay under the radar of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Effectively, we lie when people ask. We have also been to oodles of our friends' kids' weddings, and they expect to be invited to ours. Should we continue this ruse?

—Anonymous

A Anyone can miss the forest for the trees — getting so hung up on details that the big picture slips right by.

Still, it's my duty to tell you: Wise up, silly person! You are conflating life-altering issues (ICE agents and possible deportation) with utterly insubstantial ones (wedding frippery). Perhaps you are unaware of the stakes.

People commonly believe

that green cards are handed out like Tic Tacs to immigrants who marry American citizens.

That is false. Under the best circumstances, the process is costly and time-consuming.

And if the immigrant is undocumented (or his or her visa has expired), that person must leave the United States for up to 10 years before trying again — even with an American spouse in hand.

The idea that “immigration issues” and “reciprocating your friends' kids' weddings” exist on the same pro-and-con list blows my mind, especially these days, when undocumented parents of young, American-born children are being deported. When people ask about the wedding, say, “They're aiming for a big party next year.” Your son's happiness is more important than any soiree. Don't get me wrong: I revel in first-world problems, but this socialite drama embarrasses even me.

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DNA lab techniques questioned

Defense lawyers say N.Y.'s tests old, unreliable

By Colleen Long
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Two techniques for analyzing DNA evidence that were once considered cutting edge are now under fire amid questions about their reliability, and criminal defense attorneys in New York have asked a state agency to investigate the renowned lab that once used both methods.

The New York City medical examiner's lab developed one of the techniques and became a leader in sophisticated DNA examinations partly because of its work identifying the remains of 9/11 victims.

Both techniques have been phased out in favor of new technology.

But the lab says it's used its forensic statistical tool developed in-house in 1,350 cases over the past six years and used what's called low copy number analysis in about 3,450 cases over the past 11 years.

Once New York was the only lab in the country that used the latter method.

Attorneys for the Legal Aid Society and Federal Defenders of New York asked the New York state inspector general's

office to investigate in a Sept. 1 letter.

Legal Aid Society attorney Julie Fry said low copy number analysis is "like making a copy of a copy. Eventually it's going to be faded."

"And with FST, it's a computer program. We don't have access to the code — and we can't tell if it's accurate or not. We don't know what's in the black box," she said.

The groups say the medical examiner's office recognized there were problems and quietly corrected them without notifying anyone of potential wrong matches. The lawyers also say they believe the lab manipulated data while testing the low copy number technique, and made false statements on methodology to the Commission on Forensic Sciences, which oversees labs in the state.

"The consequences of dishonest work are severe, innocent people may be wrongly convicted, and people guilty of serious crimes may go free," the attorneys wrote.

The letter was first reported by The New York Times and ProPublica.

Chief medical examiner Dr. Barbara Sampson wrote in a post published Wednesday on the website Medium that the two methods were discarded to meet changing FBI requirements and to reflect new, bet-

ter science, and were not phased out because of inaccurate results.

"Each technique has been intensively reviewed and approved for use in casework by the state-established oversight agency, including a panel of distinguished scientific experts, the DNA subcommittee of the New York State Commission on Forensic Science," she wrote.

The medical examiner's office operates independently from prosecutors or defense attorneys and the forensic lab does work for both sides. The lab is the largest DNA crime lab in North America. It tests about 40,000 items a year in criminal cases including murder, rape, assault, and weapons possessions.

The forensic statistical tool, or FST, relies on computer software and calculates the likelihood that a suspect's DNA is present in a mixture of substances found at a crime scene.

Low copy number analysis tests for trace DNA amounts by amplifying the sample

Many prosecutors and forensic experts hail the two techniques as powerful tools that can help close cases. But critics, including the FBI, argue they are inconclusive and unreliable. There is no clear case law on the merits of the science.

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 November Newsletter is October 24, 2017.

Thank you.



HAPPY SEARCHING!