



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

As I write this column, I would like to share all that has happened within the society so far this summer and the events scheduled for the rest of the year. We have been very busy celebrating our 30th anniversary. It all began on June 27th with our annual dinner meeting at the Hope Lodge in Gardner. Our very special guest of honor was one of our “founding mothers”, Ruth Quigley Jones. It was great to share memories of days together and the special times we had. I am hoping to have many more such meetings. On August 26th we held our first Genealogy and History fair with vendors from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. It was a wonderful time to connect again with each other and we did have four individuals join our society, so a success on all fronts!

Come *Sunday September 17th* CMGS will be helping Gardner celebrate 100 years as a city with a parade. Come down and see us, we will be in a 1967 blue Ford Mustang fastback having a great time.

Then there is the Johnny Appleseed Festival on *Saturday September 23rd from 9am-3PM*. We will be located on Park Ave between the Pilgrim Church and the bank.



September is a time to go back to class for a lot of individuals and the same is true for CMGS volunteers who will be giving free beginners and intermediate classes at the Leominster Public Library on Monday evenings beginning September 18th from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Library help sessions are also continuing in several local communities and we would love to have volunteers help in other communities as well. Currently Leominster Library help sessions are held the first and third Saturday of the month from 10am – noon. Gardner sessions are being offered in *September* on the 3rd and 5th Saturday from 9 am until 1 pm; *October* on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 9am to 1 pm.; *November and December*, the Gardner library will have help sessions on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. -Townsend library has scheduled consultation sessions on the 3rd Wednesday evening and the senior center has help sessions on the 2nd Friday of the month from 10 am until noon.

Our Director Sara Campbell was lucky enough to be chosen to participate in Gen-Fed 2023 (the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records) in August. The 40 participants were drawn at random from applications submitted in March to spend a week in Washington DC learning about the collections at the National Archives. This was the first in-person meeting since 2019. Where did your ancestor interact with the Federal government? There may be a record of that.

The course included lectures from experts in various parts of the archive's collections. Participants found files for their ancestors' military pensions and bounty land applications, among others. They learned the process of requesting precious packets of original documents and how to review them. The group also traveled to Archives II in College Park, MD for access to more historic records. In addition to lectures from long-time Archives staff, guest lecturers included Rick Sayre, Judy Russell, and LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson.

The group had a private tour of the Library of Congress and was able to receive reader cards while there. Anyone who has been to the LOC knows what a thrill that is.

There was also an optional tour of the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) library on Saturday.

The conference hotel was a short walk across the Mall to the main Archives building, where classes were held. Research at the main Archives or any of the Field Offices of the Archives requires applying for a card in advance and reviewing their rules online. Cards are good for one year and can be renewed. Access to the research facilities is no longer available on a walk-in basis. All

visitors must make an appointment in advance. This includes Waltham, St. Louis and all branches.

See <https://www.archives.gov/research/start/plan-your-visit>

The highlight of any Institute is interacting with other genealogists and meeting people we may have known virtually in the past. This group came from all corners of the country and included a range of experience from professionals to less-experienced genealogists.

See Gen-Fed.org for more information, and to find out when applications will be opened for Gen-Fed 2024.

Up Coming Meetings

September 26, 2023

Hybrid meeting

7PM – 8:30 PM

Registration link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82137212466?pwd=dE51SHNmZTBpZm45MXJxTmY0MjQ0UT09>

Masonic Hall Gardner, MA

Everyone welcome

“Cemetery Transcriptions, Why This Is Such an Important Project”

Presented by our own June Williams

October 24, 2023

Joint meeting with the Leominster Public Library

****IN-PERSON PRESENTATION****

6:30 -8:30 PM

Leominster Public Library

“Welcome to the Graveyard Virtual Tour Chronicling Art, History, and Symbolism of the N.E. Burial Grounds.”

Gravestone Girls

This program will NOT be recorded

November 15, 2022

HYBRID –

Masonic Hall Gardner, MA

Everyone welcome

6:30 PM-8:30 PM

Registration link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82137212466?pwd=dE51SHNmZTBpZm45MXJxTmY0MjQ0UT09>

“Have a Computer, Will Document, A Review of Genealogy Software for Windows and Mac“

Speaker: Richard Reid

Richard Reid is the pastor of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brockton and the lead volunteer of the Friends of Irish Research. He is also the director of the David Allen Lambert Library in Brockton, MA.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

The CMGS Board of Directors voted to:

1. Have the annual dinner meeting in March of each year in conjunction with the annual meeting beginning in 2024
2. to offer a SIGS group in conjunction with the Leominster Library beginning **as soon as we have feedback from the public (members and non-members of CMGS) as to what specific groups they would like and what day and time is most convenient** to hold the group. Leominster Library has a small meeting room we would be able to use.

This means we need to hear from you, the readers of this newsletter!!!!

Information for Researchers
Submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

If you're researching your **French/Canadian ancestors**, new notice from Drouin Institute, [a 24 hour subscription is \$7.00, on a monthly subscription is \$14.95 per month, a yearly subscription is \$129. Or \$10.75 billed monthly to your credit card]. They have recently added 65,000 new obituaries. This is in addition to the 50 million genealogical and historical records already available to members. You may learn more information from Drouin Institute's blog.

Newspapers on Google Books

Google Books isn't just for books. Google Books results include digitized newspapers (from Google News Archive). To utilize these newspapers, conduct a Google Search for your ancestor's name in either Google or Google Books. From the Results page on Google, choose Books at the top and then in the drop-down menu labeled Any Document, choose Newspapers. By Gena Philibert-Ortega, Internet Genealogy author Newspapers on Google Books, Internet Genealogy, December 2022

It's Back to School Time submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

Learning how to search school records and where to find them.

Learn how these records can help you learn more about your ancestors. Education was important to our ancestors; it may have been hit or missed or very limited. Education was different, but one thing remains the same, teachers and schools kept records, school registration records, yearbooks and more. School registrations generally listed the student, either their age or date of birth, frequently the father's name and sometimes the occupation. Checking the list, you can frequently learn siblings and parents.

For the missing 1890 census, school registrations can frequently fill in some of those answers.

This is also a great way to locate female ancestors.

Yearbooks provide lots of information including photographs, (sometimes this may be their only photograph) of students and teachers (remember they were ancestors also). Often you will locate cousins as families frequently lived close to each other. If you are fortunate enough to have an ancestor's personal yearbook, check for notes they may have made.

School newspapers are another great source. Remember social history gives you a closer look into their lives.

Annual reports created by the county, often listed list of students, Honor Roll students, Spelling Bee winners, a Reading awards. Among these reports would be information about the community, homes having running water, and/or telephones. This is great locality research, learning about the type of area your ancestors lived in.

Report Cards: Usually show the child's age, from which you can approximate their birth. Often the parents had to sign the report card, so you will have a signature to add to your collection. You will also learn the kind of student your ancestor was.

Now, where do you find these records, first start with your family records. You may be surprised how many were kept, especially yearbooks. Graduation certificates, elementary school, high school and of course college. From this, you can learn the school they attended, the grade or level of education, the date of graduation, the superintendent of schools. The student's full name.

Check with the library to see if they have yearbooks for the years your ancestor attended. If the school is no longer in

operation, check with the local school board to learn if they still have the old records, (you will be surprised how many have boxes in basements, no one has had time to clear out).

Other places you may want to check out: Local Historical Societies and Museums, State Archives, University Collections, Online Genealogy Databases.

Ancestry.com, FindMyPast and MyHeritage all have card catalogs listing school records. So be sure to add School Records to your research plan.

Original article found on 'Are you my cousin' by Lisa Lisson. August 21, 2023.

LEAIVING OUR RESEARCH BEHIND . . .

Submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

Covid put a hold on much of our research and information gathering, so here we are five years later reviewing the very same article and realizing how little I've accomplished. I am going to reprint this article to see if we can kick off our 30th anniversary with the same challenge. I want to thank Susie and Seema Jayne for their original incite.

In January of 2018, to kick off our 25th anniversary year, Seema Jayne Kenney will challenge us to become good "ancestors" by presenting a program about what each of us can do today to leave critical documented information and records for our descendants. I've been thinking about this recently and it has occurred to me one of the greatest tools we have at our fingertips is the Internet. To quote Thomas Jay Kemp (our July 2017 webinar speaker), "If you don't put it online, your descendants will not find it!" What a great tool to use that allows us to leave our family the important stories of our ancestors and the details of our own lives, but if we

don't use it, we are passing on a great opportunity to share our family stories and leave our mark on history. Check out Tom's article at

<https://familysearch.org/blog/en/dont-put-online-descendants-find/> ,

found on the familysearch.org blog pages. It's a great read, and it just might inspire you to get yourself organized so your records won't be lost to your family that follows you.

If you want to explore more of what Tom has to offer, check out the dozen webinars that he offers for FREE – my very favorite price! You can find it here at the Legacy webinar site:

<https://familytreewebinars.com/tomkemp>.

Tom focuses mostly on the information that we can easily find through obituaries and newspapers, critical sources that every one of us should be researching in depth!

Many of these records can be researched online today. What could be easier?

If you do one thing this week for genealogy research, check out what is available through obituary and newspaper research.

As always /FamilySearch.org is always free.

Ongoing sales are offered on sites like GenealogyBank, Newspapers.com, Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com but if the rates are still too high for your budget, try it for just one or two months. But first, make a list of all the ancestors you want to research, along with their locations and timeline information, so you are ready to roll when your subscription actually begins.

Happy ancestor hunting!

Susie Haenisch, CMGS VP & Program Chair

Now retired. **Thanks Susie for all you have done.**

U S Census records

Census records have been taken every 10 years from 1790 to 1950.

The 1890 records are missing due to a fire on January 10, 1921, at the U.S. Department of Commerce building in Washington D.C., destroying most of the population schedules, these records consisted of 8,881 volumes, which were ready to be microfilmed. The fire was of undetermined cause, most likely from faulty wiring or possibly of a carelessly disposed cigarette. Between the damage from water and smoke archivists were unable to reproduce the information.

Census records are the backbone for genealogists.

As the census advanced, they changed the information gathered, and how it was used. There is the Population Schedule, which is the most common, but don't let the others slide by, they hold valuable information. Non-Population Schedules include, Indian Schedule, Agricultural Schedule, Mortality and Slave Schedules

This article will focus on the Population Schedule of 1950

Remember Genealogist/Family Historians are always working backwards on our research.

Starting of course with ourselves.

The 1950 census was the first census post WWII. At that time there were 150 million people in the United States. The top 5 most populated Cities were New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis. The baby boom had not yet started. In 1950 The Census Bureau hired 140,000 enumerators to undertake this job. Every 5th person was

asked where they lived the year before (1949), and a mirid of other questions. Check to see if your ancestor was one of the people who were asked the supplemental questions, which are listed at the bottom of the page.

If you find value in the Real Estate listed, then you should note to search land/property records. Be

sure to check the left side of the schedule as it should list street and house address, A great clue for finding the property today, or whatever may be there at this time, see how and why things have changed. [Check Google Earth]

Check to see if your ancestor was one of the people who was asked the supplemental questions, which are listed at the bottom of the page. One important point to pay attention to is the month and day of enumeration. This will affect the calculation of date of birth for your ancestor.

1. According to the 1950 U.S Federal Census: How many people resided in the United States in 1950?
2. According to the 1950 U.S. Federal Census: What were the top 5 most populated cities?
3. According to the 1950 U, S. Federal Census: How many enumerators were hired to conduct the census in the United States. (Hint: These new hires needed to complete their areas within the 2-week time-period).

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, 2023, for inclusion in the 2024 newsletters. Articles can be a couple of paragraphs or longer.

You would decide on the topic.

Ideas might include:

Interesting ancestors

1. History of the homestead
2. Why ancestor settled there
3. Unique offerings within the community
4. Military
5. Historical offerings
6. Brick walls that you have been able to breakdown (or not)
7. Boundary changes
8. Occupations of a specific era
9. Value of memberships
10. Or any other topics you can think of

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

SHAKE YOUR Family Tree

A pairing of workshops aimed at beginner and intermediate researchers

LEOMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Learn how to use Ancestry, FamilySearch, NARA, Find-a-Grave, and more to build your family tree!

BEGINNER COURSE DATES:	INTERMEDIATE COURSE DATES:
September 18	October 16
September 25	October 23
October 2	October 30

All classes are held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

To register for one or both workshop series, call the Information Desk at 978-534-7522 x3
Participants must bring their own laptops!

PRESENTED BY THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY