

Past Times

A Publication of the



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President's Message

Dear Members,

We celebrated 40 years as a genealogy society on November 7, 2015. To all our members who have supported us these many years and to all past officers, chairs, delegates, and members who have volunteered their time and expertise to bring us to this point in time, we thank you. And, we send a very special thank you to our Annual Meeting Committee: Margaret R. Fortier (Chair), Pat Gailles, Judy Goodwin, Diane Laferriere, Jan Murphy, Charlene Sokal, Deborah Stewart, Hope Tillman, and all who worked on putting together a very enjoyable day. The Marlborough Country Club was the right venue for coming together for the annual meeting and program.

Vice President Margaret Fortier was our MC and "Go-To Person" for the day. During the annual meeting, Recording Secretary Liz Grube, Membership Director Jan Murphy, Treasurer Diane Laferriere, Webmaster Hope Tillman, Worcester Chapter President Seema

Kenney, and yours truly presented members with pertinent reports from the previous year. We reiterated that we were able to maintain membership fees for the membership year 2015-2016. In addition, we presented a review of the past year's accomplishments and goals for the next membership year. We told members about the newly introduced Webinar Series. We reminded them that the 2016 Writing Contest submissions are due by August 15, 2016. And, most important, we reminded them that 2016 is an election year for state officers.

During the day, attendees heard presentations from Drew Bartley, Barbara Mathews, and Thomas MacEntee. Our members enjoyed meeting with vendors and exhibitors and walking away with the many impressive door prizes.

Senator Jamie B. Eldridge joined us for lunch and said a few words about his involvement in keeping Massachusetts



records open and chairing the State Library's Board of Trustees. Senator Eldridge sent two citations: one from the Governor and Lieutenant Governor and one from the Massachusetts State Senate. The citations are in recognition of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.'s 40th Anniversary and of the Society's work in "promoting and encouraging Massachusetts genealogical research."

We shared many a conversation with fellow attendees about genealogy and special interests that day. It was wonderful being with our friends and making new friends. We look forward to seeing everyone next year.

Patricia Stano-Carpenter
President

CALENDAR

<p><u>MERRIMACK VALLEY</u> Saturday, December 5th, 10:00 AM Margaret Fortier “More Than Just Trees: Surprising Things Genealogists Do” Georgetown Peabody Library 2 Maple Street Georgetown, MA</p>	<p><u>WORCESTER</u> Saturday, December 5th, 10:30 AM Field Trip to the WWII Museum, Natick. Bring in waiver form and photo id. No bags allowed. Pay admission by cash or check. Contact Judy Goodwin regarding carpooling.</p>
<p><u>MARTHA’S VINEYARD</u> No Meeting This Month</p>	<p><u>BRISTOL</u> Saturday, December 12th 11:00 AM Business Meeting 11:30 AM Member Sharing Somerset Public Library 1464 County Street Somerset, MA</p>
<p><u>MIDDLESEX</u> Saturday, December 12th, 1:30 PM Barbara Mathews “Using Colonial Records in Family History Research” Goodnow Library 21 Concord Road Sudbury, MA</p>	<p><u>Webinar</u> Tuesday, December 15th, 7:00 PM Sara Campbell “One Cotton Sock, Unfinished: Using Probate Records to Add Details to Your Ancestors’ Lives” For Members Only Register at msoginc.org by December 11th.</p>
<p><u>WORCESTER</u> Saturday, January 9th, 10:00 AM Topic To Be Determined Zion Lutheran Church 41 Whitmarsh Avenue Worcester, MA</p>	<p><u>MIDDLESEX</u> Saturday, January 9th, 1:30 PM Erica Voolich “Mild-Mannered Business Man or Secret Service Agent? Investigating a Family Legend” Goodnow Library 21 Concord Road Sudbury, MA</p>
<p><u>MARTHA’S VINEYARD</u> Meeting Date, Time, and Place To Be Determined</p>	<p><u>BRISTOL</u> Saturday, January 16th “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><u>Webinar</u> 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><u>MERRIMACK VALLEY</u> Saturday, January 30th, 10:00 AM Topic To Be Determined Georgetown Peabody Library 2 Maple Street Georgetown, MA</p>

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

BRISTOL
 Susan Read
 John Gibney
 Nuala Shockro
 Lean Soderberg

MERRIMACK VALLEY
 Nancy J. Dimento-Jerome

MIDDLESEX
 Paul Connor
 Christine Bard

WORCESTER
 Joseph Anderson

We have 351 registered members.

Bristol	66
Martha’s Vineyard	15
Merrimack Valley	61
Middlesex	106
Worcester	89
Organizations	14

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

MSOG, Inc., is now recording the monthly webinars. Each will be available in the Members Only section of msoginc.org for one month. Dave Robison’s session, “Back to Basics,” is currently available.

Dozens Enjoy New Monthly Webinars

By Seema-Jayne Kenney and Diane Brooks-Sherry

After many months of hard work by the Research & Education Committee, the Society has been able to provide unique opportunities for members with the new webinar series. Attendees have represented all chapters, and more than twenty members registered for each of the sessions held in September and October.

Each participant was asked to respond to a short questionnaire at the close of the session, and feedback has been very positive. There were many requests for sessions to be available beyond the third Tuesday of the month; since October, sessions have been recorded. Each webinar remains available in the Members Only section of the website for one month. Seema Kenney has promised to add a recorded version of her September webinar, "From Forms to Research Plans," to the website after the first of January. After October's session, "Back to Basics" with Dave Robison,

one member noted how easy it was to join and how much they enjoyed the new way to learn. It only required a good connection and the ability to click on a link to join the session. Visit msoginc.org to see the recording of Dave Robison's presentation.

The next few webinars have been designed to focus on the use of particular types of resources: probate records and maritime records at the National Archives. The webinar schedule has been updated on the website for the next few months. More topics and speakers will be added as arrangements are finalized.

The Research & Education Committee still has room for one additional speaker this season. They are always open for feedback on speakers or topics of interest! Email suggestions to: research@msoginc.org.

The Society Is More Just Than Massachusetts Genealogy

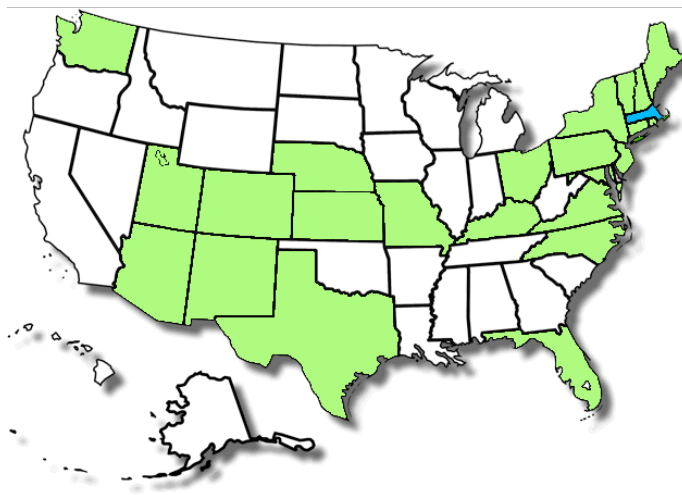
By Janice Murphy and Diane Brooks-Sherry

More than 145 Massachusetts communities are represented in the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. Though most members live within the state, not all live here. Many New England states have more than one member affiliated with the Society. Twenty-three other states are also home to members, and Europe is now represented with our member whose home is in France!



- Bristol members live in 30 towns & 7 states
- Martha's Vineyard members represent 6 towns & 1 state
- Merrimack Valley members live in 27 towns & 5 states
- Middlesex members represent 47 towns & 9 states
- Worcester members live in 36 towns & 9 states

No matter their locations nor whether they are amateur or professional genealogists, members share their enthusiasm. The Surname Project reflects members' diverse interests, from the seventeenth century to the twentieth century, and research in colonial America, the United States, Canada, and across to Europe. Members are now able to use the Surname Project and the GoToMeeting software to collaborate with research and skill development no matter their location.



CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS



The Society Executive Board with Senator Eldridge

By Margaret Fortier

On Saturday, November 7th the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., celebrated forty years as a society at the Marlborough Country Club.

Here's a look by the numbers:

Attendees: 129

Percentage of first-time attendees: 25%

Exhibitors: 13

Speakers: 4

Door prizes: 25

We enjoyed talks by Drew Bartley and Barbara Mathews and a first-ever webinar with Thomas MacEntee. Congratulations to Dale Gunn, winner of our raffle prize of three DNA kits. And congratulations to our door prize winners who received genealogy subscriptions, books, AAA membership, and more goodies.

Thank you to the Annual Meeting Committee, our volunteers, and the Board for their support.

Save the date for next year: November 5, 2016.



Margaret Fortier congratulates Dale Gunn



Bristol Chapter Members



Merrimack Valley Chapter Members



Martha's Vineyard Chapter Members



Middlesex Chapter Members



Worcester Chapter Members

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 treasurer or membership person of the chapter you wish to join. Email addresses are 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
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<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

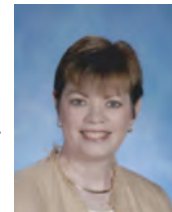
FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)		fgs@msoginc.org
MGC (Massachusetts Genealogical Council)	Charlene Sokal & Karen Trearchis	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.)	Margaret Fortier, Seema-Jayne Kenney, Charlene Sokal	nergc@msoginc.org

Conversations with Society Leaders

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

Hi MSOG Members:

Like many of you, I grew up with older family members telling stories. My maternal grandmother and her aunts often told stories of their lives in Methuen and traveling by hay wagon up to Atkinson, NH, to camp with their parents and cousins. Now, my grandson is the fifth generation to spend time on Big Island Pond with his cousins, just as his three-times great-grandparents did.



Though I had often listened to the great-aunts tell their stories, I did not become interested in formal genealogy until the last few years. Retiring from teaching secondary social studies provided the time necessary to begin documenting facts to support the stories I had heard. Having spent many summers with my great-great aunts and uncles, I was fortunate to be able begin my research with many names and details. I began my research online with my maternal grandmother's maternal grandparents, since I had heard the most about them. As I was beginning to trace their lives through online documents, I began to follow Heather Wilkinson Rojo's blog and through it found the Merrimack Valley's meeting schedule. Karen Trearchis's friendly invitation inspired me to visit a meeting.

That first meeting included a guest speaker from the Register of Deeds from Lowell which provided another resource for me to follow in documenting the lives of my great-great-grandparents. The warm reception and friendly crowd at that first meeting led to my joining the Society and deepening my research. Since the first quick discoveries I made, I have continued to add more records from the Seisig and Lippold families and their lives in the Merrimack Valley. I have traced some of their descendants and found my three-times great-grandparents' passenger records from when each arrived with their families from Prussia just after the Civil War.

Each new piece of evidence reveals details about their lives but also leads to more questions. What happened to the son who arrived with the Seisig family in New York City in 1865 but was not with them in Methuen in 1870? Why was an estate divided equally among two children and the third intentionally left no inheritance? Genealogy has satisfied my passion for learning; there is always more to do and the chance to improve my skills.

Diane Brooks-Sherry
Editor, *Past Times*



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