



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
P.O. Box 811, Westminster, MA 01473-0811

THE SEARCHERS

—Innovative—Enlightening—Enriching—Enjoyable—

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,

by Carol Bosworth

The spring yard sale was a big success and the Board has decided to do another one at the end of September. As you go through your homes and garages this summer, we would love donations for this event which is tentatively scheduled for Saturday September 24, 2022 from 8AM - 3PM at 1188 Main Street, Leominster, MA. For more details contact me at cmgsorg1@gmail.com. All the proceeds from this event will benefit CMGS's educational programs. Looking for donations as well as volunteers.

We all have truly enjoyed the wonderful speakers that our V.P. Susie Haenisch has provided for us. Susie has given us notice she will be stepping down from her VP position in March of 2023, giving us sufficient opportunity to find several individuals who would like to take over the program committee. We have many talented individuals in the society and are hoping together we will be able to fill the void we will have with this news. Please help us fill this very important position in our organization. Ideas can be sent to cmgsorg1@gmail.com

CHANGES 2022 PROGRAMS:

We have to make a change in the scheduled programs for the rest of the year. **All virtual meetings** will use this zoom link
Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vduCgqTstGNLf_afG8p8BggYdonPLSPLX](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0vduCgqTstGNLf_afG8p8BggYdonPLSPLX)

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

June 28, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM-8:30 PM

**“Militia of the Seas: Massachusetts
Privateering Records from the Revolutionary
War and the War of 1812”**
Presented by Kathleen Kaldis

July 26, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM-8:30 PM

“Publish On Demand”
Presented by: Leslie Ray Sears

August 23, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM-8:30 PM

**“The Family Search Catalog: A Researcher’s
Best Friend”**
Presented by Diana Elder

September 27, 2022

VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM-8:30 PM

**“Location, Location, Location: Putting Your
Ancestors in Their Place”**
Presented by Diana Elder

October 25, 2022

IN-PERSON PRESENTATION
Leominster Public Library

“Yours for Humanity: Abby” (a one woman play about Abby Kelley Foster)

**Presented by
Lynne McKenney Lydick**

**November 15, 2022
VIRTUAL MEETING
7 PM-8:30 PM**

**“Murder, Mayhem and Town Tragedy”
Presented by Liza Alzo**

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

We are still accepting membership renewals or added extension to your current membership. We will be offering this special membership until **November 30, 2022.**

**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.

VP's CORNER, by *Susie Haenisch*

You love your genealogical society. You know you do! So why not spread the news and actively invite others to join us? If you are a social media guru, take advantage of the many ways to advertise CMGS and openly invite others to become members. Cite our programs, our wonderful people, our willingness to share information and help newbies, etc. Sara Campbell often posts on our CMGS Facebook page about upcoming events. Respond to her post. Tell people how much you love our speakers. Share genealogical finds on your family tree. Ask questions. Put out a challenge! Let's show a lot of interaction on that page so others will see how engaged we are – perhaps encouraging them to join in.

If social media isn't your forte, use the friend-to-friend approach. Talk about your love of genealogy and its many benefits when you are at your dentist/doctor's offices, visiting with friends, at dinner with family, out shopping, etc. If you have clothing with a genealogical-themed message (I'm thinking of you, Janet!) or an emblem (all your green shirts/jackets out there!), wear them in public. Start up a conversation. Don't be shy. You never know what will happen when you reach out to someone new.

Another way to show support for CMGS is to write a short article about your own research and submit it to our newsletter editor. Have you taken a trip lately that uncovered more family information? Have you interviewed a family member or friend that gave you new insight into your family lineage? Did you discover a new research site that broke through a brick wall? Do you have something you are so excited about that you just **HAVE TO SHARE** it with the rest of us? Jot it down. Write it up. If you need help in doing that, reach out to me or any other member of our Board of Directors. We will help you. Just make it a priority to **SHARE!**

Every new member brings his/her own specialized talents and learning opportunities to our society. And each one is a potential best friend, research buddy, mentor and/or road trip partner! As we grow in size, we become a stronger, more diversified, and more vibrant society. So don't be shy when talking about your genealogy passion. Let's shake those bushes and find prospective members who will enrich our own lives and whom we can help introduce to the joys of genealogy research while bringing families together. In doing so, EVERYONE WINS!

Susie Haenisch
CMGS VP & Program Chair

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022-23

Diane Sanabria - Chair Library committee
Diane has served on the CMGS Board for the past several years as a Library Representative; the Leominster Library's partnership with the Society is near and dear to my heart. Members of CMGS are such an incredible resource for me and for our library, and I am learning so much! I have been with the library since 1978, and for over forty years, I had the adventure of a lifetime, working with teenagers every day. But now I get to indulge in my other passion: American history in general and local history in particular. I have been involved with the Leominster Historical Society since my late twenties, serving as Vice-President for many years and currently serving on the Board of Directors. With former Society President Thomas "Tucker" Hazzard, I co-authored *Leominster*, a bestselling book in the Images of America series by Arcadia Publishing. I have presented several popular programs on behalf of the Society highlighting people and events in our community's history, all of which have been featured on Leominster Access Television. I worked with Jeannine Levesque, the library's former Local History

and Genealogy Librarian, before her retirement in May of 2019, helping to organize collections in the Archives Room and doing research. I am now very happy to be in a room full of things older than me for a change

Dwight Fitch - CMGS Historian

Dwight is a long-time member of CMGS and has served as our Historian. He represents CMGS at the Townsend Public Library and Senior Center offering help sessions to anyone in need

Janet Duval Fortunato

Janet has been a member of Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society for 10 years. I joined this group because I was fairly new to genealogy and I needed some guidance. Everyone in this group is so supportive and helpful. I volunteered to work on publicity and I did that for several years until cancer knocked on my door and I had to stop that duty that I really enjoyed doing.

Joan Bonner

Joanie Bonner is retired from the IT Department at UMass-Amherst. She has been doing Genealogy since 1996 and has been a member of CMGS since 2013. She is also a member of several Genealogy Societies. In addition to maintaining the CMGS website, she volunteers for the PGSCTNE Obituary Project and she also volunteers for the Lithuania Heritage Project

June Williams

Is a charter member of CMGS and served on the BOD for many years, organizing, designing and researching the publication of our cemetery books. June has been doing her family genealogy for about 40 years. Most of my ancestors are from the New England area on my dad's side and Poland on my mom's. the beginning.

Marcia White

Marsha is a charter member of CMGS, having served as president for several terms during the past 29 years, as well as membership chair and secretary. Her knowledge of the organization enables her to be a wealth of knowledge to us. Marsha represents CMGS at the Gardner Public Library offering genealogy help to those in need. She also serves on the BOD of the Gardner Historical Museum

Phillip Johnson

Phillip Johnson is a recently retired Senior Quality Engineer after working for several high-tech and aerospace companies. He has been researching his own genealogy for about 30 years, taken over his mother's research. His latest responsibilities include Registrar/Genealogist for the Pomeroy Chapter of SAR, and assistant state Registrar for Mass. Philip has researched and written, and self-published 2 books on a railroad from western Mass. He lectures on this railroad as well as other railroad subjects. Philip has identified 7 travelers on the Mayflower, and 19 Patriots who fought in the American Revolution. His paternal grandparents emigrated from Sweden about 110 years ago. He has also researched these lines back into the 1700s. He also serves on several other boards including the Erving Historical Commission.

Sara Campbell

Sara has been a member of CMGS for the past several years. Sara is also a director on the board of NERGC. She is a lecturer, educator, author and editor. Sara has extensive experience in writing successful Local Cultural Council grants for funding lectures throughout Massachusetts. Sara is our sponsored speaker for the NERGC 2023 conference in Springfield, MA., May 3-6.

Who Knew??

I would like to share with you some sites that I have been using while I have been participating in a course (Research Like A Pro), much more challenging than I have expected. I LOVE IT..... One of the tips that I learned while listening to some of their pod cast was creating a document titled URL's, if you find yourself saving LOTS of URL's, you may wish to create a folder then break down documents into various subjects e.g. Surname, States/Counties/City/Townships, Topics of interest, etc. We all know the usual one's.

FamilySearch.org

<https://www.familysearch.org/> . On this site you can create a FREE account and build a family tree there. This is a great place to start while you're getting your feet wet. Keep in mind, anyone who creates a FREE account will have access and the ability to change your information. If you can prove the accuracy of this information, you can change it back, or if you have documented your information, most likely they won't change it.

Thoughtco.com Humanities: is FREE and have some wonderful web pages for learning and searching. US State Archives Online. Online Record Collections, Finding Aids and Catalogs: <https://www.thoughtco.com/us-state-archives-online-1422754>

Some other examples are: Top 10 Genealogy Mistakes to Avoid:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-genealogy-mistakes-to-avoid-1421693>

Five Steps to verifying Online Genealogy Sources: <https://www.thoughtco.com/verifying-online-genealogy-sources-1421690>

12 Free Jewish Genealogy Databases Online:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/free-jewish-genealogy-databases-online-1422098>

Polish Genealogy Databases Online: (Tools to help You Discover Your Polish Heritage):

<https://www.thoughtco.com/polish-genealogy-databases-online-1422285>

German Genealogy Online Databases and Records: <https://www.thoughtco.com/german-genealogy-online-1421986>

This is just a few, All these sites are listed at the end of each subject, there are dozens.

One of the best site that I discovered was: **LDS Genealogy.com**; choose 'Records Directory'.

(Note: LDSGenealogy.com is privately owned and is not an official site of FamilySearch International or The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). Their records directory lists 1,235,301 record sources from 1,634 websites and archives. All sources have been organized by state, county, city/township, and record type. Only actual genealogy records are listed. Both online and archive sources are included. <https://ldsgenealogy.com/How-to-Use-the-LDS-Genealogy-com-Site.htm>

Submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

Is DNA Working for You?



I must admit, I don't totally understand all there is to this DNA research. What I do know is that it can be a deciding factor in breaking down brick walls and identifying ancestors that have previously eluded me.

I do not have a scientific background, nor was science my best subject in high school, college, or during my masters' studies. But, I also know that I'm not too old to learn new things, including the inner workings of DNA. Exposure is what I need!

With that being said, over the past few months I have been taking some DNA-related courses online to help me understand what to do with my test samples, how to extract the important data to identify relatives, and how to apply those findings to my family tree that might lead to finding one of those elusive ancestors. It has not been easy for me. What has been easy is to take this new research tool (DNA) step by step, educating myself as to the ins and outs of the DNA process, and to give myself time to absorb the information so I fully understand it.

That's the key – one step at a time, exposure to classes that will educate me, and taking my time to fully absorb the newly learned information so that I can confidently progress forward with my research. So, I challenge you, if you have not already jumped on the DNA bandwagon, you might seriously consider doing so. There are courses online that are fairly inexpensive and many professionals out there who are most willing to help you learn how to navigate DNA research.

We aren't getting any younger. And our research can only be enhanced with elevating our knowledge of DNA research. I'm just planting the seed in this article. Will you take action and join me in this quest? The answer lies within you!

Susie Haenisch
CMGS VP & Program Chair

DOING DUE DILIGENCE

10 May 2022

It was very overdue! I was in trouble. Putting this off was not the best idea. So today was the day to make things right. Turned out – it took me almost two full days, with interruptions!

My trouble was with my online account passwords. For a while I had been using my usual – about four of them – with some minor modifications. Then my Facebook account was compromised. It was time to do a massive overhaul of my passwords – changing them to make it difficult to hack my accounts. I immediately set out to increase my safety online.

First, I created a PW Excel spreadsheet. Since I already had LASTPASS, I printed out a list of all my active accounts and the passwords that were assigned to them. Out of 107 of them, many had been flagged because I was using repeat PWs for too many accounts. My computer geek friend told me to make a different PW for each account. My immediate reaction to this was . . . how do I remember them all? Hence, the main reason for signing up with LASTPASS. This PW program is currently being used by a couple of our CMGS member and it comes highly recommended by our friend, Thomas MacEntee, in whom I put my trust. My backup is the spreadsheet I created and keep in a safe place, updating as needed.

These are my own rules for PWs, but you can create literally anything you want.

1. Include at least one number, one capital letter, and one special character in each PW.
2. Include 12-14 letter/number combinations (which sounds like a lot), but it makes hacking your accounts waaaay much more difficult!

3. I try to create a phrase for my password, using the numbers 2, 4 and 8 generously, alternating with my own favorite number or my former house number in New York State, while alternate word spellings. You can also use the letters Y, B, C, etc. in place of words as PW shortcuts. Obviously, NEVER use your bank account or credit card numbers! See creative examples below.
4. In my experience, it's best to NEVER use any part of your social security number, your current house number, your age, or your birth day, month or year.
5. Since I cannot think like a hacker, I try to change things up as much as possible to make it harder to decipher my PW combinations.
6. Have fun with it. Be creative. Get silly. Remember, when you use a PW program like LASTPASS or keep your own spreadsheet, you won't have to remember them all.

Below are some ideas I've used – NOT my own passwords – but similar possibilities. I went down my spreadsheet, item by item, created a special PW specific to that site, then updated my LASTPASS to reflect the same. It was easy and although I never thought I would consider coming up with PWs as fun, it really was! You can shortcut what I did and just input directly into LASTPASS, then print out a list from their site, but I couldn't figure out how to see ALL the passwords for each account, so I chose to keep my separate Excel spreadsheet.

LOVE2bakecookies! (Can be used for a recipe/cooking site, or anything.)
JbirdsonMYfeeder! (Can be used for a favorite hobby site - bird watching, nature, etc.)
onlineshopping4ME\$ (Can be used to eBay, Amazon, Etsy, or any online site your frequent.)
BOOKS2love&read\$ (For audible book sites, library accounts, etc.)

FUNstuff2buy\$\$ (For a favorite online site where I buy clothes, home products, etc.)

DNAis4family&me (My favorite DNA research sites.)

8myfill\$THISWEEK (For ordering grocery food & restaurant sites, home meal delivery sites.)

#ofitems2RESEARCH (For newspaper sites, local paper subscription, NARA, libraries, etc.)

Bill&Sue\$\$accounts (For shared bank accounts, utility sites, etc.)

Sue&Bill4electric\$\$

Cellphones4MOM&me!

research@NYG&B\$ (Can be used for specific society sites,..)

planeparts\$4Jeff (Used for a hobby site where purchases are made online.)

You get the idea. Obviously, I use the dollar sign to depict either a bank account, paid site, or a shopping site where I spend money, but this can vary. I use two names for joint accounts – but not always – and I often use initials in the PW to depict a specialized site, like the NYB&GS site. If it's a joint site, I use two dollar signs, but again, not always. And that's the key – change it up so you don't follow a standardized PW pattern.

I'm sure there are other (better??) ways to keep track of your PWs, but this WORKZ4me! Whatever you decide, if updating your PWs is something you've been putting off, DON'T. Once you're hacked, it's too late. Just DO IT now and stay safe! AND MAKE IT FUN!

Susie Haenisch
CMGS VP & Program Chair

We need your help!!

The newsletter needs to focus on Central Massachusetts. The resources and interesting information relating to our community activities and/or special

research opportunities that make us unique. We are asking you all to help us

If you **or** someone you know would be willing to write a series of 6 articles focused around one topic. These articles would be printed in each of the newsletters throughout the year (6 newsletters per year)

If you prefer to author with others that works as well, so long as the topic is submitted together.

All the articles would be submitted by December 10 2022 for inclusion in the 2023 newsletters. Articles can be a couple of paragraphs or longer.

1. You would decide on the topic
2. Ideas might include:
 - a. Interesting ancestors
 - b. History of the homestead
 - c. Why ancestor settled there
 - d. Unique offerings within the community
 - e. Military
 - f. Historical offerings
 - g. Brick walls that you have been able to breakdown (or not)
 - h. Boundary changes
 - i. Occupations of a specific era
 - j. Value of memberships
 - k. Or any other topics you can think of

Questions or submissions can be sent to Carol Bosworth at cmgsorg1@gmail.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED