

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

THE SEARCHERS

MARCH 2021

It has been a year now and we have:

“Social Distancing”

“Mask wearing in public”

“Vacines and the light at the end of the tunnel!!”

“ZOOM meetings”

So

Our annual elections are being done

March 23, 2021 as scheduled

We are hoping to have some new faces on the board this year and encourage anyone who is interested to put their name in the election.

The proposed ballot will be presented at the meeting and **nominations from the floor will also be accepted for any position.**

- President Kathleen Kaldis
- Vice Present Susie Haenisch
- Secretary _____
- Treasurer Bonnie Bohnet
- Director Joan Bonner
- Director Sarah Campbell
- Director John Johnson
- Director Marcia White
- Director Janet Fortunato
- Director James Belmont
- Director Carol Bosworth
- Director Diane Sambria (Leominster Library representative)

Please think about becoming a member of the board and help shape the future of C.M.G.S We will take nominations at the March 23 members meeting for anyone who is interested.

Time to renew memberships if you have not already. Reminders were sent out last month if you needed to renew for this year

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Board of Directors in their March meeting voted to have a designated representative from the Leominster Library on the board of directors in light of the on going partnership between the Library and CMGS. You will notice the director position on the proposed ballot.

NERGC VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

April 1 – May 31, 2021

This conference supports CMGS by sharing the profits which in turn helps us give our membership quality programs throught the two year period.

Please considering registering for the conference if you have not already done so.

This conference is different in that you do not need to choose which program you want to go to, you have available over 60 pre-recorded international speakers as well as another dozen or so live presentations such as speaker chats, Special Interest Groups, and live chats. The brochure is posted on the website for you to view

Hope to see many of you there

2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE all on demand available 24/7 thru May 31

		Thursday April 1		Friday	Saturday	
For specific topics see schedule for gathering days and track ALL TIMES ARE EST		<u>Gathering Day 1</u> 10-10:30 am Opening 11:00-12:00 Pat Richley-Erickson 12:00-1:30 Virtual Exhibit Hall 1:30-2:30 Alec Ferretti 3:00-4:00 Jill Morelli 4:30-5:30 Live chat Pat Richley-Erickson 6:00-7:00 PM Nathan Dylan Goodwin		2	3 – Live Society Fair	
4 - SUNDAY Newsletter 6:30-7:30 PM Live SIGs French-Canadian Research, Host: Michael Leclerc	5 – MONDAY Live Chat – Searching Ancestry & FamilySearch Jill Morelli & Alec Ferretti	6 -TUESDAY	7 – WEDNESDAY Possible Live Chat with a Vendor	8 - THURSDAY	9 – GATHERING DAY 2 9-10 John Grenham 10:30-11:30 John Grenham 11:30-1 Virtual Exhibit Hall 1:00-2:00 John Grenham 2:30-3:30 Pamela Guye Holland 4-5 Live Chat John Grenham	10
11 - newsletter	12 – 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs Society Management, Host: Joan Frederici and Seema Kenney	13	14 – Live Chat Digging into your DNA Nora Galvin & Kevin Cassidy	15	16 – Live Library and Archives Presentations	17.GATHERING DAY 3 10-11 Diahn Southard 11:30-12:30 Angie Bush 12:30-2 Virtual Exhibits 2:00-3:00 Angie Bush 3:30-4:30 Angie Bush 5-6 Live Chat Angie Bush
18 Newsletter Live Chat Irish Research Pam Holland & Kevin Cassidy	19	20 – 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs Polish and Eastern European Research, Host Julie Roberts Szczepankiewicz	21	22 – Possible Live Chat a with Vendor	23	24 –ADD ON TRACK Writing Your Research 9-10- Elissa Scalise Powell 10:15-11:15 -Nora Galvin 11:30-12:30 -Pam Vestal 12:30-2 --Virtual Exhibits 2-3 -Marian Burk Wood 3:15-4:45 -Live Chat with all
25 – newsletter	26	27 Live Ancestors Road Show	28 – 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs Jewish Research, Host:	29	30 – Live Chat Preserving Family Stories	MAY 1 – ADD ON TRACK Advanced DNA 9-10 --Alec Stephen Ferretti

			Meredith Hoffman		Lori Lyn Price & Drew Bartley	10:15-11:15 -- Angie Bush 11:30-12:30 -- Skip Duett 12:30-2 Virtual Exhibits Hall 2-3 -Blaine Bettinger 3:15-4:45 Live Chat with all
2 – newsletter	3 – Possible Live Chat with a Vendor	4	5	6 – 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs Irish Research, Host: Nora Galvin	7 Live Ancestors Road Show	8 –<u>ADD ON TRACK</u> Becoming a Professional Genealogist 9-10 Meryl Schumacher 10:15-11:15 Michael Leclerc 11:30-12:30 Elissa Scalise Powell 12:30-2 Virtual Exhibit Hall 2-3 Jill Morelli 3:15-4:45 Live chat with all
9 newsletter	10	11 Live Chat – New England Vital Records Margaret Fortier & Jennifer Zink	12 Live Library and Archives Presentations	13	14 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs Scandinavian Research, Host: Michael McClellan	15
16 – Newsletter Live Society Fair	17	18 – Possible Live Chats with Vendors	19	20 – Live Chat New England Land Records Sara Campbell & Carol McCoy	21	22 – 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIG Naming patterns in Eastern and Western Europe
23 - newsletter <u>Last Day to register</u>	24 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIG African American Research, Host: Diane Richard	25	26 Live Ancestors Road Show	27- 6:30-7:30 pm Live SIGs DNA	28	29 – Live Chat – New England to NY Connections Jane Wilcox & Skip Duet
30 – Live Chat – Canada to New England Connections Michael Leclerc & David Lambert	31 (Mem Day) Conference ends at 11:59 PM					

As you can see the conference is filled with something for everyone and you can enjoy the sessions as many times as you want over the 61 days of the conference

C.M.G.S. UPCOMING 2021

VIRTUAL MEETINGS

ZOOM will open 30 minutes before the scheduled meeting

Date: March 23, 2021
7 PM

“Immigration Basics”
Speaker:
Seema-Jayne Kenney

Date: April 27, 2021
7 PM

“The Family History Guide”
Speaker:
Bob Taylor

Date: May 25, 2021
6:30 PM

“From Pilgrims to Pioneers: Researching Your Colonial New England Ancestors”
Speaker:
Kathy Kaldis

Date: June 22, 2021
7 PM

“Another Boarder: The Reception of French-Canadians in New England”
Speaker:
David Vermette

Date: July 27, 2021
7 PM

Members Sharing With Members
Bring your brick walls and research successes

Date: August 24, 2021
7PM

“Sanborn Maps”
Speaker:
Ari Wilkins

Date: September 28, 2021
7PM

“Irish History II”
Speaker:
Tom Toohey

**this presentation will not be recorded

Date: October 26, 2021
7 PM

Scheduled for inperson
“Abby Kelley Foster and the Yours for Humanity —Abby play”
Speaker:
Lynne McKenny Lydick

Date: November 16, 2021
7 PM

“Naturalization Records”
Speaker:
Seema Kenney

Have you heard of LibraryThing??

A home for your books.

Enter what you're reading or your whole library. It's an easy, library-quality catalog.

A community of 2,550,000 book lovers.

LibraryThing connects you to people who read what you do.

LibraryThing is a social cataloging web application for storing and sharing book catalogs and various types of book metadata. It is used by authors, individuals, libraries, and publishers. Based in Portland, Maine, LibraryThing was developed by Tim Spalding and went live on August 29, 2005. As of June 2020, it has 2,375,000 users and over 135 million books catalogued.

(from website www.librarything.com)

Go to www.librarything.com and try it out. Kathy Kaldis and I encourage all of you to create your own site and enter your books. There is a tutorial to help you along – on the website find “A Short Overview of LibraryThing.” Once you set up your own site, please “friend” Kathy, the CMGS web site, and me. Enjoy this new experience! I just input our nine (9) cemetery books into LibraryThing and our login information is the following:

CentralMaGenSociety - (possibly not case sensitive but leave no spaces)

Password is: johnnyappleseed (definitely case sensitive!) by Susie Haenisch

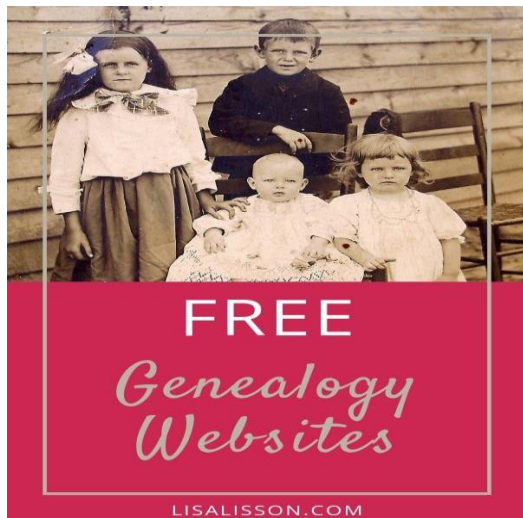
Free Genealogy Records – A Guide To Frugal Genealogy Research

By Lisa Lisson reprinted with permission

Is it possible to find our ancestors with using FREE genealogy records and websites?

As genealogy researchers, we are a frugal lot. We spend our genealogy dollars frugally and research for free whenever possible. After all, those DNA tests (and research trips and genealogy conferences) we plan to order can be expensive!

Let's see what free genealogy resources we can find online. Most of these sites require no sign up and no credit card.



50 FREE Genealogy Records and Websites for Frugal Genealogists

1. **FamilySearch.org** – Long time favorite of genealogy researchers.
2. **The USGenWeb Project** – Volunteer based website providing online genealogy information. Another favorite of genealogy researchers.
3. **Chronicling America** – Search historic American newspapers.
4. **Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)**– Includes large digital collection of Family Bibles, photographs, Civil War records just to name a few.

5. **New York Public Library**– Over 750,000 items including maps, private family papers and photographs. These do not pertain just to New York residents. I've found records for my own North Carolina ancestors in these collections.

6. Digital Collections at State Archives

A growing number of archives are growing their digital collections.

Explore the state archives where your ancestors lived. Two examples include:

- [North Carolina Digital Collections](#)
- [Library of Virginia](#)
- [Missouri Digital Heritage](#)
- [Tennessee State Archives Online](#)

[Resources](#) – Check out their Family Bible Project!

Be sure and check periodically for updates and additions to archive digital collections.

7. **Guild of One Name Studies** – Resource website to find information on surname project studies. Check for your ancestor's surname, connect with other researchers or start a study of your own.

8. **Free BMD** – Free access to transcriptions of Civil Registration index of birth, marriages and death for England and Wales. This is an ongoing project so check back for updates.

9. **Google Maps and Google Earth** – Great resources for visualizing where your ancestors lived. I love a good map !



10. **David Rumsey's Historical Maps** – Fantastic (and large) historical map collection including maps from around the world.

11. **RAOGK**–Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness– A global volunteer organization

that performs all types of tasks such as look-ups at local courthouses or taking a photograph of a tombstone. Volunteers may ask for reimbursement of their expenses (Ex. Postage), but never their time. Consider being a volunteer yourself!

12. **Documenting the American South (DocSouth)** – Collections of resources focused on the south and its people.

13. **Google Books**– Source of free books including county histories, family histories and topical books of genealogical interest. Books in the public domain available to read for free.

Google Books is one of my favorite free resources! I was even a featured Google Books user in Google's video! Learn more about using free Google books in your genealogy research.

14. **FindAGrave** – Volunteer based source of gravestones and burial sites. [Unsourced genealogical information on individuals should be used as a guide and not as proven fact until confirmed by the researcher].



15. **Interment.net** – Browse cemetery records by state.

16. **Cemetery Census.com** – Free listing of cemetery surveys. Information provided by volunteers.

17. **Billion Graves** – Volunteer based website photographing and preserving cemeteries.

18. **Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records** – Federal land conveyance records for public land states from 1788 to the 1960's.

19. **Library of Congress** – Millions of books, maps, photographs and newspapers. Example: Find the Sanborne Maps there!

20. **Ellis Island** – Passenger list searches of immigrants arriving through Ellis Island available as well as immigration information.



21. **Castle Garden** – Passenger list search of immigrants arriving through America's first immigration center.

22. **Internet Archive** – A non-profit digital library offering free books. [I have found a number of old family histories and other relevant genealogy and history books.]

23. **Patriot and Grave Index – SAR (Sons of the American Revolution)** – Database containing grave and biographical information on patriots of the American Revolution.

24. **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** – Database of information of patriots on whom their members have joined.

25. **Jewish GenWeb** – Excellent free site with databases and resource tools for researching your Jewish ancestors.

26. **American Battle Monuments Commission** – Information on over 200,000 burials and memorializations of predominantly WWI and WWII forces.

27. **The UCF Africana Heritage Project** – This site is currently receiving a make-over, but check back! It will be worth your time.

MEDIAVINE

28. **AfriGeneas** – A website devoted to African-American genealogy research. Be sure and check out their online community, too.

29. **Low Country Africana – African American Genealogy in SC, GA and FL** – Beautiful website dedicated to African-American genealogy research of SC, GA, and FL ancestors.



30. **The Freedmen's Bureau** – Records of the relief assistance to African Americans and poor whites in the south post Civil War.
31. **Digital Library of American Slavery** – sponsored by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG).
32. **The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database** – Comprehensive source of historical data on the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
33. **DeadFred.com** – Browse the website for thousands of identified and unidentified photographs.
- III° **MEDIAVINE**
34. **Moravian Archives** – Research your Moravian ancestors here.
35. **The Presbyterian Historical Society** – A good place to start research of your Presbyterian ancestors.
36. **Google News Archive** – Research historic newspapers from around the world.
37. **Elephind** – Find free online historical newspapers.
38. **Digital Library of Georgia** – Find pertinent records such as historical newspapers, ledgers and more to finding Georgia ancestors. **Tip:** Explain university digital collections in the area or region where your ancestors lived.

39. **The War of 1812 Pension Records at Fold3.com** – At last check this project was ~74% completed. Check back regularly for updates.

40. **Allen County Public Library – Genealogy Center** – Large collection of genealogy related records to explore. Another favorite of genealogy researchers.

41. **National Cemetery Administration** – Nation-wide veteran grave site locator.

42. **Soldiers and Sailors Database** – Database of men serving in the Union and Confederate armies of the Civil War.

43. **Olive Tree Genealogy** – Free genealogy records for researchers.



44. **RootsWeb.com** – Large genealogy community! It's where I started years ago.

45. **United States Online Historical Directories** – Explore online historical directories by state. New to researching directories? Learn more here.

46. **The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County** – Search for your Ohio ancestors. **Tip:** Check large public libraries for free genealogy records specific to their location.

47. **Free Ancestry.com databases** – You'll be surprised by the number of free databases available. Both U.S. and world wide.

48. **Free FindMyPast Databases** – Includes U. S. census records and Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Records,

49. **GenDisasters.com** – Newspaper articles on events that touched your ancestors' lives.

50. **YOUR Local Library!** With your free library card you can access genealogy databases such as Ancestry.com for free. Check what genealogy related databases your local library has. For example, my local county library provides patrons with the library edition of Ancestry.com.

o **Free Genealogy Records Recommended By Readers**

The Are You My Cousin? readers are active researchers, and I often learn from them. Below are their recommended additions to the list:

51. **WikiTree** – A totally free one-world tree website.

52. **Old Fulton New York Postcards** – Old newspapers and postcards from the Fulton, NY area. It's a fabulous resource!

53. **IrishGenealogy.ie** – Free Irish parish and civil records

54. **General Register Office Online Historical Birth and Death**

Indexes (England and Wales) – Search the index for birth, marriage and death records.

55. **The British Columbia Provincial Archives** – Researching Canadian ancestors? Check out the BC Archives.

56. **The Norfolk Transcription Archive** – Transcription of parish registers and Archdeacon's records for the county of Norfolk, England.

57. **Trove** (digitized Australian newspapers) – Resource for Australian newspapers.

58. **British Columbia Historical Newspapers** – Digitized newspapers from The University of British Columbia's Open Collections.

- o So, can you find your ancestors for free?

Yes.....and no.

I've presented 50+ websites with free genealogy records and resources. You have a lot of options for performing frugal genealogy research.

But.... there will be times when you need to spend money to obtain search and/or obtain the records you need. You've heard it before, NOT everything is online. Despite the wonderful resources we find online and the active digitization projects, breaking through genealogy brick walls requires accessing records on subscription sites or on-site research. Records found vertical files and special collections are not usually found online. Tax records – important records for tracing an ancestor in non-census years – are usually not digitized.

Remember these frugal genealogy POWER tips:

1. Always research with a plan.
2. Search for your ancestors for free when you can.
3. Watch for the major genealogy databases to offer free access to their records. (These usually occur around a holiday weekend.)
4. Trade look-ups with other researchers when you can.
5. Spend your genealogy dollars wisely.



Welcome! I'm Lisa. I believe researching your genealogy does not have to be overwhelming. All you need is a solid plan, a genealogy toolbox and the knowledge to use those tools

One Woman's Quest - Mine

When I started on this quest I had no idea who I would feature for this 52 week adventure. I have more than 52 ancestors, so "52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks" should be easy. Not so easy. For the first two weeks I chose my Canadian paternal grandparents, George L. Duval and Anna Mae Caron Duval because I knew them. The other 52 weeks would be about ancestors that I had not met or never would meet, at least not in this world. So gathering information was a little more difficult. They are mostly all Acadian and Canadian. Now I will explain how I found this ancestor.

It all started when I was searching for information about my maternal grandfather, Joseph Mills, but I didn't know very much about him. My mother had told me that he had died from pneumonia when he was 37 years old and she was only 7 years old. Back in 1909 antibiotics had not yet been discovered. His death certificate read that he had been ill for about a month. He was a stone mason by trade so maybe while he was working in a quarry he caught a cold that developed into pneumonia. But I have also read that stone cutters could have developed pneumonia from inhaling the dust created from cutting the stone. I'll never know what caused his early death six months before the birth of his second son and last of his eight children.

I had been looking at census records for my great grandparents and had seen a name in the 1871 Acadian census for a Lassia Mills, in the 1881 Acadian census there was a Nastasie Mills and in the 1891 Acadian census there was a Tassie Mills. I didn't pay much attention to the birth dates because those were not always correct. In the past I have come across four different birth dates in

four different censuses for the same person, so I then moved on to the baptismal records.

I found my grandfather's baptismal record and on the same page there was another Mills. Not too unusual since a lot of families lived in the same area, near brothers, sisters and other family members and had children about the same time. After I gathered my grandfather's information, I decided to look at the other Mills information. Her name was Anastasie Mills. I saw that the birth date was the same as my grandfather's. I continued reading and was surprised to learn that she had the same parents as my grandfather. My grandfather had a twin sister! My mother and aunts NEVER mentioned that little tidbit.

So Anastasie Mills who was born and baptised on 29 May 1870, the very same day as her twin brother, Joseph became one of my 52 ancestors. I don't know very much about her life or of her other siblings while they were growing up.

She married Celestin Jaillet in Bouctouche, New Brunswick, Canada on 1 October, 1894. They had 10 children and lived in Wellington, New Brunswick, Canada. She died on 1 March 1955 in St. Edward Village, Wellington, New Brunswick, Canada. She was buried along side her husband who died on 4 April, 1938

I am still amazed that my grandfather was a twin and NO ONE ever said a word about it. As far as I know (for I haven't found any yet), no following generation is a twin or has had twins. But I am still looking because the search never ends.

Submitted by Janet Duval Fortunato (#332) for National Women's History Month March

Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society, Inc.

P. O. Box 811

Westminster, MA 01473-0811

***IMPORTANT* NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

www.cmgso.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The proposed ballot

nominations from the floor will also be accepted for any position.

President	Kathleen Kaldis	_____
Vice Present	Susie Haenisch	_____
Secretary	_____	_____
Treasurer	Bonnie Bohnet	_____
Director	Joan Bonner	_____
Director	Sarah Campbell	_____
Director	John Johnson	_____
Director	Marcia White	_____
Director	Janet Fortunato	_____
Director	James Belmont	_____
Director	Carol Bosworth	_____
Director	Diane Sambria (Leominster Library representative)	_____

Please think about becoming a member of the board and help shape the future of C.M.G.S We will take nominations at the March 23 members meeting for anyone who is interested.