

Past Times **MSOG**

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

Volume 9, Issue 2, October 2017

www.msoginc.org

President's Message

Dear Reader,

The theme of our 2017 Annual Meeting & Program, coming up on November 4 at the Marlborough County Club, is **“Our Identity on Display.”** That excites me, because the search for “identity” has permeated my entire genealogy experience.

I began to do genealogical research around 2009. An aunt who had never married had died, and I received a copy of her death certificate by email. It said that her father, who was of course my grandfather, had been born in Keene, New Hampshire, the seat of Cheshire County. If I had ever known that fact, I had certainly forgotten it.

In late 2006 my husband and I had purchased an historic property some twenty-five miles north of Keene, so my grandfather’s purported birthplace particularly piqued my interest. But I had a vague sense, even then, that a parent’s birth information on a death certificate was perhaps not entirely reliable. It took a while, but while shopping I made a planned stop at Keene City Hall to find my grandfather’s birth certificate. I had had the foresight

to look up his birthdate, although I cannot remember now where I found it.

At City Hall I learned that, sure enough, there was a male child of the correct surname born in Keene on the correct day; however, that baby’s name was *Paul*. Because I knew him, I knew that my grandfather’s name was *Hugh*. Was this the record of my grandfather’s birth? Or was it for some other baby boy? It was only upon close inspection of the record, which the Town Clerk reluctantly allowed me to view, that I could see *Hugh* penciled in, ever so lightly.

Having not yet heard of the Genealogical Proof Standard, I took what was then a leap of faith and decided—correctly, it turns out—that this record did, in fact, pertain to the birth of my grandfather. Of course it also recorded the names of his parents, and those names were foreign to me. I needed to find out who these people were—beyond just their names. They were born, had lived, and were buried even closer to where my husband and I were—in Westmoreland, New Hampshire, only about twelve miles south.

Now I began to follow that

surname further and further back. I came across a plethora of ancestors named *William*—like the great-grandfather I found that day in Keene City Hall—*Harry*, and especially *Charles*. My direct line included four men named *Charles*, right in a row. With a common English surname, it became a challenge to sort them all out.



This is how, very early on, I recognized the problem of identity in genealogy. How do genealogists differentiate one person from another? Over the years I have learned that there are obvious ways, and not-so-obvious ways. On the one hand, online trees give many examples of beginning genealogists missing the obvious. For example, I have seen one online tree that claimed my other grandfather was married to his mother. He was named after his father, so “the name’s the same,”

continued on p.3

Contents

<u>Calendar</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Spotlight on Volunteers</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>News & Updates</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Annual Meeting</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Annual Meeting Registration</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Membership Reminder</u>	<u>6</u>

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
 MSOGINC.ORG
 P.O. Box 215
 Ashland, MA 01721-0215

Statement of Purpose

The Society's mission is to promote and encourage Massachusetts genealogical research at all levels—beginner, amateur, and professional. The Society is a Massachusetts nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. The corporation was formed for the following reasons:

- "To bring together all persons interested in genealogy, beginner, amateur, and professional;
- To set standards of conduct; to insure public access to records; to provide education in genealogical research;
- To act in whatever manner needed to promote genealogy and family history; and
- To bring together families both past and present."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 6 June 1975

Past Times

Editors: Diane Boumenot and Sara Campbell

Past Times is published monthly (except for July & August) by the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., and is available free to all at msoginc.org.

Membership Information

Members receive the *Past Times* newsletter, free issues of *MASSOG*, free queries, access to webinars, and participation in the Members' Surname Project.

Membership is from September 1 to August 31, with membership renewals due by July 1.

- INDIVIDUAL dues are \$25.00 per year
- FAMILY dues are \$30.00 per year

Membership applications received July 1st and thereafter will be applied to the following year's membership.

Membership choices are:

- BR/Bristol
- MV/Merrimack Valley
- MX/Middlesex
- WR/Worcester

Chapter affiliation is at the complete discretion of the member, regardless of residence. The membership application is on our website.

Join using PayPal online or mail your application and check.

Address any questions to president@msoginc.org or to the appropriate officer, committee chair, or delegate; email addresses are listed on page 5.

CALENDAR

<p style="text-align: center;">MIDDLESEX Saturday, October 14 1:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Richard Reid <i>"A Review of Genealogical Software Tools"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wayland Public Library 5 Concord Road Wayland, MA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MERRIMACK VALLEY Saturday, October 28 10:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Tour & Tea at Buttonwoods Museum Haverhill, MA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>space is limited - contact MV chapter</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">WORCESTER WEDNESDAY, October 11 7:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lily Cleveland <i>"Lineage Societies, taking the mystery out of the magic"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saxe Room Worcester Public Library 3 Salem Street Worcester, MA</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BRISTOL Saturday, October 14 11:00 AM Business Meeting 11:30 Member Sharing 12:00 Presentation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mark Procknik <i>"Our Whaling Ancestors and the Documents They Left Behind"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Somerset Public Library 1464 County Street Somerset, MA</p>
<p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Bonus Merrimack Valley DNA Session</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saturday, September 30, 10:00 AM Georgetown Peabody Library</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Peg Plummer returns to share her expertise with DNA analysis, fresh from GRIP's Advanced DNA class.</i></p> <hr/> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Monthly Webinars Return October 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Welcome to the Graveyard – a Valuable Resource for Genealogists"</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Presented by Brenda Sullivan Register at msoginc.org</p>	



SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

The PatSC is presented to the Bristol Member who has been nominated by his/her fellow members for dedication, service and support of genealogy. **Kathleen Rubano**, Bristol President (left) and **Paula Muggleton**, Bristol Archivist (right) are presenting the PatSC Award to **Bette-Ann Kile** in appreciation for her support and contributions to the Bristol Chapter. Bette-Ann frequently participates in the "Getting Into Genealogy" program by bringing her extensive family pedigree charts and explaining the proper numbering of ancestors. Bette-Ann resides in RI and spreads the word about MSOG and the Bristol Chapter while traveling around the area. The Bristol Chapter is fortunate indeed to have Bette-Ann as one of our Ambassadors.

With this inaugural award, Bristol Chapter honors Patricia Stano Carpenter's service and dedication to MSOG. Her "Getting Into Genealogy" Program has enabled Bristol Chapter to share an organized method of beginning one's genealogy research. Bristol Chapter has presented GIG to over a dozen Bristol County Libraries and Historical Societies. We are very appreciative of Pat Stano Carpenter's efforts to guide and encourage newcomers to the field of genealogy and wanted to recognize her efforts by creating the PatSc Award.

News & Updates

- **From the New England Historic and Genealogical Society** - The NEHGS Library in Boston will be closed to visitors January 9 through 13, 2018, for collection inventory. Please plan accordingly if you are thinking of visiting NEHGS during that week, and please spread the word to others who might be interested. We apologize for the inconvenience and we thank everyone for their understanding as we carry out this important project. We will reopen with our usual Tuesday-Saturday schedule on Tuesday, January 16.

President's Message

Continued from Page 1

however, such errors suggest situations that are clearly absurd. And on the other hand, genealogical journals are filled with examples of using not-so-obvious methods to determine whether the only thing that two records have in common is "the name's the same." I find the topic to be endlessly fascinating.

So I am excited to know that the 2017 Annual Meeting & Program of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., will have *identity* as its organizing theme. Preliminary plans promise to help us to explore this concept in many interesting and challenging ways. (See details elsewhere in this issue.) The meeting will again be held at the Marlborough Country Club in Marlborough, Mass., on 4 November.

Note that MSOG members can attend the Annual Meeting for considerably less than nonmembers, so be sure that you have a current membership. With the end of August comes the end of the 2016-17 membership year, and September is a grace period, but you will need to renew in order to attend this Annual Meeting at the reduced rate.

And if you haven't become a member yet, please do. Not only will you support our mission to Educate, Collaborate, and Preserve, but you will join a great group of people. It's going to be a fun year, and you will want to be part of it.

Collegially,

Denise Picard Lindgren

President

(Linda McIver, Merrimack Valley Chapter, with Denise Picard Lindgren at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Richard Reid, Bristol Chapter, is in the background. Photo by Sharon Christensen.)



2017 MSOG Annual Meeting & Program

Our Identity on Display

Speaker: Maureen Taylor

Maureen Taylor is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation and family history research.

Sought out by clients all over the world from as far away as New Zealand, her pioneering work in historic photo research is unprecedented, evidenced by her success in solving photo mysteries. The author of several books, scholarly articles and online columns, she appeared on *The View* and *The Today Show* for completing Meredith Viera's family tree. She has been featured in numerous publications including *The Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*, and was dubbed "the nation's foremost historical photo detective" by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Maureen has spoken on photo history, photograph preservation and family history at historical and genealogical societies, museums, conferences, libraries, and other organizations across the U.S., and in London and Canada.

Her focus is on helping people rediscover their family history one picture at a time, and she is passionate about getting folks to dig deep into their family history to tell the story of their ancestors. For more than a decade, she's searched for images of individuals who lived during the Revolutionary War but also lived into the age of photography. It's currently a two-volume set titled *The Last Muster* and the quest for more photographs is ongoing.



Speaker: Michael Hall



Michael J. Hall (pictured with MSOG President Denise Picard Lindgren) is the Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer of *FamilySearch*, the largest genealogical organization in the world, headquartered in Salt Lake City, UT, where he works with libraries and genealogical societies worldwide. He has a degree in Anthropology from *Brigham Young University*, and his areas of research include the Azores, from which his maternal ancestors immigrated to the United States, and the upper mid-west region of the United States. He has written various genealogical guides for the *Family History Library* (FHL) in Salt Lake City. Michael is a proud member of the Bristol Chapter of MSOG and has pursued his family's Bristol County roots for many years.

To quote Michael: "Learning about our ancestors helps us better understand who we are—creating a family bond, linking the present to the past, and building a bridge to the future."

Don't miss:

- "Identity Book Nook" – Book Signing Opportunities, works by MSOG Members on display, recommendations on the theme of "Identity"
- "i-Identify Chapter Challenge" – Your MSOG Passport is your ticket to fun and the grand prize.

Register for the 2017 Annual Meeting and Program

Saturday, November 4, 2017 8:30 – 3:00
Marlborough Country Club

Registration will be available October 2 on www.msoginc.org
Current MSOG members will receive a discounted registration price.

Identity “Exchange” Destinations

- Beth Carroll-Horrocks, Head of Special Collections, Massachusetts State Library
- Melinde Lutz Byrne, Excelsior College
- Linda McIver, Essex (England) Records Office
- Maureen Taylor, Photo Detective
- Sonia Pacheco, UMass Dartmouth, Portuguese-American Archives & Special Collections Librarian
- ... and check out other resource tables for MSOG members!

Team up with your chapter for the i-Identify Chapter Challenge!

THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

STATE OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President	Denise Picard Lindgren	president@msoginc.org
Vice President	C. Yvonne Hickey	vicepresident@msoginc.org
Treasurer	Michael McClellan	treasurer@msoginc.org
Corresponding Secretary	Patricia Stano-Carpenter	correspondingsecretary@msoginc.org
Recording Secretary	Lynda Page	recordingsecretary@msoginc.org
Membership Director	Margaret R. Fortier	membership@msoginc.org
Historian/Archivist	Seema-Jayne Kenney	archivist@msoginc.org
Bristol Chapter	Kathleen Rubano, President	bristol@msoginc.org
Merrimack Valley Chapter	Diane Brooks-Sherry, President	merrimackvalley@msoginc.org
Middlesex Chapter	Deborah Lee Stewart, President	middlesex@msoginc.org
Worcester Chapter	Willis Alford, President	worcester@msoginc.org
MASSOG Editor	George D. Martin	massog@msoginc.org
Past Times Editor	Diane Boumenot and Sara Campbell	pasttimes@msoginc.org
Webmaster	Hope Tillman	webmaster@msoginc.org

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

Annual Meeting	C. Yvonne Hickey	annualmeeting@msoginc.org
Audit	Robert Farmer	auditor@msoginc.org
Research & Education		research@msoginc.org
Technology	Hope Tillman	technology@msoginc.org
Writing Contest	Editorial Board	writingcontest@msoginc.org

DELEGATES (pending approval)

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)	Denise Picard Lindgren	fgs@msoginc.org
MGC (Massachusetts Genealogical Council)	Denise Picard Lindgren	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (New Eng. Reg'l Genealogical Consortium)	McClellan, Lindgren	nergc@msoginc.org

MSOG NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGAN SEPTEMBER 1

**Renew now to continue your valuable Member Benefits,
or, thank you for your recent renewal:**



Attend the Annual Meeting in November at the Member Rate
Receive copies of our journal, *MASSOG*
Access 40 years of *MASSOG* online
Receive 10 monthly copies of *Past Times*
Learn from 8 Members-Only Webinars
Attend 36+chapter meetings

Membership Year: September 1, 2017 through August 31, 2018

- ❖ Individual Membership --- \$25.00
- ❖ Family Membership (2 members at the same address) ---\$30.00
- ❖ Organization/Business Membership --- \$25.00

Select your Chapter affiliation (or join as an Organization) and renew at www.msoginc.org, or send your name, address, telephone number, email, and a check to:

MSOG, Inc.
P. O. Box 215
Ashland, MA 01721-0215



P.O. Box 215

Ashland, MA 01721-0215

<http://www.msoginc.org>