



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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

THE SEARCHERS

—Innovative—Enlightening—Enriching—Enjoyable—

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, by Kathleen Kaldis

Genealogists are a tough crowd! Think about that for a moment. Genealogists routinely deal with and resolve hurdles and challenges when researching family histories. Limitations include a lack of records, illegible handwriting, and distinguishing and attributing the correct John Smith to our family trees. Genealogists see it all – the good, the bad, the ugly, and know that unexpected challenges and hardships affect the lives of their ancestors. As a community, we have a unique perspective regarding difficult situations that impact larger communities and everyday global life. Genealogists can glimpse into the lives of their ancestors through their ancestors' eyes, not through sanitized history books. We know that challenges and hardships are a fact of life, but life always seems to move forward, and people persevere.

The *Spanish Influenza Epidemic of 1918* taught us that the virus outbreaks wax and wane in waves, which helped predict similar patterns in the COVID-19 Pandemic. Sadly, many of our ancestors died, yet many lives were even born during the pandemic. Many of those babies lived through World War I, a Great Depression, and became known as the "Greatest Generation" of World War II. Humanity does carry on, and often, becomes stronger during times like these.

Genealogical societies have needed to evolve to keep up with the pandemic's limitations to the genealogical community. Genealogists have made lemonade out of the bitter lemons and challenges the pandemic has usurped into every part of daily life. So many genealogical societies relied on in-person interactions and meetings, vendors and speakers routinely traveled to large conference

venues to share their expertise with the community, and genealogists researched physical libraries and repositories. The Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society (CMGS) is evolving and will strengthen as we move forward to this "new normal." Many members have embraced the changes to become a part of the future of CMGS.

New traditions and ideas will be the new normal for CMGS, and we can make the society more robust and viable for the next generation of genealogists.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR C.M.G.S. MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1 JANUARY 2022

*Central Massachusetts Genealogy Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 811
Westminster, MA 1473-0811*

MEMBERSHIP SPECIALS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE YEAR RENEWALS

- Individual Membership:**
 - One-Year \$15.00
 - Three-Year \$40.00
 - Five Year \$65.00
- Family Membership** (*all residing at the same address*)
 - One-Year \$20.00
 - Three-Year \$55.00
 - Five Year \$90.00
- Organizational Membership**
 - \$25.00/year

For your convenience, you may pay your dues online through PAYPAL. To help the CMGS Treasurer credit the dues to your membership, send an email to CMGSOrg1@gmail.com confirming your transaction and the email associated with your PAYPAL account.

FINANCIAL UPDATE, by Kathleen Kaldis

CMGS is a charter participating society for the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) and a beneficiary of a share of the proceeds for the bi-annual conference. CMGS received over \$1,000 after this year's virtual conference, but it was about half of what is typically disbursed by NERGC. That means that CMGS must make up for the difference to continue to bring quality programming to the membership.

On September 4th, CMGS held a yard sale fundraiser at the home of our President, Kathleen Kaldis. Thanks to the donations and time spent by our volunteers, CMGS raised \$622.00. That goes a long way to make up for the short-fall in NERGC proceeds. Every dollar raised through the



volunteer contributions of the CMGS membership goes directly toward the quality genealogical programming the members enjoy each month. A special thank you goes out to the volunteers who worked the sale and donated items for sale. There will be another yard sale in the spring, and we hope to make this a new CMGS tradition. Thank you to the following CMGS members and friends who participated and made the day a success:

Carol Bosworth, Susie Haenisch, James Belmont, Janet Fortunato, Diane Sanabria, Brittany Kaldis, Angela Schofield, Laura Hogan, Ken Haenisch, and George Kaldis. THANK YOU!!!

LIBRARY HELP SESSIONS ARE BACK!

The Gardner and Leominster Library genealogy help sessions are back for individual research help. Gardner's Library hosts the CMGS representative on Wednesday evenings and Leominster hosts the CMGS representative the third Saturday in October and November. CMGS is also offering a virtual help session open to all the second Thursday of the month beginning in November. The specific times and links will be available on the CMGS website and Facebook page, as well as the libraries calendars.

VP's CORNER, by Susie Haenisch

In this Searchers edition, I'm going to encourage you to follow the *Bright Shiny Objects* in your research efforts. We, as genealogists, are encouraged NOT to do this but just for fun, and a change of pace, try the following the next time you sit down to tackle your research. You never know where this might lead.

1. The National Archives (NARA) is a treasure trove of beautiful finds, but you must spend some time exploring this site to learn all that it offers. NARA has put together a tutorial on YouTube to help you get started:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>.
2. Ditto for the Library of Congress (LOC). Have you ever felt intimidated and overwhelmed by the LOC website? Check out this YouTube clip for help:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LibraryOfCongress>.
3. Next, check out the new feature that *MyHeritage* now offers. It's an animation tool for still photos called Deep Nostalgia. Again, YouTube has quite a few videos that highlight this innovative tool. If you've been sleeping in a cave somewhere and haven't done this yet, take a couple of your old black and white photos and colorize them with another *MyHeritage* tool. It's fast, fun, and might bring new life to your cherished family photos.

I got these ideas from Donna Potter Phillips, who distributes a weekly newsletter to those of us who have attended the annual Salt Lake City Christmas Tour. So, Donna, thank you for the inspiration! And if you find yourself stuck on something, use Google and YouTube for extra help. There is so much out there for genealogists. It's simply superb – and it's all free!



CMGS NEWSLETTER REQUEST, by Carol Bosworth

We need not travel far to find the wonders of nature in central Massachusetts as we all experience at this time of year. We also need not travel far to find those special research facilities that help us find interesting facts about our ancestors. The Newsletter committee would love to hear from you about your unique finds at local repositories, such as historical societies, libraries, college and university libraries, cemeteries, etc. As we all know, most of our records have not been indexed and placed online, so we need to find these resources. We also want to let our members know how unique Central Massachusetts is in its history and genealogical resources.

You can submit the information you want to share with Carol Bosworth, newsletter editor, at cmgsorg1@gmail.com.

CMGS YARD SALE, by Carol Bosworth

Many of you may have seen the information on Facebook or our Website, but I wanted to share how successful we were with our first-ever yard sale to benefit the CMGS educational program. We received many unusual donations, like the funeral lamps donated by our own Angela Schofield. The advertising was done helped by James Belmont. It was so successful we are planning or doing it again in the spring.

Look in your attics, basements, garages, and storage sheds. We will accept donations anytime. This spur-of-the-moment yard sale netted CMGS over six hundred dollars. Just think about what we could do with more planning!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Approved by the CMGS Board of Directors

CMGS Newsletter Submission Consideration Guidelines:

- CMGS only accepts ORIGINAL content appropriately cited and sourced by the author.
- **All submissions must be submitted electronically using the following link: CMGSorg1@gmail.com; please write CMGS NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION in the line.**
- All submissions must be submitted saved in a MSWord .docx file. At this time, CMGS cannot accept articles written in other file formats.
- Submissions should be approximately 300 to 600 words.
- Submissions may include graphics and photographs, subject to all copyright laws.
- Submissions will be subject to editorial changes and proofing by the CMGS Newsletter Editorial Committee.
- *Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition* and *Evidence Explained* are accepted resources through the research, writing, and editing.
- Content Topics/Themes: genealogical research, case studies, methodologies, book reviews, upcoming and past events, **Submission Deadlines: Second Wednesday of the Month.**



RESEARCH HINT: THE BEST WAY TO AVOID FALLING INTO RABBIT HOLES..., by

Susie Haenisch

Write a Research Question

Ask yourself honestly, when you sit down with all your genealogy papers surrounding you (and hopefully not burying you!) how do you start a new research session? If your answer doesn't include "formulating a research question," then you will probably waste significant time as you hunt for elusive information.



When I start my research with a specific question – who was ?? married to in 1850, OR where was ?? living in 1904, OR when was ?? born – and where? – then, I know that any research that follows will help me answer ONLY that specific question. My time is centered on one missing fact. I can find several documents that confirm that fact, but I'm still only seeking one fact about one individual.

For example, Suppose I just sit down with an ancestor in mind and want to find anything and everything I can about that individual. I can easily be side-tracked by following up a draft registration record that leads to a military record that might lead to a death certificate, the name of a spouse or children, or a pension file, or a record about the place of (or reason for) a death to be investigated. That can also lead me to research geographic regions and political climates and ethnic history and world events. This information is important, but by now, it's eaten up a lot of research time, and I'm all over the place with this ancestor and their life events. I find that if I narrow down my research goal with a specific question, my research becomes more refined, more efficient, and I reach my goal – freeing me to move on to the next goal (i.e., next research question).

Honestly, have you tried writing a research question every time you sit down and work on your family's genealogy? If not, try it and see if you work more effectively and efficiently. I'll be astonished if you do not!

For more scholarly information on this topic, check out this article written by Harold Henderson, CG, a Trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. Although written in January 2016, it is still very appropriate for today's genealogists and includes great tips on how to write good research questions.

<https://bcgcertification.org/ten-minute-methodology-how-to-ask-good-research-questions/>

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING WRAP-UP

Kathleen Kaldis presented her program, *Huzzah! Researching Your Revolutionary Roots*.

What a Glorious Morning! The countdown to the 250th Anniversary of the Battle of Lexington has begun. Do you have Revolutionary Roots? Kathleen demonstrated how to trace lineages back to the Revolutionary War and how to document Revolutionary War service. Attendees learned about the essential genealogical and historical records commonly used when documenting conducting Revolutionary War. Research strategies include traditional methodologies, and introduction to the repositories associated with the various records and learn pitfalls to avoid. Lineage Societies will also be discussed to honor your Ancestor's contribution to the Revolutionary War.

A promotional banner for the program "Huzzah! Researching Your Revolutionary Roots" by Kathleen Kaldis. The banner has a blue background. At the top, the title "Huzzah!" is written in a white, cursive font, followed by "Researching Your Revolutionary Roots" in a white, sans-serif font. Below the title, there are three images: on the left, a statue of a Revolutionary War soldier on a rock; in the center, a circular logo featuring a tree with roots and the text "The Ancestor Finder"; and on the right, a photo of Kathleen Kaldis, a woman with glasses and a grey jacket. The text "Kathleen Kaldis Genealogist" and "The Ancestor Finder" is also present.

WHAT IS A VOLUNTEER? by Janet Fortunato

According to Google, a volunteer is "a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task." Never think you are too old to be a volunteer. You don't always need to do very physical things as a volunteer.



You can:

1. Write letters or read to the elderly and handicapped.
2. Read stories to children at schools, daycares, or libraries.
3. Take care of animals in a shelter or rescue.
4. Be a Docent in a Museum or Historical Society.
5. You can sort clothes in a thrift store or sort food in a food pantry if you are physically able.
6. Be an officer or help with programs in your organization.

There are countless things you can do to help others who may need it.

There are many places where you can be a volunteer:

1. City or Town Government
2. Libraries (Friends of the Library)
3. Animal shelters or rescues
4. Schools or daycares
5. Food pantries
6. Red Cross
7. Museums
8. Hospitals, nursing, and retirement homes
9. Organizations you belong to and probably many more I never even thought of.

What skills you can gain by volunteering:

1. Leadership skills
2. Problem-solving skills
3. Planning and organizational skills
4. Communication skills
5. Teamwork skills
6. Relationship skills
7. Interpersonal skills
8. Time management skills

Why it's essential to be a volunteer:

1. Decreases your stress
2. Increases your confidence
3. Expands your connections
4. It gives you a sense of purpose
5. It helps you forget your problems
6. Connects you with others
7. Builds your self-esteem
8. It May be vital for your career

How you can find volunteers:

1. Just ask! Tell them why you need volunteers.
2. Don't take "no" for an answer. If you ask a person to take on a job and say "no," wait a while and ask again.
3. Tell them why they would be perfect for a particular position.
4. Create a relationship with new volunteers that will make them want to come back.

How to keep volunteers happy:

1. Get your volunteers excited about your organization.
2. Be uplifting and encouraging.
3. Build rapport by listening to them.
4. Meet their needs and send personal messages.
5. Monitor their movements - an overworked volunteer will develop a negative attitude.
6. Don't force any job on your volunteers if they show any reluctance to take on a job.
7. It requires effort to keep volunteers engaged, excited, and happy.

Editorial Policy: The Editor and CMGS assume no responsibility for errors [typographical or otherwise] appearing in *The Searchers*. We print articles and information from our members and expect the material is correct. We note seemingly obvious mistakes by using [?]. If any member notes mistakes in our newsletter, please contact Newsletter Editor, c/o CMGS address, so that a correction can be made as soon as possible. Please submit articles & queries by mail or e-mail to **Carol McNeil Bosworth at CMGSOrg1@gmail.com**

PROPER CMGS "QUERY" FORMAT, by Carol Bosworth

- Indicate what information you have and what information you seek.
- Ask your question last.
- Each query must be no more than thirty words long.
- Include at least one name, date, and place. Each date counts as one word (1Dec1995).
- Each name or initial counts as one word (J.H. Jones is three words).
- Names of a state will be abbreviated, and count as one word, *e.g.*, Maine will be M.E.
- Spell out words for clarity, and we will abbreviate where necessary.
- NO sales or swaps
- Queries are published free for members.
- There is a \$2.00 charge per query for non-members.
- We will publish as space permits.
- **Your name, address, phone number, & membership number must accompany all queries in the event of questions**
- Mail queries to:
 CMGS Newsletter, P.O. Box 811, Westminster, MA 01473-0811.
 or
- E-mail to the newsletter editor at CMGSOrg1@gmail.com.

SAMPLE QUERY:

Joshua **ROUND(S)** b 1867 RI s/John & Theophile
(BAKER) ROUND. d. Duchess Co NY 1946, Joshua
resided Putney & Westminster, VT Joshua m in VT to
Susan???

NOTES FROM PAST MEETINGS

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED