

Past Times

A Publication of the



<u>Monthly Calendar</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Welcome New Members</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Forty Years of Genealogy</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Annual Meeting & Program</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>The Webinars Are Coming!</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>2016 MSOG Writing Contest</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>A Preview of the Year Ahead</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>State Board & Officers</u>	<u>7</u>

President's Message

Dear Members,

This is our first issue of *Past Times* for the new membership year of September 1, 2015, to August 31, 2016. I can't help but wonder what you did over the summer. I hope you took the time to take a research trip, learn new skills, discover a new piece of information, or just set a plan for the coming year.

My summer was filled with a trip down memory lane. My mother-in-law decided to sell her house. Yours truly is doing the house inventory. I was very pleased to do so because she ferreted out many more family heirlooms and the wonderful stories that went along with them. My father-in-law's WWII uniform with his Okinawa emblem still attached and his christening outfit were the highlights. My brother-in-law tried on the jacket and had to do a lot of sucking in around the middle to get it to button.

We unearthed several vintage bed jackets worn by my mother-in-law during visits from family and friends

when she had her first child. Pink was her color, even though her first child was a boy.

Old dishes and silverware from a previous generation that bore initials brought up questions and more stories to be told. One old spoon bore the mark "Coin Silverware." (Look it up and see how coin silverware is made.) An old desk brought images to mind of where one grandmother wrote letters or conducted her daily business. Many pictures also surfaced. One picture added another face to one of the pedigree lines on the paternal side of my husband's family. His grandmother's album shows pictures of a time when his father and aunt were little children.

Another picture is of my mother-in-law's mother. I can understand why, as a young woman looking very stylish in a Gibson Girl hairdo, she caught the eye of a young man who the family thought was meant for an older sister.

There are yearbooks. And, there is a scrapbook of an exciting high school



football season when my father-in-law was captain of the Attleboro, MA team. There are old movies, slides, CDs, and memorabilia yet to be reviewed. Family heirlooms and nostalgia have their own tales. As you can imagine, I have my work cut out for me. (And there may be more coming. The inventory is not done yet.) This is a collection that has been saved for the generations. I hope to update the safekeeping of the family archives and then pass it on to the next generation.

Our chapter meetings are beginning in September and our Annual Meeting and Program is on November 7th. I'm looking forward to seeing you and hearing about how you spent the summer doing genealogy.

Patricia Stano-Carpenter
President

CHAPTER MEETINGS

WORCESTER

Tuesday, September 8th, 7:00 PM
 Charlene Key Sokal -- "Using Society Journals"
 Zion Lutheran Church
 41 Whitmarsh Avenue
 Worcester, MA

MARTHA'S VINEYARD

Wednesday, September 9th, 7:00 PM
 Anniversary Celebration
 Family History Center (tentative location)
 111 Edgartown Road
 Vineyard Haven, MA

MIDDLESEX

Saturday, September 12th, 1:30 PM
 Helen Schatvet Ullmann -- "Exploring FamilySearch.org"
 Acton Memorial Library
 486 Main Street
 Acton, MA

BRISTOL

Saturday, September 19th
 11:00 AM Business Meeting
 11:30 AM Member Sharing
 12:00 PM Fortieth Anniversary Celebration
 Somerset Public Library
 1464 County Street
 Somerset, MA

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Saturday, September 26th, 10:00 AM
 Hope Tillman and Walt Howe
 "Making Old Photos Look New: Tricks to Restore Your Pictures to
 Tell Your Family Stories"
 Georgetown Peabody Library
 2 Maple Street
 Georgetown, MA

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

BRISTOL

Bernard Couming

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Daniel Richards

MIDDLESEX

Sarah Ambrose

Richard Higgins

Ada Law

Tricia Mitchell

Constance Roberts

WORCESTER

Elizabeth Dolaher

Renew your membership before
 Sept. 1 to take advantage of the
 member discount for the
 Annual Meeting & Program.

STILL SEARCHING FOR MASSOG ISSUES!

Thanks to the Middlesex Chapter, we were able to add a few issues to our sets of MASSOG with missing copies.

We are now looking for the following issues to fill out our sets:

YEARS	VOLUME(S)
1976	2, 3, 4
1980	3,4
1982	4
1987	2, 3
1995	2
1999	1, 3
2001	3
2002	All
2003	1
2006	2
2007	2

If you have any of these issues and are willing to return them to the Society for a library donation, please pass them on to your Chapter President.



Oh! If only we could time-travel, what questions we would ask!

Fun at NERGC 2013 and NERGC 2015

Hope Tillman has a rapt audience eager to use GoToMeeting for their genealogy.

Forty Years of Contributions to the Field of Genealogy

In 1974, Robert J. Tarte, founder of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. (MSOG), traveled across the state encouraging those interested in family history to join together. Because of his efforts, MSOG was incorporated in 1975 as a non-profit educational institution that quickly fulfilled its mission of bringing “together persons interested in genealogy, to stimulate and encourage an interest in genealogy, to provide education in the methods and sources of genealogical research.”

Within three years, the organization increased to an astounding 1,300 members spread among thirteen chapters. Unfortunately, this did not last; as the initial enthusiasm for genealogy waned, so did the membership. Some chapters disbanded, some consolidated, and others broke off from the Society to create separate organizations; in 2006 only three chapters remained: Bristol, Middlesex, and Worcester. Fortunately, the organization has again experienced growth with the addition of the Martha’s Vineyard Chapter in 2009 and the Merrimack Valley Chapter in 2010.

Many of the Society’s earliest initiatives still continue. The standard of two business meetings each year has changed to just one Annual Meeting and Program. The topics, location, and learning opportunities have evolved over time to address changes in technology, resources, and the needs of the members. Today, in addition to genealogical methods, more instruction focuses on new technology

tools and utilizing DNA analysis in genealogy.

Communication to the membership has been important to the Society since the early years. *MASSOG* has continued to offer members a method to share their research, seek help, and learn new techniques and methods since its debut in January 1976. In contrast, *Past Times* is a newcomer. Each chapter traditionally sent their own newsletter and it was not until 1994 that they were combined into one state newsletter.

Though both publications still serve their original purpose, more communications are being done electronically. The first permanent website launched in 2000 provided online resources as well as a searchable collection of all past issues of *MASSOG*. By 2011, GoToWebinar and GoToMeeting had been made available for state and chapter use. This year the Research & Education Committee will be adding more opportunities for members using these platforms.

Elections are now done electronically rather than at meetings, allowing greater access for those unable to travel. Electronic communication also allows the Society to communicate with non-members via Facebook, offering assistance with advice about research and genealogy sources in Massachusetts.

MSOG has been active in the greater genealogy community as well. In the 1980s the Society Board encouraged

members to contact their state legislators to request support in preserving and keeping old records accessible. They were successful in preventing the effort to restrict access to birth and marriage records and, as recently as 2009, advocated to prevent a bill that would close libraries.

The Society is a charter member of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, and dozens of MSOG members contribute to the successful biennial conferences. We send representatives to the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Massachusetts Genealogical Council to collaborate on larger events and issues. The Society is able to accomplish much because members volunteer so much time.

Recently, members assisted in the Family Search Indexing Project of the nineteenth-century Port of Boston Passenger Lists. The Bristol Chapter carried this work forward at the Massachusetts Archives by transcribing these. The newest initiative, the Massachusetts Legacy QuickGuide, provides convenient, comprehensive help to anyone trying to do genealogy research on ancestors in Massachusetts. Each project has benefited all genealogists.

Throughout the last four decades, MSOG members have researched, analyzed, and shared their knowledge and skills with each other and the wider community. This tradition strengthens the organization and ensures its continuation.



Drew Bartley



Barbara J. Mathews



Thomas MacEntee



Marlborough Country Club

Celebrate 40 Years at the 2015 Annual Meeting

November 7, 2015
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Marlborough Country Club
200 Concord Road
Marlborough, MA 01752

Registration begins September 8th.

You won't want to miss the celebration planned for the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. (MSOG) Annual Meeting and Program on Saturday, November 7, 2015. Join us at the beautiful Marlborough Country Club in Marlborough for our full-day program.

Highlights include

- Great speakers
 - Drew Bartley, <http://www.yourgenealogist.com/>
 - Barbara J. Mathews, <http://www.demandinggenealogist.com/>
 - Thomas MacEntee, <http://hidefgen.com/> and <http://hackgenealogy.com/>
- Useful topics
 - Organizing and Preserving Your Genealogical Papers
 - Getting All Sherlock: Using Your Sources as Evidence
 - 7 Habits of Highly Frugal Genealogists
- Many door prizes from Ancestry, Findmypast, Fold3 and more
- Annual Membership prize for new or existing member

- Raffle prize of 3 DNA kits (from AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, and 23and Me), a value over \$300
- What's going on - Society business meeting
- Morning hospitality, buffet lunch, afternoon dessert and coffee
- Time to visit our exhibitors, including the Portuguese-American Archives, TIARA, the DAR, and more
- Our 40th Anniversary cake
- Chapter group photos
- Connecting with fellow genealogists
- *A surprise*

Registration opens Tuesday, September 8. The Marlborough Country Club is handicap-accessible and offers convenient free parking.

We are offering attendees the option of using a private carpool matching application that is created for this event. The link will be available at registration. We hope this will allow some, who would not otherwise be able to attend, to connect with a driver and enjoy the day.

The Webinars Are Coming! The Webinars Are Coming!

The Research & Education Committee is using GoToMeeting and GoToWebinar to increase learning opportunities for members. Nine webinars are planned for members this year; three have been scheduled so far. Sara Campbell, Dave Robison, and Seema-Jayne Kenney will present the first sessions in October, November, and December. Further details will be available on msoginc.org soon. If you ever wished you could hear their views but schedule or distance have not allowed it, now is your opportunity!

GoToMeeting is adaptable to many devices. You may attend via your computer, or use your computer to view the webinar but call in over a phone. You also have the option of logging in with a tablet or phone. Once you have registered, accessing the session is virtually the same.

Enrolling and participating in a webinar is as simple as clicking a button. Registration is mandatory and begins approximately one month beforehand; it closes the Friday before the webinar date. Registering and attending the webinar is extremely easy.

- 1) Sign in to the Members Only section of msoginc.org.
- 2) Select Webinars.
- 3) Follow the prompts to register. GoToWebinar allows up to 1,000 to participate, so there will be plenty of room.
- 4) You will receive an email with a link that will take you to the GoToWebinar website. If you do not have the proprietary software, download it for free.
- 5) Sunday or Monday before the webinar, sign in to the "Members Only" section of the website and download the handouts. These will be removed the next Saturday.
- 6) Fifteen minutes before the webinar begins, click the link from your email and log in to the session. You may be asked to check your audio connection to make sure it is functioning.
- 7) Once you are logged in, just follow the directions from the facilitator and enjoy your session.
- 8) After the session, you will receive a form to provide feedback about the session. Responses will be shared with the speaker.

Only three webinars are confirmed; more members are needed to make this successful. Do not let inexperience stop you. You will be able to practice with a volunteer ahead of time and they will assist by managing the GoToWebinar system so you can focus on your presentation. To volunteer, contact the Research & Education Committee at research@msoginc.org.

2015 ANNUAL PROGRAM RAFFLE

Not one, not two, but **THREE** DNA test kits, one each from



+



+



23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA, and AncestryDNA, will be the raffle prize for a lucky winner at our 40th Anniversary Program on 7 November 2015 at the Marlborough Country Club. This represents a \$300+ value with shipping.

Raffle tickets (\$5 each/5 tickets for \$20) will be sold on the day of the event. Stay tuned for details.

DO YOU HAVE AN INTERESTING
BRICK WALL?

WHAT ARE YOUR FAMILY'S MOST
INTERESTING MYTHS OR FOLKLORE?

WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SHARE
THEM?



Genealogy Roadshow is looking for you. They are scheduling taping session(s) in the Greater Boston area for Season 3.

Fill out a casting application for your chance to appear at:

<http://www.grcasting.com/>

Writing Contest

2016

"History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all."

— Laurence Overmire, *One Immigrant's Legacy: The Overmyer Family in America, 1751-2009: A Biographical Record of Revolutionary War Veteran Capt. John George Overmire and His Descendants*

Members of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. (except those serving as judges for the contest) are invited to submit original entries celebrating ordinary or extraordinary family history or genealogy.

The topic could be a genealogical study, a family history, or an interesting solution to a genealogical problem. The piece does not have to focus on Massachusetts, though it should have at least a tangential connection. Entries should include no more than three generations of a family and be no longer than twelve pages including footnotes.

Entries must be sent no later than August 15, 2016 to:

writingcontest@msoginc.org.

Entries will be judged blindly according to the accuracy of documentation and clarity of interpretation; do not put identifying information on the entry. More detailed requirements along with helpful reference materials are available at msoginc.org and in *MASSOG* Vol. 39, No. 3.

A Preview of 2015 - 2016

The year ahead will be a very busy one for the Society. Though you are affiliated with a particular chapter, each chapter welcomes all society members to attend meetings. This year several themes are recurring across chapters, so if you are not able to attend that topic locally, you may be able to attend another chapter's event. Several chapters will have presentations about investigating family stories, DNA and genealogy, preserving photographs, and researching various cultural groups. In addition, most chapters have at least one meeting that focuses on one or more tools useful to the genealogist, such as land records, journals, websites, social media, and immigration records. Here are a few of the topics planned for each chapter.

Bristol – As one of the original chapters of the Society, Bristol will begin its year with a celebratory lunch before turning toward topical meetings. Among the topics scheduled between October and December are "10 Brick Wall Tips for Beginners," presented by Marion Pierre-Louis and "Researching Deeds," presented by Barry Amaral from the Taunton Registry of Deeds. Most of the year's meetings are already posted on the calendar and chapter sections of our website.

Martha's Vineyard – After celebrating at an anniversary gathering in September, the Martha's Vineyard Chapter will be extending their connections to the island community. Arrangements are being finalized to hold a meeting at the Portuguese-American Club to explore that culture's genealogy records. Another meeting is being planned so members may hear about the work of a local historian who has been cataloging the island cemeteries and has found some interesting stories.

Merrimack Valley – September begins for those along the Merrimack River by jumping directly into the subject of preserving photos. Later in the fall, two Merrimack Valley members will provide interesting presentations. Peg Plummer will present "Genealogists' Toolbox: Some Massachusetts History," and Margaret Fortier will present "Surprising Things Genealogists Do." Remember that the chapter has moved its location this year from Methuen to Georgetown.

Middlesex – Helen Schatvet Ullman begins the fall season for the Middlesex Chapter teaching participants about the use of FamilySearch.org. Later in the fall, Charlene Key Sokal shares "Finding Your Female Ancestors," and Barbara J. Mathews discusses "Using Colonial Records in Family History Research." Check the website for details of each month's meeting, since locations vary.

Worcester – Charlene Key Sokal begins a busy year for the Worcester Chapter when she presents "Using Journals in Genealogical Research." She will share her years of research experience as Reference Supervisor, Worcester Public Library. Other fall meetings are still being planned; check the Society website for updates.

Speakers and calendars are still being finalized, so please check our website for dates, times, and locations: 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. If you prefer to have *Past Times* mailed to you, there is a \$7.95 fee per year for the postal service. Members also receive free issues of *MASSOG*, free queries, participation in the Member’s Surname List, and free attendance at the Annual Meeting.
- 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. 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	Marna Waller, President	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	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc.)	Margaret Fortier, Seema-Jayne Kenney, Charlene Sokal	nergc@msoginc.org

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

Renewal/Join 2015 - 2016

Membership Fees are due now for the year September 1st 2015 to August 31st 2016

Please give your completed form and check, made payable to MSOG, Inc., to your chapter treasurer, or mail to:

Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
P.O. Box 215
Ashland, MA 01721

Join/Renew with PAY PAL. www.msoginc.org/membership/membership_form.php

Name(s) _____ Membership # _____

_____ Membership # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code +4 _____

Telephone# _____ Email _____

Choice of membership: Individual \$25.00 Family \$30.00 Organization \$25.00

Chapter affiliation: **Please check one.**

Bristol Martha's Vineyard Merrimack Valley Middlesex Worcester Organization

Choice of reception method: **Please check one in each category.**

MASSOG (journal) Electronically Mail Send no copy

PAST TIMES (newsletter) Electronically Send no copy



The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

P.O. Box 215

Ashland, MA 01721-0215

www.msoginc.org