

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 811, Westminster, MA 01473-0811

THE SEARCHERS



September is here and this year continues to be very unusual with so many of our research facilities still closed and so much of our interactions done virtually. Who knew ZOOM would become an essential part of our lives if we wanted to stay in touch or attend a meeting.

We at C.M.G.S have really missed our in-person meetings where we could visit and catch up on what was happening. It is so different in a zoom room!!!

We are hoping to be able to get back to the Legion and “normal” meetings sometime in mid-2021. One thing we have learned during this pandemic is how to record our meeting so our members can enjoy them even if they cannot attend the meeting. The Board of Directors is working to ensure our members are kept up to date with what is happening and posting in our members page of the website

The program committer would love to hear from you with thoughts on programs you would like us to pursue. One of the benefits of the travel ban is many of the national speakers are offering to do their presentations virtually at a cost we can afford, (no travel expenses !!) We hope to see many of you at our monthly meeting in the “zoom room” Stay safe and well

2020 CMGS Membership Meeting Speakers

With the necessity of have to have virtual meetings and the limited time for socialization the meeting room will be open 30 minutes before the scheduled meeting

September 22, 2020–

VIRTUAL MEETING 7 pm

“Land Ho!

Calling all Mayflower Descendants”

Kathy Kaldis

October 27, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING- 7 pm

“Huzzah! There’s a Lineage Society for That!”

Kathy Kaldis

November 17, 2020

“Irish History II”

VIRTUAL MEETING- 7 pm

Tom Toohey

NOTES FROM PAST MEETINGS

Handouts and program available on our members page at www.cmgs.org/members

July 28, 2020

Thomas MacEntee

“Did I get Everything? – Creating a Checklist for Genealogy Research”

August 25, 2020
Dave Robison
Much More Than Ancestry.com and
FamilySearch.org

NOTICE TO ALL

NERGC 2021 Conference is going Virtual this year. The committee is working on the details but so far, we know it will be from April 1 – May 30, 2021. Hopefully you will all take advantage of this great learning opportunity in the comfort of your own home (what else is new in this age of pandemic???) The Tri-Chairs are planning a virtual event that will mirror our previous conferences with such activities as the Special Sigs, virtual banquet with speaker and much more. More to come shortly.

Ancestral Mathematics

In order to be born, you needed:

2 parents
4 grandparents
8 great-grandparents
16 second great-grandparents
32 third great-grandparents
64 fourth great-grandparents
128 fifth great-grandparents
256 sixth great-grandparents
512 seventh great-grandparents
1,024 eighth great-grandparents
2,048 ninth great-grandparents

For you to be born today from 12 previous generations, you needed a total of 4,094 ancestors over the last 400 years.

Think for a moment – How many struggles? How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How many love stories? How many expressions of hope for the future? – did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present moment...

Submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

Election Humor



Running for Officed: Beers for Votes

Running for Office

In 1755, Washington ran for a seat in the House and was not elected. While he was fighting in the French and Indian War, Washington began testing the waters about a possible run. On May 28, 1755, he wrote to his brother John Augustine Washington and in the P.S., Washington inquired about a potentially open seat.

*I should be glad if you could come at Colo. Fairfax's Intention's, and let me know whether he purposes to offer himself as a Candadite; If he does not, I should be glad to take a pole, if I thought my chance tolerably good.*²

In Winchester, Virginia, on December 10, 1755, some friends put Washington's name forth as a candidate. It is unclear if Washington knew beforehand that his name was submitted. Voting took place by voice with the voter announcing to the crowd their TIME TO THINK A vote. During this first election, Washington only received 40 votes. There were two other candidates; Hugh West received 271 votes and Thomas Swearingen got 270. Washington kept a copy of the poll sheet, which listed how each person voted, his entire life.³

Researched and written by Jeanette Patrick, George Washington's Mount Vernon.

A Second Attempt

Reconstructed House of Burgesses in Williamsburg, Virginia

Despite the loss, Washington decided to run again for the House of Burgesses. It seems that by November 1757, some already knew

Washington's intentions to run in Frederick County.⁴ This time, despite still not in the area, Washington had friends campaign for him. He also supplied drinks for those voting, which was a rather common occurrence during 18th-century elections. Additionally, a dinner was held for Washington's friends.

Based on accounts settled after the election, Washington paid £39.6 for about:

46 gallons of beer

40 gallons, 1 hogshead, 1 barrel, and 10 bowls of rum punch

35 gallons of wine

2 gallons of cider

*3.5 pints of brandy.*⁵

The Results

On July 24, 1758, Charles Smith sent Washington the results:

Your Honor 307

Colo. Marin 240

Captn Swearingen 45

Hugh West 199⁶

3. Adam Stephen to George Washington, December 23, 1755, The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-02-02-0229> and Gabriel Jones to George Washington, July 6, 1758, The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-05-02-0205>.
4. Robert Stewart to George Washington, November 24, 1757, The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-05-02-0038-0001>.
5. Charles Smith to George Washington July 26, 1758, The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-05-02-0273-0001>.
6. Charles Smith to George Washington, July 24, 1758, The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-05-02-0264>.

So many of us have used our “downtime” these past six months getting “things in order” and if you are like me now you can't find a thing. There definitely was order in my chaos!!!

Hopefully this article on Research Logs will help others as much as it is helping me stay somewhat organized. It is reprinted with permission from the author Pat Burns

Genealogy Research Logs Organize and Track Your Work

Pat Burns

A Research log is an important tool to help organize and track your research work. I worked many years without using a research log. I found myself repeating my research, finding information that I have no idea where I got it and repeating negative searches over and over. And failing to correctly document my sources. How many times have you found a resource, but didn't remember where you got it?

The Value of Research Logs:

- Reduce duplication of effort.
- Cite your sources. This helps improve the quality of your research.
- Determine what has and has not been found.
- Helps organize your documents and your research.
- Evaluate the evidence to make better conclusions.
- Show your search strategies and questions. You can more easily repeat the process for the next ancestor.
- Shows negative evidence (what you did not find).

Does using a Research Log take more time?

Yes, in the short term, you will spend more time documenting and evaluating your sources. What you'll get in return will be higher quality research and your work will

be more credible. Long term, you will save time by not repeating research you've already done. Adding structure to your work will also allow you to know what your goals are and keep you on track. If you have an hour here and there, you will know what exactly it is you need to do, instead of 'running in circles.

If you plan to publish your work, your research log will be invaluable in pulling together source citations.

For the **Genealogy Do-Over**, I have downloaded and will be using **Thomas MacEntee's Genealogy Research log** (clicking the link should download the document). It is in a spreadsheet format and **FREE**.

Thomas' research spreadsheet also includes the following helpful sheets to assist you in documenting your resources within genealogy standards:

- Research Log
- Sample Log
- To Do List
- Search Attempts
- Citation Formats (Awesome)
- Evidence Evaluation – Provides Type Definitions for Source, Evidence, Result, Clarity and Information. (Awesome too)

It's obvious that Thomas has put a lot of thought and time into creating this spreadsheet. Thank You, Thomas!

Research Log Templates and Forms

If you prefer using pen and paper, there are literally hundreds of free Research Logs available online. Just search 'Genealogy Research Log' on your favorite search engine. Here are just a few I found in a quick search:

- **Genealogy Research Log** by "Thomas MacEntee" on Google (my personal favorite). This link should download the .xls file.

- **Genealogy Log of Documents** – By Midwest Genealogy Center – Family History Forms
- **Ancestry Charts & Forms** by Ancestry.com
- **Internet Research Log** by ShoeString Genealogy
- **Bailey's Free Genealogy Forms** – downloadable pdf forms
- **FamilySearch.org Research Forms** – Research Log is available in downloadable pdf or Word format.

Bonnie Bohnet submitted a follow-up article

6 Details to Include in Your Genealogy Research Log

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Here's a confession; I love gadgets. If you've ever wondered who in the world needs all of these fancy tools to be productive, it's me. If it's shiny and needs to be charged, I probably want it. When I'm working on my genealogical research, though, my most useful tool doesn't have a cord, an extended warranty or a hefty price tag. The one tool I'd be lost without is my genealogy research log.

When I was a brand-new genealogist, more seasoned researchers told me I needed a log, and I scoffed. Then I spent years doing the same work over and over, because I wasn't keeping track of my efforts. Now I face far fewer brick walls because I'm able to move my research forward instead of going around in circles.

Research logs help you see what you've done, what you need to do and where to go next. If you take a break from your research for a few months (or years), you'll be able to pick up where you left off. These days, I never do any genealogical work without my research log.

In the olden days (1995), my research log was on paper. With today's technological advances, I think a research log is more useful if it's electronic, but pen and paper are always an option. A computer-based research log is easy to find, and you can add to it forever. It doesn't waste paper or printer ink, and modern automatic backup systems and cloud-based storage can help ensure that it's available even if disaster strikes.

I use Microsoft Word document or Excel, they can be an effective research log. The platform isn't important; the discipline of recording all of your research is what matters most.

I encourage you to overcome the idea that a research log is too much work. Once you're past the learning curve of a new system, your log saves valuable time better spent breaking down your brick walls and finding new ancestors to add to your family tree. Make sure your genealogy research log includes these six key details:

1. Date of research

Captain Obvious, you say? A lot of people don't realize how useful the date of research can be. New records are being digitized all the time, so assessing how long ago you looked for something and didn't find it can help determine when it's time to try again. For example, my research logs from 2014 contained notes indicating that my ancestors' church records in Norway weren't available online. The date prompted me to try again. When I did, I was rewarded with two generations' worth of new discoveries.

Dates can also help you spot patterns in your research cycle. You can choose when to subscribe to certain websites so you can pay for them when you'll actually use them. My research logs tell me I tend to work on my own family tree more in the summer, when

hot weather keeps me indoors with the air-conditioning. So I can budget for genealogy website subscriptions in the summer months, when I'll get the most value for my dollars.

2. Full source citations

I know—source citations aren't that much fun. You feel like they'll slow you down, and you promise you'll go back and do them later, right?

Odds are you won't. Do your future self a favor and create source citations right then and there. Doing so will prevent that awful feeling when you realize at the end of a research trip that you don't have a page number, author's name or other key detail. You'll also have everything ready for the day you write up your research conclusions (which increases the odds that you will do those write-ups).

I've also found that it's easier to learn how to do citations quickly and correctly if you do one every few minutes. The quick repetition really helps your brain to learn a new skill.

3. Details, details, details

You think you'll remember that exciting record forever, but odds are you won't. When you've been working on your family trees for decades, you'll be amazed at how quickly *today's* research details fade from memory. Beyond the basic outline of what you find in a particular document, what else will you record? Does a witness name ring a bell? Does the document spur new ideas? Put all of it in your research log. There's no such thing as too much information here. If you've discovered a resource that might be handy later on, copy and paste the URL into your research log. By copying and pasting the URL you avoid introducing typos. That will allow you to come back to it with a single click.

4. Keywords that relate to the search

Your research log's data is only useful if you can find it again. Many family historians struggle to find a digital filing system that works for them. Your filing system doesn't have to be perfect, and this is where adding keywords can really help. If you're not yet sure of the spelling of a newly discovered ancestor's name, add all of the spellings you can think of to cover your bases. For example, if you're working on a woman whose maiden name is still a mystery, include text with her husband's name, the town she lived in or other identifying details. This will save you from having to wade through every "Mary" on your computer when you're looking for this Mary.

In some families, even full names aren't that helpful. I have German ancestors who reused the same names over and over. My Norwegian forebears were worse; they used patronyms, which changed each generation. In order to keep them straight, I've developed nicknames, and I tag each research log entry with the nickname. This helps me not confuse *Milwaukee Fred* with *Railroad Fred* or *Dead Fred*. (Of course, they're all dead. But "Dead" Fred died very young, and had his name passed along to the next child—a common practice among Germans). I also have a string of Nels Nelsons, so *Civil War Nels* is labeled differently from *Norway Nels* (who lived in the Old Country) and *Minnesota Nels* (who was born in—you guessed it—Minnesota). Some people use ancestor numbers assigned by their desktop genealogy software as unique keywords for each ancestor. Do whatever helps you find the right person.

5. Expenses

Your research log is a great place to keep track of costs when you send a request for a death certificate or pension file. Whether you're on a strict budget or not, it's smart

to track your spending and to stay within bounds.

Recording those costs can also provide some accountability, so you don't accidentally go on a late night record-ordering spree and blow your budget for the year in one fell swoop. (I've done that, and I don't recommend it.) It's helpful to look back and see how much a particular record cost the last time you ordered, so you can better prioritize what to order next.

6. Notes to your future self

If you're researching records in a particular area, you probably have an ancestor who lived there. And if you have one ancestor in an area, you'll probably find that you have more.

Consider what information might be useful to you when you have to return to this spot. Did you just learn that the county line moved in 1846? Put that in the log. Did the street numbering system change? Is a database you've found picky about having surnames capitalized for searching? Save your future self grief by making note of it all.

A version of this article appears in the May/June 2019 issue of *Family Tree Magazine*.

MEMBERSHIP

Like us on Facebook: Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society and visit our website at

<http://www.cmgso.org>

Follow us as well since the Board utilizes our Facebook page to update us on current programs or any changes to our current schedule.....especially during the winter we will post any cancelations on our page as well

TIME TO THINK ABOUT RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Women In History – Overcoming the “Just a Housewife” Myth

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you my cousin

*Female ancestors and women in history lived
full and engaging lives! Learn what
genealogy clues can be found for women in
the family tree.*

In this episode of the Are You My Cousin?
weekly Youtube Live, [Melissa Barker,
AKA The Archive Lady](#), joins me to talk
about finding our female ancestors.

Yes, researching the women in our family
tree can be tough, BUT YOU DO HAVE
OPTIONS

Bust the “She Was Just A Housewife” Myth – Women in History Led Full Lives!

Often as researchers, we think of the women
in our family tree in terms of when they were
married. We research their married lives
including their husbands thoroughly. Let
me ask you this. Have you ever considered
her life before she got married? When she
was single?

What about later in life? Have you
considered what she might have done once
the children were grown?

Have you considered what was important to
her? Her faith? Or perhaps a local cause?

Your Great great great grandmother was
living a life engaged in her community and
her activities may have well left records to
find.

Women As Volunteers & Club Members

Women were commonly volunteering in
their communities! Many organizations and
clubs existed where they could participate
and socialize with other women.

Potential Types of Volunteer Groups
include:

- The local chapter of the American Red
Cross
- Women’s ministry at their church
- Food Pantry at their church or in their
community
- School Volunteer
- Historical Societies
- The Garden Club
- The Sewing Club or Quilting Group

Many of these organizations kept record or
produced newsletters where members were
listed.

Women As Cooks

Our female ancestors were often cooks.
Whether a good cook or a not-so-good-cook,
cooking often fell to the women.

Many churches and communities created
cookbooks where women contributed a
recipe or two. Do not overlook the
genealogical value of a local cookbook!
[\(Learn more about how to use cookbooks
in your genealogy research in this post.\)](#)

Consider any food stories or favorite food
memories in your family? Do you know the
story behind that food or meal tradition? Is it
indicative of a specific cultural heritage?
You’ll want to find out!

Women as “Late Bloomers”

Melissa reminded us in the video not to
ignore the later lives of our female ancestors.
After raising a family and/or becoming
widowed, she may have pursued a hobby or
an occupation .

My great grandmother ran a grocery store,
and Melissa’s grandmother started her own
beauty salon.

Anna Mary Moses, also known as Grandma
Moses did not start painting until she was 78!

Where To Find These Records and Resources On Our Women in History?

The #1 place you want to start looking for your female ancestors in these records is the newspaper. The community newspaper is crucial to learning more about your female ancestors.

You may need to do a bit of looking to find pertinent newspapers. Check:

- **The local library** – these may be on microfilm or original newspapers
- **State and county archives** – I usually ask staff to show me their catalog system and ask for their search recommendations. This saves valuable reading time.
- **Chronicling America**
- **Genealogy Databases:** Ancestry.com, FindMyPast, MyHeritage, and FamilySearch
- GenealogyBank – I regularly include this one in my newspaper research.
- Newspapers.com – This has become one of *my favorite sites* for newspaper research! Melissa encouraged us to read those local papers page by page. Learn about the community itself and pay attention to the gossip columns and local events sections. These are gold mines for genealogy researchers.

Also, be sure to include a search of state and local library vertical files! These often hold newspaper clippings, club newsletters, and church histories. [Read Explore Vertical Files to learn more about using information in vertical files in your research.](#)

Local museums are another great source of information on women in history!

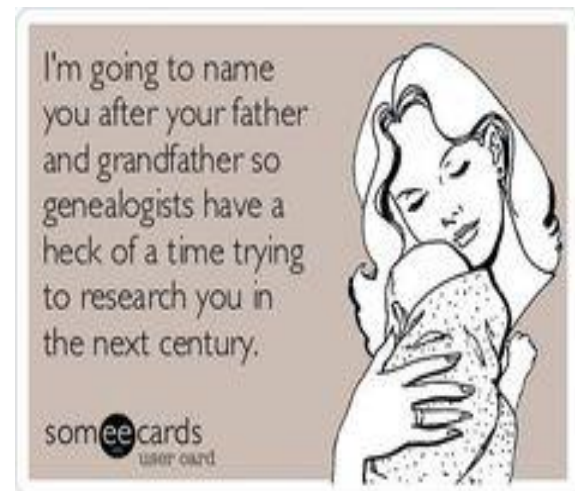
Now It's Your Turn!

Pick one area of your female ancestor's life you want to focus on and start searching! Have you found your female ancestor in a unique or unusual record? Let us know

To Further Reading:

- [How To Use The Pre-1850 Census to Find Your Female Ancestors](#)
- [How To Track Females in the Family Tree Using the Children's Records](#)
- [Researching Female Ancestors? You Can Overcome Those Research Roadblocks!](#)

Something to make you smile a little



CMGS CEMETRY PUBLICATIONS

Cemetery Inscriptions Booklets:

1. Ashburnham, MA - 223 pages - \$25
2. Ashby, MA - 207 pages - \$25
3. Baldwinville & Templeton, MA – 281 pages - \$30
4. Hubbardston, MA - 207 pages - \$25
5. Phillipston, MA - 85 pages - \$20
6. Royalston & South Royalston, MA – 179 pages - \$25
7. Westminster, MA - 209 pages - \$25
8. Winchendon, MA - 493 pages - \$50
9. Petersham, MA – 281 pages --- \$30

Add \$7.00 per publication for shipping



We are looking for members to submit updated family charts

We are looking for members to share how they solved a family mystery

And

We are looking for members to share some of their ideas and talents.

We want to make this society and newsletter for and about you so we need your input

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