

Past Times

A Publication of the



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President's Message

Dear Members,

As 2015 comes to an end, 2016 opens its door to a new year filled with many MSOG activities. It will be a busy year as we look forward to chapter meetings, educational opportunities such as our member webinar* series, volunteer opportunities, and the camaraderie of fellow members.

On the MSOG website, www.msoginc.org, you will always find current happenings. Under the Projects area you will find:

The Surname List: Have you reviewed the names on the Surname List? Maybe someone is researching the same name. As a member, take advantage of listing your surnames: www.msoginc.org/msogwp/projects/surname-projectaccess/

Tips & Tricks: Have you read any of the member-contributed Tips or Tricks? You might enjoy "How to Obtain a Library Card from the Massachusetts Law Library System," "Sons of the American Revolution Images," "The Original Versus the Transcribed Image," or "World War I

Draft Records." Share your own tips by submitting them at www.msoginc.org/msogwp/projects/tips-tricks/

Preparation for the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium's NERGC 2017 Conference is well underway. Right now, we are looking for a MSOG member to sponsor as a conference speaker. That member needs to meet the qualifications and specifications of the call for papers, and their information needs to be submitted to MSOG by February 1, 2016. Send submissions to nergc2017@msoginc.org.

This year is a State election year. The Nominating Committee is seeking candidates for all offices—President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Director, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Archivist. Please consider running for office. For more information about the offices, see the MSOG Bylaws or Policies and Procedures. Submit your name or a candidate's name to nominating@msoginc.org.

MSOG's 2016 Writing Contest is also underway. Some of you are already



working on your submission for our biennial contest. For more information, go to the MSOG website, www.msoginc.org, and click on 2016 Writing Contest for Members.

Another item to mark on your calendar is November 5, 2016, when we will hold our next Annual Meeting.

This is just the tip of the iceberg for things to get involved in and to take advantage of in 2016. In the meantime, I wish each of you a very happy and healthy new year. May it be filled with new discoveries and the best that 2016 has to offer.

Patricia Stano-Carpenter
President

*Webinar Series: Our next webinar will be held on January 19, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. Registration deadline is January 15, 2016.

CALENDAR

<p>WORCESTER Saturday, January 9th, 10:00 AM Graveyard Girls "A 90-minute Session Including How to Properly Make Gravestone Rubbings!" Zion Lutheran Church 41 Whitmarsh Avenue Worcester, MA</p>	<p>MIDDLESEX Saturday, January 9th, 1:30 PM Erica Voolich "Mild-Mannered Business Man or Secret Service Agent? Investigating a Family Legend" Acton Memorial Library 486 Main Street Acton, MA</p>
<p>MARTHA'S VINEYARD None</p>	<p>BRISTOL Saturday, January 16th Iva Jackson-Ketchum "Social Media" 11:00 AM Business Meeting 11:30 AM Member Sharing 12:00 Presentation Somerset Public Library 1464 County Street Somerset, MA</p>
<p>Webinar Tuesday, January 19th, 7:00 PM Jake Fletcher "Researching Maritime Ancestors at NARA" For Members Only Register at msoginc.org by January 15th.</p>	<p>MERRIMACK VALLEY Saturday, January 30th, 10:00 AM Stella M. Pierce "The Freedmen's Bureau Project: Overview and How to Help With Indexing" Georgetown Peabody Library 2 Maple Street Georgetown, MA</p>
<p>WORCESTER Saturday, February 6th, 10:00 AM Ed Londergran "Social and Political Situations of the Early Colonial Time Period and Aspects of Everyday Life During the 1600s & 1700s" Zion Lutheran Church 41 Whitmarsh Avenue Worcester, MA</p>	<p>MIDDLESEX Saturday, February 13th, 1:30 PM Carolyn Holbrook "Using the DAR Genealogical Research System to Find Information on Revolutionary War Patriots and Their Descendants" Goodnow Library 21 Concord Road Sudbury, MA</p>
<p>Webinar Tuesday, February 16th, 7:00 PM Margaret Fortier "French Canadian Genealogy: How and Why" For Members Only Register at msoginc.org by February 12th.</p>	<p>BRISTOL Saturday, February 20th Karen McCann "Preserving Photos" 11:00 AM Business Meeting 11:30 AM Member Sharing 12:00 Presentation Somerset Public Library 1464 County Street Somerset, MA</p>
<p>MARTHA'S VINEYARD None</p>	<p>MERRIMACK VALLEY Saturday, February 27th, 10:00 AM Topic to be Decided Georgetown Peabody Library 2 Maple Street Georgetown, MA.</p>

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

BRISTOL
 Betty J. Marsden

MERRIMACK VALLEY
 Michele Beckman

WORCESTER
 Marion C. Harnois

David Riley

We have 357 registered members.

Bristol	67
Martha's Vineyard	15
Merrimack Valley	63
Middlesex	106
Worcester	91
Organizations	14

Please send any changes in contact information to membership@msoginc.org

Notices

MSOG, Inc., will be sponsoring a speaker for NERGC 2017 in Springfield, MA. The deadline to apply for the selection process ends soon. See the NERGC 2017 article on page 4 for further details. Submissions must be emailed to: nergc2017@msoginc.org.

The Merrimack Valley Chapter is pleased to announce the appointment of their new Vice President, Kelly Fox.

Growth and Activities in 2015, A Promise of an Exciting 2016

By Diane Brooks-Sherry

The last calendar year has been busy. Chapter meetings have covered a wide range of topics. Some were instructional presentations how to use resources available online and in local repositories like the Registry of Deeds, society journals, FamilySearch.com, and Evernote. Presentations also included improving skills to research specific ancestral groups, utilizing technology, and understanding the uses of DNA analysis in genealogical research. Member webinars, added this year by the Research & Education Committee, expanded members' access to build skills and explore resources. The enthusiastic participation of members sharing their expertise was reflected in an increase in membership.

The calendar year began with three hundred sixteen members. Throughout the year, membership grew to a maximum of three hundred seventy and settled back to its current total of three hundred fifty-seven – fifty-four more members than there were in December of 2014. If this year were to follow last year's pattern, membership could be expected to continue to rise as activity increased across the state.

The New Year offers dozens of learning opportunities to explore resources and techniques to further your research. Webinars and chapter meetings will share information about using maritime resources at the National Archives, and a

variety of resources about early American immigration and life. A deeper understanding of ancestors' experiences provides a view of them as more than names and dates. The details of their times may lead to the discovery of more records of their lives.

MSOG, Inc., members are enthusiastic about their research and study. Many are sharing their expertise helping those with less experience to improve their skills. No matter what the weather, this winter members will be learning or improving techniques such as using social media, gravestone rubbing, preserving photos, and investigating family legends. Genealogists share their knowledge and abilities with others in many ways.

Several chapter meetings this year will focus on community outreach opportunities for members to assist in broader genealogical efforts. The Merrimack Valley will explore the Freedmen's Bureau indexing effort and Bristol will host local historical societies at a chapter meeting.

Outreach efforts to non-members should not wait for these meetings. Share your enthusiasm with others and encourage them to consider joining you at a meeting or becoming a member so they may access our online resources.

MSOG, INC. & NERGC 2017 NEED YOU!

As a member of the Society, there are many opportunities to share your skills with others. One of the most public opportunities is to present at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference in 2017. The Society is sponsoring a speaker for the NERGC 2017 to be held in Springfield, Massachusetts. The Board of Directors is seeking a member to present either a lecture or workshop. The theme of the conference, "Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past," allows a wide variety of topics to be presented. Presentations may focus on technology, resources, research and analytical strategy, social and cultural history, a focus on a particular time frame or group of people, or engaging youth. The deadline to submit proposals for Society sponsorship is February first. Proposals to be the MSOG Sponsored Speaker for NERGC 2017 must be emailed to nergc2017@msoginc.org. Visit the Members Only section of www.msoginc.org to review the requirements.

In addition to applying to be the MSOG Sponsored Speaker, members may apply directly to NERGC to present a lecture or workshop on one of the four days of the conference. Any proposal submitted directly to NERGC must be submitted through the NERGC Program Portal by noon on March 1, 2016. An individual may submit up to six presentation proposals through the portal: <http://www.nergc.org/2017/call-for-papers.html>.

FUN AT FALL MEETINGS



Dale Gunn and Barbara Mathews



Four of the Original Members: Diane Laferriere, Karen Trearchis, Peg Plummer, and Jane Preston



Elizabeth Pyle Handler, Sara Campbell, and Erica Voolich



An Enthusiastic Crowd Celebrated the Merrimack Valley Chapter's Fifth Anniversary

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Photos provided by Barbara Mathews.

Photos provided by Wendy Sheppard.

MAKE MSOG, INC., PART OF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Consider donating your time at least once during the year for the Society. Please visit the most recent issue of *MASSOG*, Volume 40, Number 1, to see the list of possible volunteer opportunities; some tasks are small, occasional tasks while others require a larger commitment. If you are interested in any of the items, please email president@msoginc.org.

This year is an election year for the Society. The Nominating Committee will begin to put together a ballot to be presented to members later this year. Seven positions from President to Historian/Archivist will be open for nominations this spring. Though some who currently occupy these seats may choose to run for re-election, please consider running. The duties and expectations for these offices are explained in the Society's Bylaws and the Policy and Procedures Manual; both are found in the Members Only section of www.msoginc.org. The position of Historian/Archivist is currently vacant and the Board of Directors could appoint someone to complete the current term before the election. If you are interested in this or any other position, please email president@msoginc.org.

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Past Times Information

- *Past Times* is published monthly (except for July & August) by the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Membership Information

- The newsletter, *Past Times*, is on the MSOG website free to all. Members also receive free issues of *MASSOG*, free queries, access to webinars, and participation in the Member’s Surname Project.
- Membership is from September 1st to August 31st, with membership renewals due by July 1st. 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, MVI/Martha’s Vineyard, 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 at <http://www.msoginc.org>.) Send your application and check to The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., P.O. Box 215, Ashland, MA 01721-0215. Address any questions to the appropriate email address below.

State Officers & Board of Directors 2015-2016

President	Patricia M. Stano-Carpenter	president@msoginc.org
Vice President	Margaret Fortier	vicepresident@msoginc.org
Treasurer	Diane Laferriere	treasurer@msoginc.org
Corresponding Secretary	Robert J. Bartlett	correspondingsecretary@msoginc.org
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth “Liz” Grube	recordingsecretary@msoginc.org
Membership Director	Janice “Jan” Murphy	membership@msoginc.org
Historian/Archivist	Vacant	archivist@msoginc.org
Bristol—Chapter	Kathleen Rubano, President	bristol@msoginc.org
Martha’s Vineyard—Chapter		marthasvineyard@msoginc.org
Merrimack Valley—Chapter	Karen Trearchis, President	merrimackvalley@msoginc.org
Middlesex—Chapter	Deborah Lee Stewart, President	middlesex@msoginc.org
Worcester—Chapter	Seema-Jayne Kenney, President	worcester@msoginc.org
MASSOG Editor	George D. Martin	editor@msoginc.org
<i>Past Times</i> Editor	Diane Brooks-Sherry	pasttimes@msoginc.org
Webmaster	Hope Tillman	webmaster@msoginc.org

Committees & Chairs

Annual Meeting	Margaret Fortier	annualmeeting@msoginc.org
Audit	Robert Farmer	auditor@msoginc.org
Research & Education	Seema-Jayne Kenney	research@msoginc.org
Technology	Hope Tillman	technology@msoginc.org
Writing Contest	Editorial Board	writingcontest@msoginc.org

Delegates

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)		fgs@msoginc.org
MGC (Massachusetts Genealogical Council)	Charlene Sokal & Karen Trearchis	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.)	Margaret Fortier, Seema-Jayne Kenney, Charlene Sokal	nergc@msoginc.org

Conversations with Society Leaders

The following is the third in an occasional series that introduces Society Board Members and Committee Chairs.



Margaret Fortier, Vice President, MSOG, Inc., has been doing genealogy for sixteen years. During that time she has become an active member in several other organizations including the Association of Professional Genealogists and the National Genealogical Society. She has also completed the Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and the ProGen Study Group.

Her extensive experience includes research into nineteenth century immigration to New England, as well as the states of Pennsylvania, New York, and Vermont, and the province of Quebec. She said she “got to know Karen Trearchis and Pat Stano-Carpenter at NERGC 2013. I joined Merrimack Valley as I lived in Lowell at the time. Everyone was so welcoming.” After serving as the Vice President of the Merrimack Valley Chapter, Margaret stepped up to the Vice Presidency of the Society in 2015.

She has experienced the joys of discovery with her genealogy voyage. Her most surprising discovery was “That my great-grandmother’s ‘intended husband’ on her passenger list was not the man who was my great-grandfather. And that no one in my family ever even heard of his name.” In addition to the joys of discovery, she has experienced low points as well. Genealogists who have felt stymied trying to find information share that experience with Margaret. One of her brick walls is her great-grandparents’ Pennsylvania marriage record. Hopefully, one day she will find it.

In addition to being an active MSOG, Inc., member and officer, she writes, lectures, and travels to distant places attending conferences. In the last few years she has traveled around New England and to New York, Utah, and Virginia. When not pursuing genealogy, she has a wide variety of pursuits. Traveling, reading, cooking, boating, and enjoying Boston are among her favorite activities.



The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
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 Ashland, MA 01721-0215
www.msoginc.org