



PAST TIMES

The Monthly Publication of the
Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
www.massog.org

Presidents Message....

Dear Member,

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The MSOG board and committees have been busy putting together events and activities to celebrate its 35th year as the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc. The first event of the year is an exciting opportunity that will culminate with the 2010 annual meeting. We are very excited to announce a Writing Contest for 2010 in celebration of our 35th year as a Society. The goal of the contest is to encourage and recognize amateur writers from our membership. A judging committee will select the winning entries based on accuracy of documentation and clarity of interpretation. The prizes will be presented at the 2010 Annual Meeting. Winning entries may be published in MASSOG. Deadline for submitting entries is August 15, 2010. Information about the contest can be found in this issue, on the MSOG website at www.msoginc.org, or by contacting Sara Costa at msogwritingcontest@msoginc.org.

Other events and opportunities will be announced as the year progresses. We are certainly not in short supply of genealogy workshops, conferences and field trips. Here are a few good conferences, workshops, and trips coming up.



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Special points of interest:

- March Meetings
- Upcoming Events
- Renewal Information

* If you haven't already signed up for the March 27, 2010 New England Family History Conference to be held in Franklin, MA, you might like to visit their website at www.nefamilyhistory.com.

* On March 13th, the MSOG Middlesex Chapter will be going on a field trip to the Congregational Library in Boston. See www.msoginc.org for more info.

* And, don't miss the upcoming Worcester Public Library conference on April 16 and 17.

* Also, I want to call your attention to the MA State Archives and the many informative workshops they present. March 9th they are presenting Irish Genealogy; in April, they are presenting an Advanced Genealogy workshop; and, in May, they will be presenting Revolutionary War Records. For more information about these free workshops at the MA Archives go to, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcwrk/wrkidx.htm>. To read about the MA Archives holdings for research go to, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcidx.htm>.

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Worcester Chapter—March 6, 2010

The March meeting of the Worcester Chapter will be held on SATURDAY, March 6 at the Auburn Public Library, Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA.

The room will open at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10 a.m. The morning will start with a short business meeting. We will then be pleased to listen to Meldon Wolfgang speak to us. His lecture is titled: “Troy Papers Please Copy”: Beyond-The-Basics Tips and Techniques for Using Newspapers in Genealogical Research”.

Researchers sometimes forget that before it was history, it was news – and their ancestors may have been a part of it. Although most genealogists are familiar with newspapers as sources for obituaries and marriage notices, they often overlook other kinds of newspaper information that can lead them to new and exciting genealogical discoveries. This presentation provides an overview of newspaper publishing in North America, examines the kind of information useful to genealogists that can be found in newspapers of different eras that is usually overlooked by modern researchers, and underlines the importance of locating and using ethnic and religious newspapers in addition to the “traditional” press. In addition, the presentation discusses some short-cut techniques for locating newspapers in original, microform, or digitized/searchable formats.

Author, lecturer and the founder of Jonathan Sheppard Books, Mel Wolfgang served as Albany NY's Commissioner of Human Resources until 1990. He was a public library trustee for nearly two decades, was president of a local library system and was a founding trustee advisor of one of the country's first intergovernmental archives. An active and avid family historian for more than 45 years, Mel has written the genealogy column for the New York State Archives' quarterly magazine “Archives” since 2005. He is also the past president (and is currently the archivist) of the Executive Council of the Kappa Alpha Society, the oldest college social fraternity in North America. Mel has lectured widely to genealogical societies and other groups across the country.

Bristol County Chapter—March 20, 2010

Health and a long life to you.

Land without rent to you.

A child every year to you.

And if you can't go to heaven,

May you at least die in Ireland.

Past Times Deadline

The next issue of Past Times will be the April 2010 issue. Deadline for submissions on chapter meetings and any other articles of interest are requested by Sunday March 14 or earlier if possible. Please send items to Carol Gafford at:

pastimesnews@gmail.com

The March meeting of the Bristol County Chapter will be held at the Somerset Public Library, 1464 County Road, Somerset, MA. The meeting will start at 1:00 PM. For more information, please contact Gaile L. Fletcher at gfletch00@aol.com

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!



Middlesex Chapter—March 13, 2010

Genealogy Research at the Congregational Library: Print, Digital, and Online resources

Please join us on March 13 from 1:30-4:00 at the Congregational Library in downtown Boston. Claudette Newhall will discuss the collections and resources of the Congregational Library of interest to genealogists. She will present an overview of the digitization projects that are providing access to colonial church records and personal journals. She will demonstrate the library necrology database that provides indexing for basic obituary information about Congregational clergy and missionaries.

In 1853 the Congregational Library and Archives was created "for the purpose of establishing and perpetuating a library of religious history and literature of New England, and for the erection of a suitable building for the accommodation of the same." It was felt that the latter should be done or the original Puritan literature would be lost. Today, the library and archives houses church records that provide information about baptisms, marriages, and deaths of Congregational laypeople. Claudette is the Librarian of the Congregational Library. She is a graduate of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science and a member of the Special Libraries Association and the American Theological Library Association.

Please see <http://www.congregationallibrary.org/visit> for directions. Transportation by public transportation is strongly encouraged. However, you can pay to park in either the Boston Common Parking Garage or One Beacon Street Garage. For more information, please contact Lori Lyn Price at 781-570-2072 or pricegenealogy@gmail.com.



May God grant you
many years to live,

For sure He must be
knowing

The earth has angels
all too few

And heaven is
overflowing.

Martha's Vineyard Chapter—March 10, 2010

The Martha's Vineyard Island Chapter will meet next on Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 PM at the Family History Center in Vineyard Haven. March's meeting will be a workshop. There will be pairings of more experienced researchers with members new to genealogy and also an opportunity for all of those attending to interact, solicit advice and share progress reports.

For further information contact Marna Waller at catbird10@verizon.net

Presidents Message Cont'd.....

Here's another opportunity to help your Society. This is the last year for this board's term in office. That means MSOG will hold elections at the upcoming 2010 annual meeting. It also means that we need to have a nominating committee put together and present a slate of officers for the coming election. Here is how you can participate. **Consider serving on the Nominations Committee.** Consider running for an office. Submit a name of someone who you believe will help guide the Society and move it forward. Don't wait to be asked. Contact me to participate in any of the above. I can be reached at msog1@yahoo.com or 508-485-8578.

Patricia Stano-Carpenter



Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – 2010

Your MSOG, Inc. membership will end on December 31, 2009. Please take the time to renew now. We look forward to seeing you in the coming year.

Send your completed application and your check, made payable to MSOG, Inc. to your chapter treasurer.

Chapter Membership or Treasurers

- Bristol County: Gail Gosson, 40 Rounseville Ave., Somerset, MA 02726
- Martha’s Vineyard: Ann Bassett, Box 6, West Tisbury, MA 02575
- Merrimack Valley:---Start up---Provisional-Genevieve De Haan
- Middlesex County: Barbara Boudreau, 501 Lexington St., #26, Waltham, MA 02452
- Worcester County: Ginger Carter, 41 Colton Lane, Shrewsbury, MA 01545-1818
- Organization: Genevieve De Haan, 50 Mendon Road, Whitinsville, MA 01588-1626

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M.S.O.G., Inc.

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

2010 -- RENEWAL/INFORMATION CHANGE -- 2010

Date: _____ Membership # _____

- Your Name _____
- Address _____
- City _____ State _____ Zip Code +4 _____
- Telephone # _____
- Area Code _____
- E-Mail _____

Indicate your choice of membership for year 2010:

Individual-\$25.00 Family-\$30.00 Organization-\$25.00

• Chapter: (Please indicate your choice of Chapter affiliation.)

Bristol County Martha’s Vineyard Organization

Merrimack Valley Worcester County

Middlesex County

- Please indicate your choice of method to receive MASSOG Journal Past Times
- MASSOG Journal Mail Electronically Send no copy
- Past Times Electronically Mail/Add \$7.95 to dues Send no copy

Make checks payable to MSOG, Inc.

Genealogy Month at Memorial Hall Library, 2010

Genealogy Lock-In

Friday, March 5, 5:30-10pm

Register for an evening of after-hours genealogy research with exclusive access to databases, computers, microfilm, and the Andover Room. A light dinner will be served. Call 978-623-8401, ext. 49 to register. \$10 fee. Space is limited.



Researching Civil War Genealogy



Tuesday, March 9, 7pm

Learn how to research Civil War soldiers in resources in MA, the National Archives, and online. Presented by Dennis Ahern, a genealogy and history lecturer and trustee of the Acton Memorial Library.

Preserving Your Family Records, Documents, and Photographs

Tuesday, March 16, 7pm

Stuart Walker, Boston Public Library's Book Conservator, will discuss storage, repair, and preservation issues for books, papers, scrapbooks, and photos. He will demonstrate some dos and don'ts for preservation and repair for family records and keepsakes.



Diaries and Journals



Tuesday, March 30, 7pm

Learn how to find and use diaries, letters, and journals for your genealogy research. Laura Prescott will share how observations written by our ancestors can add personal dimension to the names, dates, and places in your research.

May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your past.





Upcoming Events

ESOG: Turning Fact into Fiction.

The Essex Society of Genealogists presents Laura Prescott speaking on "Turning Fiction into Fact" on March 20, 2010 from 12-2pm at the Centre Congregational Church, 5 Summer Street, Lynnfield Center, MA 01940 .

Are those old stories grandma told really true? Learn helpful, systematic strategies to discover the truth behind family legends, identify strangers in family photos, and correct the family record without losing the charm of the myth.

For more information contact the Barbara Beake, program chair at 781-665-4150 or visit www.esog.org.



*2010 New England
Family History Conference*

91 Jordan Road
Franklin, MA 02038
**Saturday
March 27, 2010**
Registration begins at 8:15
Conference 8:30 - 4

Pre-registration will begin in early January at
www.nefamilyhistory.com

Some of this year's topics are:
Overview of New England Sources, Preserving Records, Deeds & Probate, African Americans in New England, Tracing European Ancestors, Irish Research, French Canadian Research, Creative Presentation of your Family History, Using the Public Library, Irish Catholics, Oral Family History and much more!

This is a **FREE** conference with optional purchase of a syllabus and/or lunch

Sponsored by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

For information www.nefamilyhistory.com, call 508-472-5151 or 781-659-4702 or email nefamilyhistory@gmail.com

Massachusetts State Archives Workshops

- **Tuesday, March 9** - Irish Genealogy. 10:00 AM – noon.
- **Wednesday, April 21** - Advanced Genealogy. 10:00 AM – noon.
- **Thursday, May 6** - Revolutionary War Records. 10:00 AM – noon.
- **Saturday, June 12** - Introductory Genealogy. 10:00 AM – noon.

Located at the Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Blvd., Boston, MA 02125

Registration: Call 617-727-2816 or email archives@sec.state.ma.us to reserve your spot and for more information. Some workshops are limited to 15 participants.

New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

New Visitor Welcome and Library Orientation
Using NewEnglandAncestors.org
Researching American Criminals
Methods of Tracing Present Day Relatives
Technology and Genealogy Seminar

Saturday, March 06, 2010 , 10:00 AM
Wednesday, March 10, 2010 , 10:00 AM
Monday, March 15, 2010 , 6:00 PM
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 , 10:00 AM
Friday, March 26, 2010 - Saturday, March 27, 2010

For more information call 617-226-1226 or e-mail education@nehgs.org.

Membership Information

- Members receive free Past Times electronically. There is a \$7.95 fee for snail mail 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 choices are BR/Bristol, MVI/Martha's Vineyard, MX/Middlesex, WR/Worcester.
- Chapter affiliation is at the complete discretion of the member, regardless of residence. (The membership application is on our website, 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.

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 Website: Hope Tillman

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 MGC (Massachusetts Genealogical Council)
 Alexandra Stocker
 NERGC (N.E. Regional Genealogical Conference)
 Sally Wadman

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Genealogy

LEAVING
FOOTPRINTS ON THE
SANDS OF TIME.

We're on the web!

www.massog.org

Welcome New Members

Bristol Chapter – John Ledo, Rich & Evie Griffiths

Merrimack Valley-Richard E. Lindsey

Organizations-Library-Pearle L Crowder Memorial Library, Dudley

Welcome back Clayton Library Friends, Houston, TX

Worcester – Alene Stuart, Lorinda Cavanagh, Virginia Cumming, Alice Erik-
sen, Michael Hudnall, Natascha M. Lauchart, Marilyn J. Leffler, Maureen

MacDonald, Cynthia Puliafico, Cathie Soter, Nancy Soter

Congratulations to Sandy Goodwin and Pat McGrath on recruiting 10 new members from the Intermediate Genealogy Class they held on January 16, 2010 at the Westboro Library. Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2010. There is a membership renewal form in this issue of Past Times and on the website at www.msoginc.org

Members that have signed up for 2010 are as follows:

Bristol 27, Martha's Vineyard 26, Merrimack Valley 6, Middlesex 68, Worcester 112, Organizations 14 Total 253

We have established a goal to have 350 members in the year 2010 to go along with our 35th Anniversary. We are well on our way to reaching this milestone.

We welcome you and wish you the best of luck. Thanks very much for joining us and happy family history/genealogy searching.

Genevieve De Haan
State Membership

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