

membership requirement prior to serving on the CMGS BOD. Now, ANYONE who is a full member is eligible to serve on the CMGS BOD. There are many opportunities to help the organization. Currently, we **need a Secretary, Publications Chair, Technology Host, and Coordinator of Educational Services**. If you are interested, please contact CMGS1@gmail.com.



The CMGS BOD approved a revised Membership fee schedule for all new and existing members. Two new tiers of membership tenure were added and included a **three-year** and a **five-year plan**. Individuals and Families can take advantage of the discounts for paying now for multiple years. The purpose is to build the CMGS organization and help the society grow its membership. Think about gifting a child or grandchild a membership. Sharing your genealogical passion with other members of your family is a great way to help them appreciate your research and encourage future ancestral discoveries.

Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society
Founded 1981

Membership Special
Open to New & Existing Members

Individual:	Family:
• 1-year: \$15.00	• 1-year: \$20.00
• 3-year \$40.00	• 3-year \$55.00
• 5-year \$65.00	• 5-year \$90.00

Some goals in the coming year will be to expand our horizons relating to outside

funding. The majority of the CMGS programming budget comes from the NERGC proceeds. Expanding our financial resources will enable us to continue to build on our programming and community outreach. CMGS draws from many of the North Central Massachusetts Communities; over the next year, we must reach into **ALL** of Central Massachusetts. The fantastic partnership we have with the Leominster Library should be a model for more partnerships with public libraries. Doubling our programming budget to accommodate public libraries will enable us to bring in national speakers and share their lectures with the region.

Membership Challenge: Submit your ***Innovative – Enlightening – Enriching – Enjoyable*** ideas! If every member were to commit to one idea/project (*large or small*), those small acts would add to a more significant movement. Arlo Guthrie said that ***“it takes three to start a movement...”*** The last year has taught us that WE CAN adjust and change – let’s keep it going and create an ***Innovative, Enlightening, Enriching, and Enjoyable*** society.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kaldis
CMGS President

Message from the VP’s Corner

This is a new section I hope you all look forward to in the coming newsletters. My intent is to highlight member successes and challenges, and to provide a place for quick research hints and/or feedback from YOU – our membership.

This will be your place to share your news, frustrations, brick walls and/or helpful tips that have helped you find your research “way.”

For starters, this month I want to share two things from my own research. Because I have several genealogy sites “working round the clock” for me, I recently received a tip from Ancestry that led me to a family marriage date that I have been long searching for. I didn’t have to do anything but follow up on that single tip. SO EASY! The second breakthrough I had was in finding a marriage that had taken place in Wayne County, upstate New York, by a Justice of the Peace. I knew the county and the wedded couple but couldn’t pin down the date. A newspaper site found it for me and send me an email, referring to a specific record. Again, I didn’t actually do the active research, just responded to a hint that was sent to my email inbox. Again, SO EASY!

Research Hint for this edition: Use Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilySearch, newspaper sites, and even Google to set up your automatic searches. Since sites like these search databases 24/7 – something I cannot do – let them work for you. You never know what they are going to find!

Until the next edition . . . this is Susie Haenisch signing off. Please send your news to me and I’ll incorporate it into the next VP corner!

2021 CMGS Membership Meeting Speakers

May 25, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

**This Meeting will start at 6:30 PM instead
of 7:00 PM**

**“From Pilgrims to Pioneers: Researching
Your Colonial New England Ancestors”**

Speaker: Kathy Kaldis

June 22, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

**“Another Boarder: The Reception of
French-Canadians in New England”**

Speaker: David Vermette

July 27, 2021

Members Sharing With Members

August 24, 2021 –

VIRTUAL MEETING

“Sanborn Maps”

Speaker: Ari Wilkins

September 28, 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

“Irish History II”

Speaker: Tom Toohey

October 26, 2021

**“Abby Kelley Foster and the *Yours for
Humanity*—Abby play“**

Speaker: Lynne McKenny Lydick

November 16, 2021

“Naturalization Records”

Speaker: Seema Kenney

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER!

NOTES FROM PAST MEETINGS

**Remember the past meetings are
available on the members page of
our web site**

The new password will be sent to each member individually

Genealogy Societies - Should We Join One?

Why join a genealogy society

Several years ago, I went to the Fitchburg Public Library to do some family research in the Willis Room. They have a large collection of Acadian and Canadian material that I was interested in looking at. It was a Thursday and the "Two Bonnie's" were there. After talking for a while they gave me a pamphlet about the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society. I took it home, looked it over and decided to see what they were all about. Since I live in Gardner and they meet

at the American Legion just up the street from me, it was perfect. I went to the meeting but I don't remember much about it. I decided to join. The price was right \$12. It has gone up slightly since then. That was 2010. This is the only organization that I belong to that I could really afford -- \$15.00.

So, should we join Genealogy Societies? And why? Here are the reasons I found on a Google search why you should join. I added my own comment (not bolded).

Reasons for Joining a Genealogy Society Author/date unknown.

1. Camaraderie: If I have not said this before (and I have) let me say it now, it is a wonderful thing to be able to talk with those that share your passion for genealogy. I agree with this reason. Also some members have become good friends.

2. Education: During many monthly meetings there are lectures on different topics, why not come out and listen. You just might learn something new, even if you think you have mastered a subject (you can always learn more). We have amazing speakers. I have learned about different ways to search from speakers of many different nationalities (not only my own).

3. Quarterlies: Most societies have a quarterly or a newsletter that is available to members only. Here is a great place to find information on your ancestors, someone else might be writing about them. We have bi-monthly newsletters with many informative articles.

4. Queries: If the society has a newsletter or quarterly, there is a possibility that you can write a query for information on your ancestor to be printed in the next edition. This is especially valuable for societies that are not local. I haven't seen that in our

newsletter but maybe we can talk about doing that

5. Field Trips for Grown Ups: Local societies might offer trips to places that are important to the area history. What a great way to learn something new. Our Society has been invited to set up a table at some libraries and shopping centers to pass out our brochures and other information usually with other Societies. That can be very informative also and another learning experience.

6. Connections: Making connections is an important part of life. I have actually met two Facebook friends in person who came to speak at our meeting. Hoping to meet more.

7. Conferences: Be among the first to know about the upcoming conference they have planned and attend at the members rate. And go in a group with people you know. I made some wonderful new friends at these conferences and seminars.

8. Member Benefits: Some societies provided discounts to their members for their field trips or anything else they might sell. Other societies offer free access to certain paid websites. Do not overlook these benefits, sometimes it is cheaper to join the society than to pay for a year subscription. Our society is very inexpensive. \$15.00 (single), \$20.00 (family), and \$25.00 (organization) per year is very affordable. But you can't put a price on the friends you will make.

9. Submit your writing: If your society is looking for articles to run in their newsletter or quarterly, you will know before the general public does. Write the story of your ancestor and submit it. Or write an article like this one or a topic that is informative to the group.

10. Find Cousins: You never know how close a distant cousin is. You just might meet them at a local society meeting. That hasn't happened yet but, who knows, it may still happen.

My recommendation is YES, join a Genealogical Society.

We meet 11 times a year - January to November on the 4th Tuesday of the month. (Except November it's the 3rd Tuesday because of Thanksgiving.) Meetings are from 7pm to 9pm.

Submitted by Janet Duval Fortunato (Board Member) for the May newsletter

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

We are looking for articles and information from our members. Tell us about your successes and Brick walls. Your stories will help us help our members and become a valuable resource to the community. Submit your articles to Carol McNeil Bosworth#13, newsletter editor at cambosworth@gmail.com

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***IMPORTANT* NEW WEB SITE ADDRESS**

www.cmgso.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED