



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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

THE SEARCHERS

—Innovative—Enlightening—Enriching—Enjoyable—

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *Kathy Kaldis*

There is an immediate need for a volunteer to be the permanent Secretary. A few months ago, CMGS removed the requirement of a one-year membership requirement to serve on the Board, meaning **any member in good standing may serve in any leadership position**. It cannot do that without a group of dedicated volunteers to run the organization. CMGS is a 501c 3 non-profit organization and must have all officer positions filled to comply with all state and federal laws. The Board meets virtually once a month. Please consider donating a few hours each month to help CMGS fulfill its mission in assisting people in discovering their ancestral roots.

The CMGS Board is trying new ideas to bring innovative, enlightening, enriching, and enjoyable programming to the membership. There are many opportunities and positions are waiting for volunteers who can help make that happen.

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. Email your idea to : CMGSOrg1@gmail.com

VP's CORNER, *Susie Haenisch*

Hello everyone! I'm going to do something different – starting this month - that I decided long ago to do and just never got around to it. I'm going to become a genealogy research BEGINNER! Yes, you understood that right.

I started out my gen journey when I was 30 – and that was just over 42 years go. (Do the math!) Over the years I have tunneled down rabbit holes, lost myself in researching ancestors that I eventually discovered were not even my own, have been thoroughly entertained but addictively lost in *Cyndi's List*, and dragged myself bleary-eyed into bed after an almost all-night session trying to find an elusive ancestor. Sound familiar?

As a result, I have tons of research, lots of names, dates, places, and countless stories to share with my family, and I've established pedigree charts on *FamilySearch*, *Ancestry*, *MyHeritage*, *RootsTech*, *Heredis*, *Family Tree Maker* and *Legacy Family Tree*. Even with all that, I'm thinking I may be missing some very important information for my family's stories.

So . . . I'm going back to the beginning and researching each direct descendant. I will be using the major players' websites - *MyHeritage*, *Ancestry*, *FamilySearch*, and *Findmypast*, but I will also liberally use the cemetery and newspaper sites, *Archives.com*, the National Archives (NARA), and many more.

I'm not kidding myself. This will indeed be a long journey. My end goal? To

firm up some shaky information, root out those ancestors that don't belong on my tree, and find any new clues that will take my family tree to new heights with deeper roots. Wish me luck!



And what are you doing this year with your genealogy research? If you are like-minded, you might want to check out Thomas MacEntee's FB Group for your own personal GENEALOGY DO-OVER. He's a pro at this stuff and he will help you hit your re-start button. Just do it!

2021-22 CMGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- President:** Kathleen Kaldis
- Vice President:** Susie Haenisch
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CMGS WEBSITE PASSWORD:

New password for the member's only site will be sent out separate of the newsletter.

www.CMGSO.org

RESEARCH HINT:

One of the most exciting finds in gen research is to find your very first immigrant ancestor. Do you know who that is? Where she/he entered the US? Where they came from? And when?

Try your research skills on the:

- **Ellis Island Passenger Search** website www.heritage.statueofliberty.org/passenger
- **Castle Garden Search** website www.castlegarden.org
- **Steve Morse** website www.stevenmorse.org to track down your immigrant ancestor.

Remember – not all immigrants came through New York - so try a broader search to other ports if you don't have any luck with Ellis Island.

By *Susie Haenisch V.P.*

SUMMER & FAMILY REUNIONS

Summer is upon us, and to genealogists, that usually means one thing: **Family Reunions!** These days, attending family reunions may mean virtual gatherings vs. backyard gatherings. Family gatherings are essential to advance your genealogical research – bring those family group sheets and family trees and gather as much information you can about your extended family. *BUT*, it is not always about the gathering – sharing your genealogical findings is the best part of family reunions.

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Raid those hope chests. Scan old photos and documents to create beautiful slide shows, preferably set to music. Interview relatives and place those interviews on flash drives to share with the family. Use computers to create and design family charts and challenge yourself to see how many picnic tables it takes to layout the family tree. Create a website or blog for your family or use social media to form a family group encouraging everyone to share.



The Greeks have a saying when someone dies, *May Their Memory Be Eternal* or *Αίωνια ή μνήμη* which translates to Eternal Memory. Ecclesiastically, it is a blessing for the departed and their eternal life in the Kingdom of God. However, over time it has become an expression of comfort to the living in a time of grief. To a genealogist, it speaks volumes.

Genealogy is all about the “dash of life.” While gathering information, share your genealogical discoveries because you are part of your Ancestors' Eternal Memory. Family reunions, virtual or in-person, carry forth the existence of the ancestors who make you – YOU! (and your aunts, uncles, cousins, grandmother, sixth-cousin ten-times-removed, etc.).

DID YOU KNOW?

Even though The Family History Library in Salt Lake City is now open, along with many of their affiliated Family History Centers located throughout the country, you might not be quite ready to travel to reach these destinations. But you can still gain access to their records! How? By using the newly established Family History Library Record Look Up Service.

In short, if you know the book you need to “see”, you will have to provide specific information about the book and request certain pages to be copied. The service is free – but keep in mind that they do not do the research for you. You must know exactly what you want. If you need a record that cannot be accessed online, you can request that the FHL staff look up a specific record and send you a copy of the image. All you need to do is fill in a simple form online.

To learn more about this service, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/family-history-library/family-history-library-records-look-up-service>.

Happy hunting!
By Susie Haensch

THE FAMILY HISTORY GUIDE

In the past, when working with genealogy research beginners, I always advised them to liberally use the resources at familysearch.com because it’s a comprehensive site where you can build a family tree, and it’s FREE. The only requirement is to set up an account (again, it’s free!) and then the fun begins.

However, now I’m also recommending that all researchers (beginners to well-advanced) take advantage of another wonderful site. *The Family History Guide* is a major player in my book! Do yourself a favor and check them out, beginning with the overview <https://www.thefhguide.com/introduction.html#about> and remember to watch the video.

The following statement comes directly from their web site.

***Mission Statement:** "Our mission is to greatly increase the number of people actively involved in family history worldwide, and to make everyone's family history journey easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable."*

Focus your attention on “easier, more efficient, and more enjoyable” . . . for that is exactly what they deliver!



You can chart your own progress by getting involved in their Learning System which charts your progress through lessons, watch countless videos on a subject of your choice, check out their tips of the day, and/or discover fun gen-related things to do with your family, kids, teens, etc. in their Activities section. If you want detailed information on a specific country, religion, methodology technique or even help with technology aids while doing research, they include that, too.

This site has been constructed with countless volunteer hours with a single purpose – to make genealogy easy, efficient, and enjoyable for all to do. If you are an overwhelmed beginner and don’t know where to start – start with the Family History Guide

If you are a seasoned researcher, target your end goal and go directly to that section to check out options that you might not have previously explored. This site is amazing, incredible, and so comprehensive, that it just boggles my mind. WARNING – you can easily spend hours on this site!

If you are a CMGS member, you can replay the FHG program that Bob Taylor presented to CMGS in April of 2021 www.cmgso.org. If you are not a member, you can join for as little as \$15/year for a single membership, which will give you access to some of our pre-recorded programs, plus program handouts and newsletters! Please come and join us. We want – and need – YOU!

By Susie Haensch

Announcements

SALT LAKE CITY CHRISTMAS TOUR

We have been told it will be the first full week of December. Several of the CMGS members have been going to this wonderful research immersion week. It is filled with educational presentations as well as opportunities to meet with genealogy professional who might be able to help with that brick wall!

For more information send an email to Donna Potter Phillips at donna243@googlegroups.com or Carol Bosworth at cambosworth@gmail.com.

-This is informational only – not an official CMGS Event

NOTES FROM PAST MEETINGS

Remember the past meetings are available on the members page of our website.

CMGS 2021 PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

August 24, 2021	<i>Virtual Meeting</i> Sanborn Insurance Maps, Census Records, and City Directories <i>presented by</i> Ari Wilkins
September 28, 2021	<i>Virtual Meeting</i> Irish History II <i>presented by</i> Tom Toohey
October 26, 2021	<i>Leominster Public Library</i> Leominster, Mass. Abby Kelley Foster and the “Yours for Humanity – Abby” <i>presented by</i> Lynne McKenny Lydick
November 16, 2021	<i>Virtual Meeting</i> Naturalization Records <i>presented by</i> Seema Kenney
December, 2021	<i>No Meeting This Month</i>



Central Mass. Genealogical Society

August 2021 Monthly Program

Tuesday, August 24th @ 7:00 pm – Social Chat at 6:15 pm

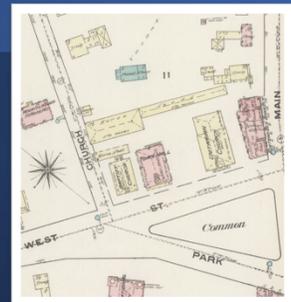
Sanborn Insurance Maps, Census Records, & City Directories



Ari Wilkins

Recreating neighborhoods can provide rich and insightful details about an ancestor's life and surroundings. This lecture will demonstrate ways to build a map using Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, census records, and city directories in Google Maps.

Ari Wilkins, Ari Wilkins, graduated from Louisiana State University with a bachelor's degree in interior design. She has been actively researching family history since 1998. Ms. Wilkins has spoken nationally at the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy, the Texas Institute of Genealogical Research, the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh, the American Library Association, RootsTech, and a multitude of state and local societies. Ari has been a Library Associate at Dallas Public Library since 2007. She speaks on multitude of genealogical subjects and specializes in African American research.



Downtown Leominster, Mass., c 1884 (pre-1921 fire)

ZOOM Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpdumtqTkpGNF7CDxshL6mycLj5FUrMd8I>