


**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

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

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**THE SEARCHERS**


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As we begin this holiday season, we are starting to think of it very differently. November in the middle of a pandemic is very different than in years past and yet so similar. It is a time we reflect on the past year and look to the new year for all its promises. It also is a time to be thankful for what we are as a person, family member, friend and citizen of such a wonderful country. We are thankful for all our service men and women, who have ensured our democracy.

This pandemic of 2020 has also made us heard Cyndi realize how important it is to embrace those we love and cherish and be in the present. It also has made us realize we don't have "all the time in the world" to finish our story.

I am hoping many of you will share with us the story of you in this year of 2020. What a wonderful way to document for future generations how we survived this very turbulent time in or life. If you would like to share your story please send it to me at [cmgsorg1@gmail.com](mailto:cmgsorg1@gmail.com).

The Board of Directors are hoping you all stay safe and well during this difficult time and manage to connect with those close to you even if it has to be through phone calls, social media or zoom meetings. A year ago we never would have imagined this is where we would be this year!!!!

We are continuing with our virtual meetings at least through the spring. The positive note

here is we have been able to speakers from across the country through zoom and do hope you have been able to join us for these meetings.

We also are going to start a "new" learning opportunity through our zoom platform, a "how to class" each month in which one of our members will share how they have researched a particular issue or broken down a brick wall or preserved their story. This Monday November 9 with "How to navigate the deeds in Worcester county" with many "tricks" to find what you wanted and sometime things you never expected to find in deed research. The video is available on the members site at [www.cmgs.org](http://www.cmgs.org)

**ALSO**
**UPDATE YOUR E-MAIL SO WE CAN INVITE YOU**

Time to **renew** your C.M.G.S. Membership Application is on the back page of newsletter and also available on our website [www.cmgs.org](http://www.cmgs.org)

***2020 CMGS Membership Meeting***
**NOVEMBER 17th –7 PM**
***"Timelines: The Straight Line Between You and Your Ancestor "***
**Speaker: Cyndi Ingle**

Anyone who has heard Cyndi in the past will understand the wealth of knowledge she presents and if you have never had the pleasure this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to see her and asking questions

***Register in advance for this meeting:***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkceugpj4qHNx3t10kar0zXNWYbjZOEMd>

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**JANUARY 26, 2021**  
***How Do I Know What I Don't Know? Fast Tracking Your Genealogy Education***  
Thomas MacEntee  
Zoom meeting

**FEBRUARY 23, 2021**  
***The 1950 US Federal Census: Are You Ready?***  
Thomas MacEntee  
Zoom meeting

## 13 Free Genealogy Websites

from: Lisa Lisson 'Are You My Cousin', with permission. I've got a baker's dozen (13) free genealogy websites that you might have missed. The list is eclectic. You may be familiar with some, but others may be completely new to you. Many of databases are lesser known or used sites that definitely benefit the genealogy researcher.

In showing you these, I hope you will be inspired to think beyond traditional type pf records and databases and explore online for your specific research needs.

Wondering how to actually search online for free genealogy websites? Keep on reading, and I'll show you how down below.

But first, the list:

**1. Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records** – I'm surprised it took me so long to find this site. You will find death index and records divided out by state and then county. You will want to add this to your **Google Chrome bookmarks**.

**2. The USGS Name Search** – Here is another one I've added to my bookmarks. The USGS Name Search functions as an online gazateer. Names of towns, rivers and other land features changed. Use this tool to

discover alternate names to use in your research.

**3. Meredith College Carlyle Campbell Library Archives** – Are you including college and university archives in your genealogy research on a regular basis? If not, consider it! This example from **Meredith College** (a female Baptist college located in Raleigh, North Carolina) is a good example of what a smaller college collection can hold. Often their compass life and history are well documented. If your ancestor attended a college or even worked at one, you need to include their archives and collections in your search.

**Learn how I found my great grandfather at an all-female college!**

**4. NARA Access To Archival Data** – I discovered NARA's AAD search page years ago and have circled back around to it. You will be able to search a selection of NARA's databases that includes over 247 million records. I recommend starting with the "Getting Started Guide" in the upper right-hand corner of the page.

The screenshot shows the National Archives' Access to Archival Databases (AAD) search page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Archives.gov Home' and 'Contact Us'. Below that, the main heading is 'Access to Archival Databases (AAD)'. There's a search bar with a 'Search' button and an 'Advanced Search' link. To the right of the search bar is a 'Getting Started Guide' link with a small icon. Below the search bar is a 'Browse by Category' section with a 'Show All Series >>' link. The categories listed are: 'Genealogy/ Personal History' (highlighted with a red box), 'Private Sector', 'Wars/ International Relations', and 'Time Spans'. Each category has a list of sub-categories. For example, 'Genealogy/ Personal History' includes 'Casualties', 'Civilians', 'Military Personnel', 'Passenger Lists', and 'Prisoners of War'. 'Private Sector' includes 'Businesses', 'Foundations', and 'Labor Unions'. 'Wars/ International Relations' includes 'Civil War', 'World War II', 'Korean War', 'Vietnam War', and 'Cold War'. 'Time Spans' includes '1800 - 1900', '1900 - 1940', '1940 - 1955', '1955 - 1965', '1965 - 1975', '1975 - 1985', '1985 - 1995', and '1995 - present'. There's also a 'Browse by Subjects >>' link. At the bottom, there's a 'What's New?' section with two items: 'Numerical Identification Files (NUMIDENT)' and 'Index to the Correspondence'.

Source: NARA

**5. Mayflower History** – Do you suspect you descend from one of the passengers on the Mayflower? This site covers Mayflower passengers, Mayflower history and Mayflower genealogy. Additionally, you will

find links to more genealogy related resources to help in your ancestor search.

6. **Historic Hospital Admission Records Project** – I’m always fascinated by hospital records in my research. Finding them can be tough, but this unique site has 19th century children’s hospital records in London, England and Glasgow, Scotland.

7. **Europeana** – While not specifically a genealogy website, if you are researching European ancestors, you will want to take a look. Social history is important to your genealogy research. I cannot stress that enough! (I even wrote a blog post on it.) Learn about your ancestors cultural heritage through **Europeana’s collections**.

8. **Digital Public Library of America** – Includes large digital collection of Family Bibles, photographs, Civil War records just to name a few. Don’t miss this one!

9. **Avotaynu** – The leading publisher of books on Jewish Genealogy, **Avotaynu** offers the *Consolidated Jewish Surname Index*. You will also find a great **5-minute guide to Jewish genealogy** you want to check out.

10. **Documenting the American South (DocSouth)** – You will find collections of resources focused on the southern United States and its people. If your ancestors lived in the southern states, DocSouth is a must for your research.

11. **Digital Library on American Slavery (DLAS)** – The DALAS is an ever growing database of collections focusing on race and slavery in the southern U. S. Collections include **Race and Slavery Petitions Project**, **The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database**, and **People Not Property – Slave Deeds of North Carolina**.

12. **Women Working 1800 – 1930** – Tracing female ancestors? Check out this Harvard collection on women’s impact on the economic life of the United States

13. **Irish Genealogy Toolkit** – Irish Ancestors? Bookmark the Irish Genealogy

Toolkit! I came across this site while searching for my Irish GGG grandmother. I haven’t found her yet, but I will!

### **Thinking Outside the Box**

Extracted from: Lisa Lisson ‘Are You My Cousin’, with permission.

Let’s think beyond the standard genealogy research of census records, birth records, marriage records, etc.

Finding and using those “out of the box” genealogy sources will benefit your genealogy research. **Don’t limit your success by only researching the traditional genealogy records.**

**Tips before we get started:**

1. **Get to know your ancestor well** – I mean very well! – in the traditional genealogy records. Were they in the military? Do you know their occupation? Who was important to them? Who appeared alongside them in the records? Having a good understanding of your ancestor in traditional records will help you recognize your ancestor in the more unusual record sets.

2. When you find an “out of the box” record set, **educate yourself on that unique and/or unusual record sets** by reading the “About” sections on records before you begin your research. Find out exactly what a record set contains and how the records are organized. Also, learn about any idiosyncrasies about that particular record set. This will be a **huge time saver** as you research.

3. The large databases such as **MyHeritage** and **FamilySearch** all have lots of record sets researchers do not know exist or do not think to check . Find examples below of out of the box sources.

4. These are not comprehensive lists, but rather lists to get your creative juices flowing as you start to explore unusual genealogy sources for your own ancestors.

5. One of the places I like to check for unusual records is the **recently added**

**records section.** A quick check today on yielded the [U.S., Baseball Questionnaires 1945-2005](#) record collection. I'm thrilled, because I do have baseball players among my ancestors.

### **More Unusual Genealogy Source Examples in Ancestry.com**

- **Headstones Provided for Deceased Union Civil War Veterans, 1861-1904** Contracts/cards for headstones provided for Union soldier graves by the government.
- **U.S., Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists, 1910-1939** This record set contains not just troop passenger lists that were transported, but also support personnel (such as nurses) and even family members.
- **Reports of Deaths of American Citizens Abroad, 1835-1974** Famous persons, casualties of the Titanic and just "regular folk" can be found here.
- **Montana, Prison Records, 1861-1968** Records for Montana prisoners.
- **U.S. Military and Naval Academies, Cadet Records and Applications, 1800-1908** Registers, applications, records of conduct and more.....
- **U.S., Craftperson Files, 1600-1995** Information on American Craftpersons including artists, blacksmiths, silversmiths.....
- **U.S., Appointments of U. S. Postmasters, 1832-1971** Was your ancestor a postmaster? **Examples of "Out of the Box" Genealogy Sources in FindMyPast** **American Bible Society Index Search**
- **California, San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1835-1931** 91,000 records of individuals buried in the San Francisco area, including those lost in the 1906 earthquake.
- **Japanese-American World War II Relocation Files**
- **Shipwrecked Passengers To America, 1817-1875** – Interesting records!

- **[Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania, Bethany Children's Home Indexes](#)**

- **[York County, Pennsylvania, Coroners Papers Index, 1796-1819, 1858-1958](#)**

### **Examples of Unusual Genealogy Sources in State and Local Archives**

State and local archives are full of unusual and uncommon genealogy records potentially holding clues to your ancestors. Take time to discover what types of records your state archives has. Check their card catalog and/or talk with an archivist. Don't forget the online collections!

- **Merchant account records** – Potential source of a merchant's customers.
- **Cemetery Surveys** – Potential source for family cemeteries [**I found documented oral histories in these records!**]
- **Road records** – Potential source for placing your ancestor in time and place.
- **Records of lunacy** – Potential source of individuals declared lunatics.
- **School Records** – Potential source for children, school teachers and superintendents
- **Minutes for the Warden of the Poor** – Potential source if your ancestors were poor and required assistance from the county
- **Published Family Histories**
- **Examples of Unusual Genealogy Sources Published family histories** – Often these can be found in the local library or on your family's bookshelf. Use these as clues and verify the information.
- **Oral histories from distant cousins.** Actively seek them out!
- **Oral histories from family members with dementia.** Our family members who suffer from the unfortunate diagnosis of dementia can still offer insight into your family history. [Read tips and suggestions for interviewing a family member with dementia.](#) Take time to explore unusual and "out of the box" genealogy sources. When you've hit that genealogy brick wall – which we all do! – thinking outside the box can jump start your research within your own family



Do not overlook possible record sources held within your own family!

## **GENEALOGICAL QUERIES**

The Searchers will begin offering a Query Column, providing members an opportunity to reach hundreds of people who may be researching the same names.

There is a maximum of 50 words per query. Type or print each query on a separate 8.5x11 sheet of paper, if mailing the Query to our P.O. Box 811 in Westminster MA 01473. You may also e-mail the Query to the newsletter editor, [cambosworth@gmail.com](mailto:cambosworth@gmail.com). The preferred format uses standard abbreviations and the date written as 27 July 1927 (counted as one word). Show birth, death, marriage in that order, with event location shown before date and all known information stated before the question is asked. Editor reserves the right to edit for space and/or clarity, without changing thought. Remember to include your contact information. Entries must be postmarked/e-mailed by the first Friday of the month so it can be included in the Searchers. If the Query comes in latter it will show in the following edition of the Searchers.

**QUERY:** COLLINS, Charles I, b. New York abt 1832, m 27 July 1857 Crescent City California to MCDONNELL, Catherine, b. MA abt 1840 Need bdt, par of Charles. Carol A McNeil Bosworth, 1188 Main St. Leominster, MA 01453 or [cambosworth@gmail.com](mailto:cambosworth@gmail.com)

**QUERY:** MCDONNELL, Catherine, b MA abt 1840 to Catherine Noonan MCDONNELL, m 27 July 1857 Crescent City CA to COOKE, Charles b NY 1832. Need father of Catherine. Carol A. McNeil Bosworth Main St, Leominster, MA 01453 or [cambosworth@gmail.com](mailto:cambosworth@gmail.com)

## **NEW Changes to Google Drive and Google Photos and Your Genealogy Research**

Yesterday Google announced several new user and data storage policies that could impact how genealogists and family historians store research data including digital images. Here's what you need to know:

**You could lose your Google Drive files if you haven't accessed them for a long time.** Starting 1 June 2021, if you haven't accessed your Google Drive files in two (2) years, those files could be deleted. Google is vague as to what constitutes "access." Logging into Google Drive? Opening one Google Drive file and saving it? See <https://mashable.com/article/google-delete-drive-contents-due-to-inactivity/> for more details.

**What should you do?** No deletion will occur until at least 1 June 2023 according to the policy. No action needed now but stay informed.

**Google Photos is ending free unlimited photo storage starting 1 June 2021.** After that date, any uploaded photos will count against your free storage limit of 15GB which is spread across Gmail, Google Drive, and other Google Apps.

**What should you do?** Make sure you upload files NOW and before 1 June 2021 if you are using Google Photos. See <https://thenextweb.com/plugged/2020/11/12/google-photos-is-ending-free-unlimited-storage-in-2021-so-whatre-your-options/> for more details.

I hope you find these tech updates helpful. Stay safe and healthy

Thomas MacEntee November 12 2020

## **CMGS 2020 Survey**

*All entries will be entered in our contest to win a free annual membership.*

Please answer the following survey regarding its website, social media and all other offerings. Your input will help us to serve you better.

Include your email address so we can notify you immediately.

Please circle all that apply.

|  |     |    |
|--|-----|----|
| I have attended a ZOOM meeting with CMGS in the last 6 months. | Yes | No |
| I follow CMGS on social media [Facebook]                       | Yes | No |
| I have checked out the website in the past 6 months.           | Yes | No |
| I consider myself a beginner at genealogy/family history.      | Yes | No |

Which of the following family history subjects interest you? **[Please circle all that apply].**

|                 |                             |      |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|------|
| Adoption        | Oral History & Storytelling |      |
| Ethnic Heritage | Medical History             | None |

Which of the following research areas are of interest to you? **[Please circle all that apply]**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Black-Sheep ancestors                        | Library and archive research               |
| Burned courthouses & finding missing records |  |
| Cemetery Research                            | Civil War                                  |
| Colonial America                             | Female Ancestors                           |
| Genealogy records                            | Historical Newspapers                      |
| Identifying Photographs                      | Immigration [Ellis Island and other ports] |
| Maps/gazetteers                              | Occupations                                |
| On-line Genealogy                            | Pre-1850 Ancestors                         |
| Revolutionary War                            | DNA  |
| Researching Common Names                     |  |
| Problem Solving/Brick Wall Advice            |  |

Which of the following family history project areas are of interest to you? **Please circle all that apply]**

|                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Becoming a professional          | Printing a family tree           |
| Case Studies                     | Publishing a family history book |
| Family Recipes                   | Reunions                         |
| Genealogy crafts/gifts           | Travel/Research trips/tools      |
| Genealogy projects for kids      | Writing memories/family history  |
| Organizing your files & research |                                  |

Which of the following tools & apps are of interest to you **[circle all that apply]**

|                         |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apps for family history | Scanning photos & documents    |
| DNA Testing             | Digital archiving/cloud backup |
| Social Media            | Software for family history    |
| Taking Photos           | Preserving & retouching photos |
| Genealogy Websites      |                                |

In which of the following nationalities, and/or ethnicity are you most interested? **Circle all that apply**

|                  |                 |             |                     |                |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| African American | American Indian | Canadian    | East Asian/Chinese, |                |
| English          | Finnish         | French      | French/Canadian     | German-Russian |
| German           | Irish           | Scots-Irish | Scottish Italian    | Jewish         |
| Mexican          | Norwegian       | Polish      | Portuguese          | Spanish        |
| Swedish          | Swiss           | Prussian    | Romanian            | Russian        |
| Japanese,        | South Asian     | Korean,     | Taiwanese           |                |

Southeast European – Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin, Slovenian, Albanian, Bosnian, Herzegovinian, Ukrainian

Which of the following states and Territories are you most interested in? **circle all that apply**

|                |             |              |               |               |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Alabama        | Alaska      | Arizona      | Arkansas      | California    |
| Colorado       | Connecticut | Delaware     | Florida       | Georgia       |
| Hawaii         | Idaho       | Illinois     | Indiana       | Iowa          |
| Kansas         | Kentucky    | Louisiana    | Maine         | Maryland      |
| Massachusetts  | Michigan    | Minnesota    | Mississippi   | Missouri      |
| Montana        | Nebraska    | Nevada       | New Hampshire | New Jersey    |
| New Mexico     | New York    | N Carolina   | N Dakota      | Ohio          |
| Oklahoma       | Oregon      | Pennsylvania | Puerto Rico   | Rhode Island  |
| South Carolina | S Dakota    | Tennessee    | Texas         | Utah          |
| Vermont        | Virginia    | Washington   | Washington DC | West Virginia |
| Wisconsin      | Wyoming     |              |               |               |

Other US territories American Samoa US Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands Guam

Which of the following sources do you use to stay informed about genealogy? **circle all that apply**

|  |  |                            |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Conferences/Events                       | Libraries  | Local Continuing Education |
| Magazines                                | Relatives/Family                                       | Books                      |
| CDs/DVDs                                 | Podcasts   | E-mail Newsletters         |
| Friends/Acquaintances                    | Social Media   | TV Shows                   |
| Websites & Blogs                         | Online classes, tutorials, Webinars, Workshops, videos |                            |
| Genealogical Societies [Please list all] | _____  |                            |

Which of the following genealogy activities have you participated in the last year? **circle all that apply**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Attended a genealogy conference            | Joined a genealogy organization                     |
| Participated in a historical society       | Researched genealogy at a cemetery                  |
| Researched genealogy at a church           | Researched genealogy at a courthouse                |
| Researched genealogy at a library          | Traveled outside my state for research              |
| Traveled to learn about my ethnic heritage | Visited a Family History Center                     |
| Visited the Family History Library in Utah | Visited a National Archives, or one of its branches |

In which of the following genealogy activities have you participated in in the last year? **circle all**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Helped someone else with genealogy research    | Hired a professional genealogist     |
| Preserved/restored old photographs/heirlooms   | Planned or attended a family reunion |
| Wrote to a family member to gather information | Published a family history           |

In which of the following genealogy activities have you participated in during the past 12 months?

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Compiled a family tree on a computer   | Listened to a genealogy webinar  |
| Created or maintained a family history on a website  | Purchased a cloud backup service |
| Paid for a subscription to a genealogy data website such as Ancestry, MyHeritage or Findmypast |                                  |

**Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.**

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**[www.cmgs.org](http://www.cmgs.org)**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR C.M.G.S. MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1 JANUARY 2021**

*Central Massachusetts Genealogy Society, Inc.*

*P.O. Box 811*

*Westminster, MA 1473-0811*

**TYPES OF MEMBERSHIPS**

(check one)

- Individual - \$15.00/yr
- Family \* - \$20.00 / yr.
- Organizational - \$25.00/yr

\*Please list full name of spouse:

\_\_\_\_\_

You are invited to join any of the following committees:

- ◆ Membership
- ◆ Nominating
- ◆ Publication
- ◆ Technology
- ◆ Library
- ◆ Publicity
- ◆ Newsletter
- ◆ Programs
- ◆ Historian
- ◆ Hospitality

Monthly meetings the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday,  
January-November from 7-9 PM

Revised 10/18