

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in
MASSACHUSETTS

November 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 11

~~~~~

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

Like Us on our [Facebook Page](#)

---

**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.

~~~~~

New posts on American Ancestors Database News:

[Update to Existing Database: Guilford, CT Death, 1883-1890](#)

We have updated an old database with new information! The new name of the database is: Guilford, CT: Deaths, 1883-1890.

To this database we have added First & Last Names, and complete dates. Previously the database only contained the year. This database includes death records for residents of Guilford, CT in the years 1883-1890. Alvin Bates Palmer kept these records during this period. In about 1880 Palmer moved his family from Cornwall to Guilford in New Haven County, where he lived the rest of his life. He is buried in the West Side Cemetery in Guilford. The original text may be accessed at the NEHGS Research Library. The call number is [Mss A 2407](#)

The database index includes, name, death date, and death location where available. We thank our volunteers for all their efforts in bringing this newly searchable data to you!

[Bianca Renzoni](#) | October 2, 2017

~~~~~

## Updates to three New England Newspapers

We have updated the indexes for three of our early databases of marriages and death notices from newspapers which were originally only searchable by keywords. For the following three index-only databases you can now search by first name and last name, spouse names, dates and locations, and you can still do a Keyword search on the original text:

- [New Canaan \[CT\] Era: Marriages and Deaths in New York State, 1868-1871](#)
- [New Hampshire: Marriage and Death Notices Published in Newspapers, 1848-1856](#)
- [Otsego County, NY: Newspaper Records, 1808-1831](#)

This update is made possible by the invaluable efforts of our team of volunteers, including; Barbara Holt, Bob Rainville, and Marie Wells. We appreciate the work of all our volunteers. If you would like to join the team please contact Bianca Renzoni, Database Services Volunteer Coordinator [bianca.renzoni@nehgs.org](mailto:bianca.renzoni@nehgs.org).

Please note: *This database is available to Individual-level and above NEHGS members only. [Consider membership](#).*

[Don LeClair](#) | October 23, 2017

~~~~~

[New sketch for Early New England Families, 1641-1700](#)

Alicia Crane William's study project, **Early New England Families, 1641-1700** focuses on immigrants to New England, using Torrey's New England Marriages as a guide.

The newest sketch in this collection features Richard Lowell. It isn't exactly clear when Richard came to Massachusetts, but he had certainly arrived by 1641/2 when his daughter was born in Newbury, MA. He had one or two wives, one of whom was named Margaret. See Williams's commentary on page six for more details on Richard Lowell's potential marriages. He had four children, one of whom, Samuel, is particularly well-documented due to disputes relating to a relationship with a woman to which he was not married. Richard died in 1682 in Newbury.

[Click here to download a complete pdf list of all Early New England Families sketches with links to each sketch.](#)

[Click here to visit our bookstore to purchase a print compilation of the first 50 sketches in the series.](#)

[Molly Rogers](#) | October 27, 2017

~~~~~

### [New sketches: Western Massachusetts Families in 1790](#)

We have added five 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. The following sketches comprise this update:

[Isaac Sanderson - Whately](#)

[Asa Sanderson - Whately](#)

[David Prince - Windsor](#)

[Asa Hall - Windsor](#)

[Josiah Wright – Pittsfield](#)

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

**[Molly Rogers](#)** | October 20, 2017

~~~~~

Between 25–30 million Americans are directly descended from passengers of the *Mayflower*—the ship that shaped America. Are you among them?

[Contact Research Services](#)

NEHGS has been helping people conduct research on their *Mayflower* lineage for more than a century! Let our Research Services staff determine whether you have *Mayflower* ancestry and then document it expertly. Already know your *Mayflower* lineage? We'll gather the supporting documentation and prepare an application, with all the required

citations, for your membership to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD). There's no better way to celebrate a *Mayflower* connection than to join the society that honors them.



Sign up for our Lineage Package today and upon the completion of your application, you'll receive a **FREE** chart from NEHGS documenting your *Mayflower* ancestry! (A \$200 value.)

Gather tips from this video by NEHGS about “How to Apply to Lineage Societies,” featuring Lindsay Fulton, Director of NEHGS Research Services. Get a step-by-step look at applying to lineage societies: the application process, tips for when you can't find vital records, and a case example from our research services team.



For more information and a free estimate, contact us at research@nehgs.org or 617-226-1233.



[New Early Vermont Settlers, 1700-1784 sketches](#)

We have 5 new sketches for **Early Vermont Settlers to 1784**. This database focuses on families that lived in Vermont prior to the end of the Revolutionary War, as identified in Donald Alan Smith's thesis "[Legacy of Dissent: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Vermont 1749 to 1784](#)" (Clark U., Ph.D., 1980).

As NEHGS prepares to publish Scott Andrew Bartley's first volume of these sketches, we welcome any corrections, especially regarding the children of the principal subjects of the sketches. Send any potential revisions to webmaster@nehgs.org for review.

In this update, the heads of families are all from Pomfret, VT. Bartholomew Durkee, whose sketch is included in this update was the first permanent settler of Pomfret, VT, who moved there with his family from Pomfret, Connecticut.

The latest new sketches are listed below:

[John Chedel \(Pomfret\)](#)

[Oliver Cheney \(Pomfret, Weathersfield\)](#)

[John W. Dana \(Pomfret\)](#)

[Penuel Deming \(Pomfret\)](#)

[Bartholomew Durkee \(Pomfret, Sheldon\)](#)

[Daniel Waldo \(Pomfret\)](#)

Please note: *This database is available to Individual-level and above NEHGS members only. [Consider membership.](#)*

[Molly Rogers](#) | August 29, 2017



[National Archives Catalog on The Panama Canal:](#)

Our colleagues in the National Declassification Center recently released new records concerning U.S. - Panama foreign relations: [The Panama Canal: Riots, Treaties, Elections, and a Little Military Madness, 1959 – 1973.](#)

This special release inspired us to develop a [transcription mission](#) based on records found in the National Archives Catalog relating to the Panama Canal.

The Archivist of the United States shared details of this release on the [AOTUS Blog](#):

2015 marked the 100th anniversary of the official celebration of the completed construction of the Panama Canal by the United States. Although the Canal was officially opened to shipping on August 15, 1914, few realize that the official celebration had to be postponed due to the start of World War I a few weeks later. The official recognition of its completed construction was not celebrated until March 1915 at the San Francisco Exposition.

To celebrate this official recognition, the [National Declassification Center \(NDC\)](#) focused on recently declassified records in our custody that celebrate what the American Society of Civil Engineers has named the Seventh Civil Engineering Wonder of the World, the Panama Canal. The majority of Americans may have heard of the Panama Canal but few may know the United States' role in its construction and maintenance, let alone the part that it played in our foreign relations with Panama. Debate continues to swirl around issues of why the U.S. turned the Canal over to Panama, Panamanian distrust of the U.S. Government in general, and the imperialistic image associated with U.S. employees that administered and lived in the Canal Zone.

We invite you to check out our [newest transcription mission](#), featuring records from this special release. The records give insight and perspective into treaty negotiations, interactions between the American Embassy and U.S. government agencies in the Canal Zone, the impact of Panamanian politics and elections on treaty negotiations, and the general unrest caused by the U.S. presence in the Canal Zone.

Learn more and view images from this project on our website: [The Panama Canal: Riots, Treaties, Elections, and a little Military Madness, 1959-1973](#)

Questions or comments? Email us at catalog@nara.gov.

~~~~~

***(Interesting Article from The Berkshire Eagle  
Below...)***

## PBS' 'FINDING YOUR ROOTS'

# Genealogy show unlocks family secrets for Carly Simon, more

*The Associated Press*

**LOS ANGELES** — If there's a bigger cheerleader for genealogy research than Henry Louis Gates Jr. it's unlikely they're nearly as well-connected.

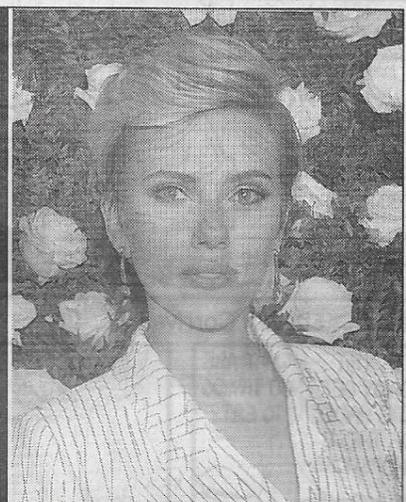
The prominent Harvard professor once again lures the famous and celebrated to PBS' "Finding Your Roots," which shares their ancestry and family stories as uncovered by impressive research and science.

In the fourth season which began Tuesday (check local listings for time), the three dozen subjects included Scarlett Johansson, Lupita Nyong'o, Sean Combs, Amy Schumer, Garrison Keillor, Aziz Ansari, filmmaker Ava DuVernay, author Ta-Nehisi Coates and Christopher Walken.

Larry David, whom Gates said he'd "bugged" for three years to go under the "Roots" microscope, finally agreed and discovered that he's related to Bernie Sanders, whom David memorably impersonated on "Saturday Night Live." Their separate family stories were on the season opener.

David said he was reluctant to have personal details disclosed on TV but was glad he finally took part, lauding the "incredible job" done by researchers.

There were other revelations that took him aback, he said. Da-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Carly Simon, left, and Scarlett Johansson are among the celebrities whose family histories are explored on PBS' "Finding Your Roots."**

vid learned of ancestors who settled in Birmingham, Ala., in the 1840s, owned two slaves and fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. A hundred years later, many aunts, uncles and cousins on the maternal side of his family died in Nazi Germany's Holocaust.

But "Finding Your Roots" is aimed at more than satisfying individual curiosity and telling an engrossing story, said Gates, an executive producer and writer as well as host of the series: It carries a message of shared origins that he

argues can benefit society.

The science of DNA proves that "there aren't four or five biologically distinct races. We're all from one race, the human race, genetically," Gates said. "And we know that genetically we all ... descended from common ancestors that left the African continent 50,000 years ago. That's a fact."

Detailing how different ethnic groups contributed to world history and how their experiences "merged or conflicted" with those of other groups is also of immense value, he said.

**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 December Newsletter is November 24, 2017.**

**Thank You!**



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***