

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS ROOTS EVENTS

BERKSHIRE, FRANKLIN, HAMPSHIRE and HAMPDEN COUNTIES in
MASSACHUSETTS

March, 2018 - Volume 5 No 3

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**March 5, 2018, Monday** (9:30 am–4:00 pm): **Researching your Irish and Scotch Ancestors**  
**-- Part of the Ulster Historical Foundation Lecture Tour.** New England Historical Genealogical Society, Library and Archives, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA. Explore your Irish heritage with the experts at the Ulster Historical Foundation. Learn how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, gain strategies for breaking down brick walls, and understand important historical context. Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss this full-day seminar!

**Presenters:** **Gillian Hunt** is Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation. She regularly teaches courses in Northern Ireland and gives talks on family history in the rest of Ireland, the UK and the USA.

**Fintan Mullan** has been Executive Director of Ulster Historical Foundation since 2001. With IT partners BRS Systems he pioneered the online births, deaths, and marriages online record system for Antrim and Down, which led to [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie), the Irish Family History Foundation's unique database with over 20 million Irish historical records, making it the most useful online resource for Irish research.

**Cost: \$85**, includes 5 lectures, refreshments, and lunch

Agenda & Registration:

<https://shop.americanancestors.org/products/researching-your-irish-and-scots-irish-ancestors?pass-through=true>

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March 6, 13, 20, 27, 2018, Tuesdays (2:00 pm and 5:15 pm): **Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal**, professional genealogist, with Cathi Iuliano and Susan Bedard. Berkshire Athenaeum, Wendell Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201. Basic outline and instruction on researching the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census. Learn how to find your ancestors' emigration to the U.S. using the <http://stevemorse.org> website and the 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.

The 2:00 pm class is for those who are able to attend classes during the day.

The 5:15 pm class is set up for those people who work and can only attend evening classes.

All students must have an email account and be computer literate. **We ask that you attend all four classes.** You may bring your own laptop or use one provided by the library.

All classes are open to the public. Please sign up for the sessions by registering at www.Pittsfieldlibrary.org , clicking on "Calendar of Events" or call (413) 499-9480 ext. 6. Class is limited to 12, with a waiting list after that.

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**April 3, 10, 17, 24, 2018, Tuesday** (2:00 pm and 5:15 pm): ***Hands-on Genealogy with Alan Doyle Horbal***, professional genealogist, with Cathi Iuliano and Susan Bedard. Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, 33 South Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 (413-592-0001). Basic outline and instruction on researching the 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census. Learn 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 Tuesday, May 1st at 5:30 pm for Polish Research Ideas.\**  
*The 2:00 pm class is for those who are able to attend classes during the day.*

*The 5:15 pm class is set up for those people who work and can only attend evening classes.*

All students must have an email account and be computer literate. Space is limited. Please sign up for sessions. **We ask that you attend all four classes. You must bring your own laptop.** To register call 413-592-0001. The cost for the course is **\$15.00** (payable to the Polish Center).

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Polish Friends

FRIENDS: Never ask for food.

Polish FRIENDS: Always bring the food..

FRIENDS: Will say 'hello'.

Polish FRIENDS: Will give you a big hug and a kiss.

FRIENDS: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.
Polish FRIENDS: Call your parents Mom and Dad.

FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry.
Polish FRIENDS: Cry with you.

FRIENDS: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.
Polish FRIENDS: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing, and just being together.

FRIENDS: Know a few things about you.
Polish FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.
Polish FRIENDS: Will kick the whole crowd's asses that left you.

FRIENDS: Will knock on your door.
Polish FRIENDS: Walk right in and say, 'I'm home!'

FRIENDS: Will visit you in the hospital when you're sick
Polish FRIENDS: Will cut your grass and clean your house then come spend the night with you
in the hospital.

FRIENDS: Have you on speed dial
Polish FRIENDS: Have your number memorized

FRIENDS: Are for a while.
Polish FRIENDS: Are for life.

FRIENDS: Might ignore this.
Polish FRIENDS will forward this to their Polish friends and those who wish they were Polish ...

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**Swedish Ancestry Research Association (SARA)** holds five informational meetings and a holiday banquet each membership year between September and June. Meetings are from 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM with a morning program, a pot luck lunch, followed by an afternoon program. SARA was founded in January, 1994 to fill the need for an organization of this nature in the Northeast. Workshops are held in Massachusetts and other locations throughout New England. They assist attendees in solving roadblocks with Ancestry, arkivdigital, family search, other genealogical programs.

Esther Johnson (Swedish and Finnish and recent immigration genealogist), President, and her husband (3rd generation early American genealogist) give free classes. For more information check out their website <http://sarassociation.org> or visit their Facebook page.

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Concern over Census request

Citizenship check may skew results, funding for cities

By Michael Scherer

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — A Justice Department request to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census could shift the nation's balance of political power from cities to more rural communities over the next decade and give Republicans a new advantage drawing electoral boundaries.

Population numbers produced by the census are used in many ways, notably to draw political districts and distribute government funds across the country. Adding questions to the decennial survey is usually a controversial and difficult process because of the potential to affect both of those functions — either by suppressing census participation or by creating new ways to define populations.

All of it has prompted advocates for Hispanic communities to accuse the Justice Department of wanting to produce a less accurate count in 2020.

“I think the main motivation is to secure an undercount,”

said Tom Saenz, the president of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund. “Texas is a very red state. They know that is not going to be the case for very much longer.”

The citizenship question is a particularly fraught one because noncitizens, who may not vote, nonetheless are counted for the purposes of distributing federal funding, apportioning congressional seats, and drawing district maps for state and local elections.

A majority of the nation's undocumented immigrants live in just 20 metropolitan areas, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center study of Census Bureau data, numbering about 1 million in the New York and Los Angeles areas, 575,000 in Houston and 475,000 in Dallas.

That makes urban leaders, mostly Democrats, alarmed by the possibility of the citizenship question — primarily because census data help guide the distribution of more than \$675 billion a year in federal funding.

“The Justice Department's proposal to request citizenship status as part of the census is extremely damaging to the ability to secure an accurate count,” Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said in a statement.

The Census Bureau is ex-

pected to finalize the 2020 questionnaire by March 31. Officials have said they are evaluating the December request from the Justice Department and will make a decision in consultation with the White House Office of Management and Budget. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who oversees the Census Bureau, has not commented publicly on the idea.

The census forms that are targeted to all households have not included questions about citizenship or country of birth since 1950. Instead, the government has acquired that data by surveying a sample of the total population.

Four former census directors warned in a 2015 legal filing that any effort to add a question about citizenship for all households in the count would undermine its accuracy.

“The sum effect would be bad census data,” they wrote of the idea. “And any effort to correct for the data would be futile.”

In testing for the 2020 Census, immigrant communities have expressed a heightened reluctance to answer the coming questionnaire, even without any mention of a citizenship question.

Census won't hire noncitizens

Despite shortfalls in hiring workers to conduct the upcoming 2020 count, the Census Bureau does not plan to hire noncitizens this time around, a source has told The Washington Post.

In recent decennial counts, door-to-door census takers could be legal permanent residents or noncitizens with a work visa and a bilingual skill that no available citizen possessed. Such employees made up a tiny percentage of hires in the last count, but have been seen as crucial to reaching hard-to-count immigrant com-

munities.

However, in a meeting Tuesday, Census Bureau staff were told that noncitizens would not be hired, according to a person who works in the Department of Commerce and is familiar with Census Bureau matters.

The change, if implemented, comes amid fears that the 2020 count is under siege by an administration which has proposed other changes that could depress the count among minority and immigrant groups.

WASHINGTON POST

Washington Post ~ January 31, 2018

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### **American Ancestors Database News:**

[Enhanced Index for the Springfield \[MA\] Republican: Marriages and Deaths, 1847](#)

We have updated the index to [Springfield \[MA\] Republican: Marriages and Deaths, 1847](#) so that it is now searchable by; first name and last name, location, record type, and family members (where available). The text of these extracted marriage and death records published in the Springfield Republican newspaper continues to be searchable via Keyword search.

If you would like to join the volunteer team in updating genealogical records 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 | January 19, 2018

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[New Database – Rhode Island: Historical Cemeteries, 1647-2000](#)

We are very happy to announce a new database today; [Rhode Island: Historical Cemeteries, 1647-2000](#). John Sterling has partnered with us and provided transcriptions and images produced by the volunteers of Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Transcription Project for cemeteries across Rhode Island.

This database is organized into 39 volumes based on the city or town of the cemetery and provides information for 450,000 people and over 900,000 searchable names. For most of the cemeteries, there GPS coordinates are displayed on the transcript. This can be copied and pasted into a site such as Google Maps to see where the cemetery is located.

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

Don LeClair | February 6, 2018

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### [Enhanced New Hampshire Gazette: Vital Records, 1756-1800](#)

We have updated the index to [New Hampshire Gazette: Vital Records, 1756-1800](#) so that it is now searchable by first name and last name, location, record type, and family members (where available). The text of these extracted marriage and death records published in the New Hampshire Gazette newspaper continues to be searchable via Keyword search.

The New Hampshire Gazette claims the distinction of being the nation's oldest newspaper and was established in 1756. These records were compiled by Otis G. Hammond, former director of the New Hampshire Historical Society. They were abstracted by Priscilla Hammond in 1937, and this manuscript is part of the R. Stanton Avery Collections at NEHGS.

Don LeClair | January 29, 2018

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[St. Margaret and St. Ann \(Dorchester\) New to Archdiocese Searchable Database](#)

We've added two new parishes to [Massachusetts: Archdiocese of Boston Records, 1789-1900](#): St. Margaret and St. Ann, both in Dorchester. St. Margaret branched off from an existing church, St. Peter's in Dorchester in the late 1800s. The parish of St. Ann celebrated its first Mass on Christmas in 1880 after breaking off from St. Gregory's. This update consists of five volumes:

- St. Margaret (Dorchester) Baptisms, 1893-1899
- St. Margaret (Dorchester) Baptisms, 1893-1900
- St. Margaret (Dorchester) Confirmations, 1894-1900
- St. Margaret (Dorchester) Marriages, 1893-1900

- St. Ann (Dorchester) Baptisms, 1889-1900

Please note: *This database is available to NEHGS members only.*
[Molly Rogers](#) | January 26, 2018

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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 April 2018 Newsletter is March 23, 2018.***

***Thank You!***



***HAPPY SEARCHING!***