



PAST TIMES

A Publication of the
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www.msoginc.org

Things that make you go "hmmm".

Every so often I have what I've taken to calling a synchronistic epiphany, better known as *Things that make me go, "hmmm."* Usually this happens when a series of seemingly random events come together and make sense. Recently someone donated a set of the Tanguay Books to the library which are an amazing resource for those involved with French Canadian genealogy. I have used them in my own family research and was amazed at how painless it was to follow my family tree. In one evening I was able to follow two complete lines back to the 1600's when they first arrived in Canada from France. The records are priceless partly because the French Canadians kept great records (along with the Church) but also because they were a very tight knit group with little marrying outside the culture.

Fast forward to today. This past summer I had the opportunity to offer a genealogy program to children in the summer recreation program. **Roots for Kids** was a 6 week pilot program that I hope will be something I continue to do in the future. I had 8 girls between the ages of 10-12 along with two camp counselors and we had a great time. In our program we covered the basics starting out with filling out a simple family tree including brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers and grandparents. This was easy for everyone. We then stepped it up to a 5 generation chart which turned out to be much harder but not for the same reasons it is for us "older" family historians. One of the first things we noticed was that all the girls were a mixture of many cultures. One girl took the prize for having the most as she counted 8 different ethnic groups that compromised the unique person that she is. Everyone was quite amazed at that and that created a lot of discussion about where people come from and how they ended up where they are. The second thing I noticed was how the family structure has changed. Many children are part of combined families with step brothers, half sisters, step parents or only knowing half of their family. Some could not fill out the charts because they did not have a relationship with biological parents or grandparents. It started to make me think that we all have brick walls that we hit in our family history journey (I still cannot find the town in England my great grandparents came from). Our problems may be problems locating records, language problems or being descendents of the poor who are forgotten in time. And even with all our technology, the children of today, our future family historians, will have their own brick walls. Children with different parents, different last names, or children who never knew their fathers or were adopted by a step father at birth. I know someone who had two children and did not have any relationship with them so that their paternal family are not aware of them at all. With the changes in privacy laws and the new combinations of families, it will be a challenge and that is why the work we do today is so important. Keeping our family records for posterity is a responsibility to the future and will insure that our families will know "from whence they came".

Here's hoping everyone has a happy and safe Halloween!

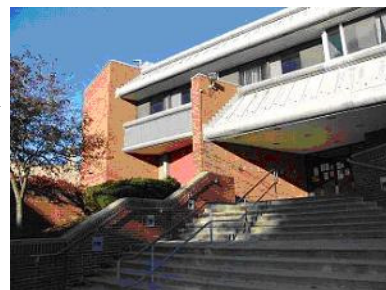


Carol Gafford
 Past Times Editor



Middlesex Chapter –October 8, 2011

Laura Prescott, President of the Association of Professional Genealogists, will speak on *Treasures within the Ivory Tower: Finding Family in Academic Archives* at the monthly meeting of the Middlesex Chapter on Saturday October 8, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Framingham Public Library, 49 Lexington Street, Framingham.



Laura G. Prescott is a professional researcher, writer, and speaker. She worked for the New England Historic Genealogical Society for seven years before starting her own research business. Originally from Charleston, West Virginia, she has lived in New England for over thirty-five years. Laura graduated with a B.A. in History from Dartmouth College in 1980, ultimately putting her degree to good use over a decade later when she discovered a latent passion for genealogy.

For more information, contact Sharon Christenson at schristenson@verizon.net

Martha's Vineyard Chapter—October 12, 2011



The Martha's Vineyard Chapter will be meeting Wednesday, October 12 at the Family History Center in Vineyard Haven at 7:00 P.M. MVI chapter is also hosting an Introduction to Genealogy class at the Anchors in Edgartown. The four week program will be taught by MVI president Marna Waller. For more information on the Genealogy class or the October meeting, please contact Marna Waller at catbird10@verizon.net

Bristol County Chapter—October 15, 2011

The Bristol County Chapter will meet on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at 1:00 P.M. at the Somerset Public Library, 1464 County Street, Somerset. Patricia M. Stano-Carpenter, President of MSOG, Inc. will present, "Getting Into Genealogy." This free introductory presentation will provide sufficient information on how to get started in Genealogy and family history. Pat has been researching the Genealogy of family, friends and the public since the mid 1980's. If you are new to Genealogy, this is a program you shouldn't miss. And if you have already started your research, there is lots of information that can be of help to you.



Our meetings are open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please contact President Gaile Fletcher at gfletch00@aol.com or 508-636-8067.

Merrimack Valley Chapter – October 22, 2011

The Merrimack Valley Chapter is pleased to welcome Jenn Rozmeski, new Archivist at the Lawrence History Center, as the speaker for our first meeting on Saturday October 22 at the LHC this fall. The meeting begins at 10:00AM.

Jenn joined the team at the LHC in May and we are excited about the work she will be doing at this invaluable archive of the history of Lawrence Massachusetts and the people who lived there. The subject of Jenn's talk will be "Lawrence History Center Archives & Preserving Paper and Digital Documents". Join us to learn about what the LHC has to offer, the work that is being done there, and what you can do to preserve all of your important and precious documents. The LHC is located at 6 Essex Street, Lawrence. For more information contact Merrimack Valley Vice President, Sarah Brow-Hill at potterypixie@gmail.com



Worcester Chapter – October 29, 2011

The Worcester Chapter will meet on Saturday October 29th, 2011 at 10:00AM at the Worcester Historical Museum, 50 Elm Street, Worcester. Bill Wallace, Executive Director, educator and advocate for local history is the guest lecturer.

Members of the Worcester Chapter will enjoy a tour of the **Worcester Historical Society Museum, 50 Elm St., Worcester. Note change of venue!!** There will be a one hour (about) lecture and probably a small tour, depending on the number of attendees, followed by time to research. The research area only fits 10 -15 people. Worcester Chapter members will be given a voucher (valued at \$5) up to a limit of 40 people, to return and research another day. The facility is open to the public. MSOG, non-Worcester chapter members can attend the meeting for free, but will not receive a free voucher. If the public attends, there is a \$5 admission to the museum.

For more information please contact Jane Cain at jaincain10@gmail.com



MSOG ANNUAL MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2011

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8:30AM

9:00AM-1:00PM

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LDS-616 GREAT ROAD, LITTLETON, MA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK THE MSOG WEBSITE msoginc.org OR
CONTACT GINNY DE HAAN AT MASOG99@YMAIL.COM

Important
DATE!

Martha's Vineyard Island- Madeline Fisher

Middlesex- John M. Kingsbury, Heidi Patton, Mary Renaghan, Edward Dee, Kendra Nefjar, Patricia S. Hubbell
Welcome Back-- Rosemary T. Hanley



-IMPORTANT NOTICE-

Coming soon just in time for membership renewal watch for PayPal on our website.

Renewals for 2012 are due on November 1, 2011.

Membership renewal applications will be in the next issue of Past Times and on the Website.

A total of 387 members have signed up for 2011, choosing affiliation as follows:

Bristol 39, Martha's Vineyard 22, Merrimack Valley 55, Middlesex 95, Worcester 161, Organizations 15.

Congratulations to the Middlesex and Merrimack Valley Chapters along with the Essex Society of Genealogists, Inc. and Lynnfield ward of Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a very successful Family Research Day 2011.

If there any comments or questions concerning **Membership** please feel free to contact me at Masog99@ymail.com.

Genevieve De Haan
Worcester Chapter
State Membership Director

Tillman's Technology Tidbits

Watch for PayPal to be available soon on the MSOG, Inc. website, as an alternative way to pay for membership services, such as membership renewal, research requests, meeting registrations and more. PayPal is a convenient, fast and safe way to pay online using either your regular credit card or with a PayPal account.

Tip for this month: The late August hurricane Irene again points out the importance of using all the best practices to save genealogical work. Whether a hurricane, fire, or any other disaster, your precious work is vulnerable to loss. Make sure you have a plan to keep your genealogical work safe. Backup your online data regularly and frequently, but don't stop with just backing up your online data. Make copies of both print and multi-media to store in different locations.

We will be providing a Social Media Workshop at the Annual Meeting. If you have any questions or topics you want us to cover, please let me know. The Technology Committee will be looking at

- (1) hardware/software needs of the Society for operational efficiency as well as member needs.
- (2) educational program needs of members at beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels.

Current committee members are:

Robert Ankenbauer, Merrimack Valley
Sharon Christenson, Middlesex
Ginny De Haan, Worcester
Sandra Goodwin, Worcester
Dale Gunn, Middlesex

Walt Howe, Middlesex
Joy Miller, Bristol
Carol Purinton, Worcester
Pat Stano-Carpenter, Middlesex, MSOG President
Rick Wetmore, Merrimack Valley

Hope Tillman, Middlesex Chapter, Technology Committee Chair



Membership Information

- The newsletter, Past Times is on the MSOG website free to all. If you prefer to have the Past Times mailed to you, there is a \$7.95 fee per year for the postal service. Members also receive free *MASSOG* Journals, free queries, participation in the Member's Surname List and free attendance at the Annual Meeting.
- Membership is from January 1st to December 31st, with membership renewals due by November 1st. INDIVIDUAL dues are \$25.00 per year; FAMILY dues are \$30.00 per year. Membership applications received October 1 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. Addresses are below.

Past Times Information

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

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. State Officers & Board of Directors 2011 - 2012

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Committees (*Chair)

Bylaws:

Research: Charlene Sokal

Website: Hope Tillman

Policy and Procedures: Ginny De Haan, Seema Jayne Kenney, Patricia Stano-Carpenter, Hope Tillman*, Karen Trearchis, Rick Wetmore

Technology: Robert Ankenbauer, Sharon Christenson, Ginny De Hann, Sandra Goodwin, Dale Gunn, Walt Howe, Joy Miller, Carol Purinton, Pat Stano-Carpenter, Rick Wetmore, Hope Tillman*

Delegates

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) — Connie Reik

MGC (Massachusetts Genealogical Council) — Sharon Christenson

NERGC (N.E. Regional Genealogical Consortium) — Robert M. Ankenbauer, Jr., Sharon Christenson, Carol Gafford

Chapter Treasurer/Membership

Bristol: Membership/Treasurer, Gail Gosson	40 Rounseville Ave., Somerset, MA 02726	ggosson1@aol.com
Martha's Vineyard: Membership, Brenda Welch	Box 818, Chilmark, MA 02535	mvi.chapter@gmail.com
Merrimack Valley: Treasurer, Diane Laferriere	42 Sherburne Ave, Tyngsboro, MA 01879	dilaferriere@msn.com
Middlesex: Treasurer, Paul Keeler	11 East Walnut Street, Milford, MA 01757	drfiske@comcast.net
Worcester: Treasurer, Seema Jayne Kenney	4 Sadler Road, Upton, MA 01568	cmakny@hotmail.com



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Genealogy

LEAVING FOOTPRINTS
ON THE SANDS OF TIME
FOR OVER 35 YEARS!

**Bristol Chapter
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Middlesex Chapter
Worcester Chapter**

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MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY
OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

