

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in MASSACHUSETTS

December 1, 2017 - Volume 04 Number 12

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## ***New England Historical Society December Events:***

***December 1, 2017, Friday***, (12:00–1:00 PM)

New England's Hidden Histories: The Race to Rescue Our Earliest Manuscript Church Records  
*Presented by Dr. James F. Cooper* at NEHGS, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

Virtually nothing went on in colonial New England communities that didn't pass through the doors of the local church. The most important decisions this culture faced followed by debates in local church meetings. Ministers took careful notes of these affairs in their church record books. Join Dr. James F. Cooper, Director of New England's Hidden Histories to learn what information can be found in these early manuscript church records, the race to save them, and the Congregational Library's efforts to make them available to the public through digitization.

*Cost: FREE*

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December 14, 2017, Thursday (3:00–4:00 PM): *Searching Databases on AmericanAncestors.org*
Presented by Don LeClair, Associate Director of Database Search and Systems at NEHGS, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA

AmericanAncestors.org holds more than 1.4 billion searchable records with new databases and names being added each week. Join Associate Director of Database Search and Systems Don LeClair to learn more about the scope of these databases, how to leverage search terms to find your ancestors, and what improvements are being made to the website.

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# America's love of ancestry hits the road

By Christopher Muther  
GLOBE STAFF

Tens of millions of Americans have signed up to research their genealogy on websites such as Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com, or purchased DNA testing kits through companies like 23andme. As a nation of immigrants, we want to know where we're from.

Now, we not only want to know our country of origin, we want to explore it, too. Pro-

fessional genealogists are seeing a rise in heritage tourism.

"We've had more and more people asking us to assist them in preparing for trips back to their ancestral homes," said Alice Kane, consultations manager at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. "People are contacting us to help them with research, so they're prepared when they travel overseas. One of the things we tell them is to plan a few months in advance so they have time to do the research and make

the most out of their trip."

The fascination with genealogy and travel led Ancestry.com to team up with Go Ahead to start offering genealogy tours of Ireland, Italy, and Germany this year. For about \$3,200 (depending on the destination and the length of the trip), travelers get a DNA kit, an opportunity to research their family history before the trip with assistance from a genealogist, and a group tour of the country, with a genealogist shared by a group. Earlier this month, two dozen travelers

participated in the company's first (and sold-out) genealogy tour of Ireland. Several upcoming trips are sold out or nearing capacity.

Kyle Betit, a genealogist with 30 years experience who headed up the Ancestry.com Ireland trip, aid family tree research has grown beyond names and dates.

"There's been a big shift in what people are interested in," he said. "Really what people want are the interesting stories. I think it's somewhat

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# America's love of ancestry hits the road

► **GENEALOGY TOURS**  
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more real when you actually have a physical experience like traveling to a place where your ancestors lived, rather than just reading about it and seeing a report or a book."

He said heritage tourists are looking for an experience similar to what they see on television shows such as "Who Do You Think You Are?" and "Finding Your Roots" when they travel or hire researchers. Unfortunately, they're not going to get that level of detail — researchers on those shows spend hundreds of hours looking at the family trees of celebrities — but those participating in the Ancestry.com trips get a general feel for their motherland.

"There is a convergence happening now between the genealogy industry and the travel industry," said George G. Morgan, the author of "How to Do Everything Genealogy."

Genealogy tourism has been around for decades, but primarily as private or small,

regional trips. The New England Historic Genealogical Society has offered them since 1979. But mass marketing the ancestry trips to a wider audience is a logical next step for bigger companies looking to capture the ever-growing market.

There are no precise numbers tracking individuals who plan their own ancestry trips, but countries such as Ireland are hoping to capitalize on the market. The country's official website has a dedicated page listing genealogical resources.

"You can learn things about yourself and your family that you never imagined," the website promises. "Discover relatives you never knew existed, and find a warm welcome and a home from away from home in the land of your ancestors."

On average, enthusiasts are spending between \$1,000 to \$18,000 to find their roots, according to consulting firm Global Industry Analysts. The same company also estimated that the global market for genealogical services and products will reach \$4.3 billion by next year.

It's not just baby boomers who are now delving into family history. Meghan Walsh, director of constituent relations at NEHGS has noticed that her contemporaries, who are in their 30s, are now more interested in her work, and they're starting to do a bit of research on their own family trees.

"I think it's coming out of the dusty library," she said.

As genealogy steps out of the library and goes on to the Internet, into DNA kits, and ultimately on trips, the stories get infinitely more interesting.

"Sometimes you'll find out that grandma was doing it with another man, and there's a whole part of the family tree you didn't know about," Morgan said. "We tell people when they're doing DNA tests or traveling for research that they should be prepared for anything."

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## ***New England Historical Society American Ancestors Data Base News:***

Here at NEHGS we're always working to improve some of our older databases. We're re-launching [Lincoln County ME: Commissioners Marriage Records, 1759-1777 and Westfield, MA: Deaths in the First Church, 1728-1836.](#)

Lincoln County, ME: Commissioners Marriage Records 1759-1777 is now indexed by:

- first and last name
- spouses' first and last names
- location
- date
- all records have the record type "Marriage."

Westfield, MA: Deaths in the First Church, 1728-1836 is now indexed by:

- first and last name
- parents' first and last names
- spouses' first and last names
- date
- all records have the record type "Death"
- all records have the location Westfield, Hampden, Massachusetts, United States



## **Remembering Vietnam**

To coincide with the opening of our newest exhibit, *Remembering Vietnam*, we've launched a [Vietnam War research portal](#). This portal creates a central space for all National Archives resources and content related to the Vietnam War for use by researchers, students and educators, museum goers, veterans, and those curious about the conflict.

[Remembering Vietnam](#) is an exhibit at the National Archives Museum in Washington, DC, on display from November 10, 2017, through January 6, 2019, featuring records related to 12 critical episodes in the Vietnam War.



## **St. George (Framingham) Records Now Searchable**

We've added three new volumes from St. George in Framingham to [Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900](#). In *One Hundred Years of Progress*, James S. Sullivan describes the mills that arose in Framingham, drawing immigrants (particularly Catholics) from other countries. He says, "in no place did they receive a heartier welcome than in Framingham...it should not be surprising that the little hamlet Saxonville [where St. George is located] should take such a prominent part in the early days of Catholicity in New England. (p.778)" This latest addition includes over 4,000 new records and over 18,000 new names. The new volumes are:

- St. George (Framingham) Baptisms, 1878-1900
- St. George (Framingham) Baptisms and Marriages, 1848-1859
- St. George (Framingham) Marriages, 1894-1900



### **Massachusetts: (Image Only) Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900**

We've added 9 new volumes to from St. Rose of Lima in Chelsea. St. Rose of Lima was the first Catholic church established in Chelsea. This update consists of the following volumes, amounting to over 3,000 new pages:

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms and Marriages, 1850-1867](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1867-1874](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1874-1882](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1882-1889](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1890-1893](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1894-1897](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Baptisms, 1897-1900](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Marriages, 1867-1888](#)

[St. Rose of Lima \(Chelsea\) Marriages, 1888-1900](#)



### **Massachusetts: (Image Only) Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900**

St. Bernard (Newton) records now browsable The new volumes include:

[St. Bernard \(Newton\) Baptisms, 1876-1894](#)

[St. Bernard \(Newton\) Baptisms, 1894-1900](#)

[St. Bernard \(Newton\) Marriages, 1876-1900](#)



### **Sacred Heart Roslindale Records Now Searchable**

Today we have a small new addition to [Massachusetts: Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900](#). Sacramental records from Sacred Heart in Roslindale are now searchable. This update consists of two volumes, Sacred Heart (Roslindale) Baptisms, 1893-1900 and Sacred Heart (Roslindale) Marriages, 1893-1900.



**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 January 2017 Newsletter is December 21, 2017.***

***Thank You!***



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***