



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

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

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# THE SEARCHERS

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–Innovative–Enlightening–

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE,**

*by Carol Bosworth*

**W**inter is soon to be upon us making it difficult to get out but a wonderful excuse to do all the research we planned on doing this summer in the comfort of our home. CMGS has had a very productive year so far and we are very hopeful it will continue into 2024. We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June with a dinner meeting and having Ruth Quigly Jones as our special guest of honor, then we hosted a Genealogy and History fair with Libraries, Historical Societies, lineage groups and family associations from MA, CT, and NH. Bonnie Bohnet offered a beginners genealogy course at the Leominster Public Library in September followed by an intermediate course in October. Bonnie and her granddaughter Aubrey Bohnet did a presentation in October for the Rutland Historical Society on How to Begin Research Your Family Tree. Our October meeting was held in conjunction with the Leominster Library and welcomed 49 guests to hear the Gravestone Girls talk about cemeteries and the potential for genealogical research in them. The November meeting will host Richard Reid from the David Allen Lambert Library talking about genealogical software for both the PC and MAC.

**Enriching–Enjoyable**

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. In *November and December*, the Gardner library will have help sessions on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm. Townsend library has half-hour consultation sessions by appointment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday evenings and Townsend Senior Center sessions are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 10 am until noon.

## **NERGC 2025 CONFERENCE**

We are busy planning for the next NERGC Conference which will be held in Manchester NH from October 29<sup>th</sup>-November 1. Attendance at the conference will be maxed at 750 participants. The Tri-chairs will be sending out more information soon.

## **Opportunity for Salt Lake City Tour June 2024**

Seema Kenny is looking for new ways to support the conference and has been in touch with Ancestor's seekers. I am attaching the letter she received.

Ancestor Seekers Opportunity

I have been in touch with Ancestor Seekers, a business that provides genealogists with a week at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Ancestor Seekers are open to partnering with NERGC to offer “priority registration” for a week of research in Salt Lake City, UT from Monday, June 3 to Sunday June 9, 2024. Registration for this week would open in January. We could offer this opportunity to our list of NERGC attendees. Because NERGC occurs every two years, it would be an excellent opportunity for engagement during the “gap” year and a possible source of revenue for NERGC. Depending on the number of registrations, a NERGC “discount” or a “commission” could be negotiated. This discount/commission could be investigated further depending on our interest.

The package includes six nights lodging at the Salt Lake City Plaza Hotel at Temple Square, located next door to the library. They also provide research consultants who will be available every day to offer specialized help to search records from the United States, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Germany. This is in addition to the volunteers at the library.

The prices they offer to the public on their website, <https://ancestorseekers.com/> are as follows:

- Single registration (one person in room) \$1,650
- Double registration (two people in room) \$2,720 for both
- Bring a non-researching companion (two people in room) \$1,950 for both

Your companion is welcome to attend all evening group activities including the Opening Dinner and the Tabernacle Choir rehearsal and Organ rehearsal.

· Airfare is not included in this package. Meals (other than the opening banquet) are not included.

It appears that the Ancestor Seeker groups range from 30 – 40 people. I suspect that of the 800 – 1,000 people in our NERGC registration files, this opportunity would be well received by both amateur and professional genealogists.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED YOU MUST CONTACT ME AT [CMGSORG1@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CMGSORG1@GMAIL.COM) BEFORE DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>**

## **Up Coming Meetings**

**November 28, 2023**

**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 Brocton, MA.

**NO MEETING IN DECEMBER**

**FREE WEBNIR**

**December 12, 2023**

I am attaching the notice sent to me from MSOG regarding this free webinar

Press Release  
New Organizations:

The Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG) is pleased to announce the fourth of four webinars for forensic genealogists and the genealogical community at large. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, CAFG will present Michael Ramage's webinar: Champerty Meets Heir Searching: The Law, Ethics and Practice. When an heir searcher accepts an estate case on a contingency fee basis, there is a risk that the civil or criminal champerty laws of the applicable jurisdiction are being violated. Even if the jurisdiction has not retained the common law doctrine of champerty, the contingent fee contract may be unethical.

Furthermore, a contingent fee practitioner may allow his or her expert testimony to be undermined or even rejected by the court.

Learn the laws, ethics and practicality of contingent fee contracts in the field of missing and unknown heirs searching.

Michael S. Ramage, JD, CG, is a full-time professional genealogist, author, lecturer, and licensed attorney-at-law in Pennsylvania. Mr. Ramage has served as a Trustee, officer and currently General Counsel of BCG, and he was the 2020-2022 President of the APG Forensic Genealogy Special Interest Group. His 25-year law practice included real estate and estate law and litigation. He has taught numerous genealogy and law-related courses at genealogy conferences and institutes around the country. His related publications include the "Forensic Specialization" and "Ethical Considerations" chapters in *Professional Genealogy: Preparation, Practice & Standards*, Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor.

The Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy (CAFG) is a professional business league dedicated to advancing public awareness and understanding of the Forensic Genealogy profession while promoting and maintaining high standards of professional and ethical conduct. CAFG encourages best practices in client services and promotes the interchange of information among members through electronic forums, meetings and seminars, and trade publications. Memberships

are encouraged by applying at the website: <https://www.forensicgenealogists.org/join/>  
To sign up for this free webinar use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/champerty-meets-heir-searching-the-law-ethics-and-practice-tickets-6905383377?aff=oddtcreator>  
Donations are encouraged.

## **I**nformation for Researchers Submitted by Bonnie Bohnet

### **6 points to get you started writing your family history.**

1. Try to set aside time each week/month to write about one ancestor.
2. Choose one and put together a summary of their life. Include spouses and children, sometimes even close friends.
3. Create a timeline using dates and bullets of everything you know about their life.
4. Choose one event in the timeline and expand on it with more detailed points, e.g., like their age at the time, how long they had lived in that place, or anything specific to the event, who else was involved. Why was that event significant?
5. Include some social history. What were the clothing styles at the time? What was the weather like at the time of the event, e.g., cold, hot, rainy, storms? What was happening in the community or the world. Outside factors at the time that may have affected them. This will make your story much more intriguing to your family members who aren't as involved with family history as you, and maybe get them excited.
6. Organize the bullet points into a logical order and turn the bullets into sentences and paragraphs.

Wow... Looks like you have your first story, file it and find yourself another ancestor.

original article by : Jessica of Heritage Discovered 2023

## 50 Free Genealogy Sites

- Looking for a list of free genealogy sites to search? Here are 50 no-cost family history resources where you will find birth, marriage and death records, obituaries, cemetery listings, newspaper articles, biographies, research tips and so much more.
  - We had a lot of fun compiling this list of excellent websites. Remember, most free genealogy sites have been made available by the hard work and dedication of many volunteers! Don't forget to thank them and give back when you can. Enjoy the search!
1. [FamilySearch](#): largest collection of free genealogical records in the world
  2. [WikiTree](#): enormous collaborative family tree
  3. [Fulton History](#): historical newspapers from the US and Canada
  4. [Find a Grave](#): locate your ancestors in cemeteries across the globe
  5. [Google News Archive](#): millions of archived newspaper pages
  6. [US National Archives](#): official US National Archives site, many free genealogy databases and resources
  7. [Automated Genealogy](#): indexes of the Canadian census
  8. [FreeBMD](#): civil registration index of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales
  9. [USGenWeb Project](#): massive free genealogy resource directory by US state and county
  10. [WorldGenWeb Project](#): genealogy resources by country and region, not to miss
  11. [Cyndi's List](#): highly respected directory of free genealogy resources and databases online
  12. [Library and Archives Canada](#): official archives of Canada, census records and more
  13. [Ellis Island](#): immigration records, free indexes and original records, fee to download copies.
  14. [FreeReg](#): baptism, marriage, and burial records from parish registers of the UK
  15. [POWVETS](#): WWII POW search for prisoners of war held in German camps.
  16. [RootsWeb](#): world's largest genealogy community, huge amount of free information
  17. [Castle Garden](#): immigration records, pre Ellis Island.
  18. [Chronicling America](#): giant database of archived US newspapers from the Library of Congress.
  19. [Dead Fred](#): genealogy photo archive
  20. [North American Slave Narratives](#): autobiographical narratives of formally enslaved people up to 1920 ([more resources focused on African American and Black family history](#))
  21. [Immigrant Ancestors Project](#): emigration registers for locating birthplaces of immigrants in their native countries.
  22. [Daughters of the American Revolution](#): military service records and more
  23. [JewishGen](#): Jewish ancestry research
  24. [FreeCEN](#): transcribed census records from the UK.

25. [Access Genealogy](#): vast family history directories and more, good Native American resources
26. [British Library, India Office](#): records on British and European people in India pre 1950.
27. [Guild of One-Name Studies](#): extensive surname research site
28. [Genealogy Trails](#): transcribed genealogical records from across the U.S.
29. [NativeWeb Genealogy](#): list of Native American genealogy resources and searchable databases.
30. [Viximus](#): member submitted biographical information.
31. [WieWasWie](#): for researching ancestors from the Netherlands.
32. [UK National Archives](#): official National Archives of the UK, family history resources.
33. [The National Archives of Ireland](#): official National Archives of Ireland
34. [GENUKI](#): reference library of genealogical resources for the UK and Ireland.
35. [German Genealogy Server](#): German ancestry research (many sections in German)
36. [Preserve the Pensions](#): War of 1812 pension records access.
37. [Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System](#): Civil War records from the National Park Service
38. [LitvakSIG](#): Lithuanian-Jewish genealogy databases and resources.
39. [Italian Genealogical Group](#): Italian American genealogy resources and databases.
40. [Internet Archive](#): a large amount of information useful to genealogists, but you'll need to do some digging.
41. [Billion Graves](#): headstone records
42. [Open Library](#): good place to find family history books, search for surnames or locations.
43. [GenDisasters](#): for researching disasters and other events your ancestors might have been involved in.
44. [Romany and Traveller Family History Project](#): Ancestry records for Romany, Traveler and Fairground families.
45. [Patriot and Grave Index](#): revolutionary war graves registry and patriot index from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
46. [Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection](#): vast number of archived US newspapers.
47. [Seventh-day Adventist Obituary Database](#): hundreds of thousands of obituary entries
48. [Släktdata](#): genealogy records for Sweden (in Swedish)
49. [Hispanic Genealogy](#): wonderful list of resources for researching Hispanic ancestry.
50. [Free History Daily Articles on Free Research](#): find hundreds of free genealogy resources and tips for using them on Family History Daily

There are many more free genealogy sites online. Since we can't possibly list them all in one article, please share your favorite in the comments if you don't see it here.

Family History Daily offers many more articles about [free genealogy resources](#). Read [our guide to free genealogy sites in the U.S.](#), how to [access paid genealogy sites through your library's website for free](#) or [check out all of our articles here](#).



Witch Trials

## Witch Trials – Jury

Posted on [November 18, 2011](#) by [markeminer](#)

Our ancestors, noted below by **Bold CAPITALS**, played every role in the 17th Century Witch Trials: Accused, Accuser, Witness, Neighbor, Jury and the Law. Seeing all their stories together, shows that the witch trials weren't an isolated incident. Since all the players were family, the message I get is that everyone in their society was responsible for what happened.

It is generally accepted that the Salem trials were one of the defining moments that changed American jurisprudence from the English system of “guilty, ’til proven innocent” to the current American system of “innocent until proven guilty”. In addition, the jury pool in trials was changed from “church-members only” to “all those who have property” in an act which was passed by the General Court on 25 Nov 1692. Finally, these cases caused Americans to take their first steps away from what we now know as “cruel & unusual punishment” when trying to get someone to confess. It had been a staple of the English legal system, but after 1692 even Cotton Mather urged judges to use “Crosse and Swift Questions” rather than physical torture to gain the truth. These were three significant changes to the nascent American legal system. In May of 1693, Governor Phips pardoned the remaining accused of witchcraft.

## Witch Trials – Jury

Original posted on [November 18, 2011](#) by [markeminer](#).

**Modified June 2023 by Bonnie Bohnet to show her ancestor [Sarah Bassett](#).**

Our ancestors, noted below played every role in the 17th Century Witch Trials: Accused, Accuser, Witness, Neighbor, Jury, and the Law. Seeing all their stories together, shows that the witch trials weren't an isolated incident. Since all the players were family, the message: **Everyone in their society was responsible for what happened.**

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William Stoughton c. 1700

Stoughton was in charge of what have come to be known as the Salem Witch Trials, first as the Chief Justice of the Special Court of Oyer and Terminer in 1692, and then as the Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Judicature in 1693. In these trials he controversially accepted spectral evidence (based on supposed demonic visions). Unlike other magistrates, he never admitted to the possibility that his acceptance of such evidence was in error. In 1692, when Increase Mather and Sir William Phips arrived from England carrying the charter for the new Province of Massachusetts Bay and a royal commission for Phips as governor, they also brought one for Stoughton as lieutenant governor. When Phips arrived, rumors of witchcraft were running rampant, especially in Salem. Phips immediately appointed Stoughton to head a special tribunal to deal with accusations of witchcraft, and in June appointed him chief justice of the colonial courts, a post he would hold for the rest of his life. In the now-

notorious Salem Witch Trials, Stoughton acted as both chief judge and prosecutor. He was particularly harsh on some of the defendants, sending the jury deliberating in the case of Rebecca Nurse back to reconsider its not guilty verdict; after doing so, she was convicted. Many convictions were made because Stoughton permitted the use of spectral evidence, the idea that a demonic vision could only take on the shape or appearance of someone who had made some sort of devilish pact or engaged in witchcraft. Although Cotton Mather argued that this type of evidence was acceptable when making accusations, some judges expressed reservations about its use in judicial proceedings. Stoughton, however, was convinced of its acceptability, and may have influenced other judges to this view. The special court stopped sitting in September 1692.

In November and December 1692 Governor Phips oversaw a reorganization of the colony's courts to bring them into conformance with English practice. The new courts, with Stoughton still sitting as chief justice, began to handle the witchcraft cases in 1693, but were under specific instructions from Phips to disregard spectral evidence. Because of this, a significant number of cases were dismissed due to a lack of evidence, and Phips vacated the few convictions that were made. This turn of events angered Stoughton, and he briefly left the bench in protest. Historian Cedric Cowing suggests that Stoughton's acceptance of spectral evidence was based partly on a need he saw to reassert Puritan authority in the province.

Deacon William Fiske (1643 – 1728), John Batcheller (1638 – 1698) and John Dane (1645 – 1707) were on the Jury during the witchcraft cases in Salem. They signed a Declaration of Regret asking forgiveness for the error of their judgement.

“We whose names are under-written, being in the year 1692 called to serve as jurors in court at Salem, on trial of many who were by some suspected guilty of doing acts of witchcraft upon the bodies of sundry persons, we confess

that we ourselves were not capable to understand, nor able to withstand, the mysterious delusions of the powers of darkness and Prince of the air, but were, for want of knowledge in ourselves and better information from others, prevailed with to take with such evidence against the accused, as, on further consideration and better information, we justly fear was insufficient for the touching the lives of any (Deut. xvii) whereby we fear we have been instrumental, with others, though ignorantly and unwittingly, to bring upon ourselves and this people of the Lord the guilt of innocent blood; which sin the Lord saith in Scripture he would not pardon (2 Kings xxiv. 4)—that is, we suppose, regarding his temporal judgments. We do therefore hereby signify to all in general, and to the surviving sufferers in special, our deep sense of, and sorrow for, our errors in acting on such evidence to the condemning of any person; and do hereby declare, that we justly fear that we were sadly deluded and mistaken—for which we are much disquieted and distressed in our minds, and do therefore humbly beg forgiveness, first of God, for Christ's sake, for this our error, and pray that God would impute the guilt of it to ourselves nor others, and we also pray that we may be considered candidly and aright by the living sufferers, as being then under a strong and general delusion, utterly unacquainted with, and not experienced in, matters of that nature.

“We do hereby ask forgiveness of you all, whom we have justly offended, and do declare, according to our present minds, we would none of us do such things again, on such grounds, for the whole world—praying you to accept of this in way of satisfaction for our offense, and that you would bless the inheritance of the Lord, that he may be entreated for the land.”

John Bacheler

*Capt. Thomas Fisk, Foreman*, John Bacheler, William Fisk, Thomas Fisk, John Dane, Joseph Evelith, Thomas Pearly, Sr., John Peabody, Thomas Perkins, Samuel Sayer, Andrew Eliot  
Henry Herrick, Sr.

Jury foreman Capt. Thomas Fiske and Deacon William Fiske were third cousins once removed; Capt. Thomas Fiske, jr., and Deacon William Fiske were fourth cousins.

Many genealogies state that Robert Paine Jr. (1627 in Newton, Suffolk, England – d. Dec 1693 in Ipswich, Essex, Mass) , the grandson of William Payne , was the foreman of the Grand Jury that found all the indictments for witchcraft at Salem. It is believed that he became foreman in Jan 1693 and only returned findings of “*Ignoramus*” [The legal definition of this word is uninformed. It is written on a bill by a grand jury, when they find that there is not sufficient evidence to authorize their finding it a true bill. Sometimes, instead of using this word, the grand jury endorse on the bill, “Not found.”]

Sarah Bassett, like so many of her neighbors, was accused of being a witch in 1692. She was tried at Salem on 21 May 1692 and imprisoned in Boston until 3 Dec 1692. She gave birth to her son, Joseph, on 15 Dec. In addition, she took her 22-month-old child (probably Ruth) with her to prison. She named her next daughter “Deliverance” in honor of her freedom. In 1693, she was recompensed a whopping £9 for her experience.

#### ***Indictment v. Sarah Bassett***

*Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England Essex \ Ano RR & Reginae Gulielmi & Mariare Angliae &c Quarto Anoa'e\Dom. 1692.*

*The Jurors for o'r Sov'r lord & Lady the King & Queen pr'sent The Sarah Bassett wife of William Bassett of Lyn in the County of Essex aforesaid Upon or about the 23'rd day of May last Anno:  
1692 aforsaid*

*And Divers other Days & Times as well before as after Certaine Detestable Arts Called Witchcraft & Sorceries Wickedly Mallitiously & feloniously hath used practised & Exercised*

*at & in the Towne of Salem, in the County of Essex aforesaid Upon & Against One Mary Walcott of Salem Single Woman By Which Wicked Arts The Said Mary Walcott is Tortured afflicted Tormented Consumed Wasted & Pined the Day & yeare aforesaid & Divers other Days & times as well before as Contrary to the peace of o'r Sov'r lord & lady the King & Queen their Crowne & Dignity & the Laws in that Case made & provided.*

*Witness*

*Ann Putnam*

*Marcy Lewis*

*Ignoramus*

*Robert Payne foreman*

*Salem Court 3 Jan 1693*

Sarah Cloyes,, daughter of William Towne, her two sisters, Rebecca Nurse and Mary Estey already having been hung, was examined in the early part of the trials in January of 1693. The three indictments against Sarah Cloyes are all legal forms written in the same clerkly hand. They are for having performed witchcraft on the body of Abigail Walcott in April and for having performed witchcraft on the body of Abigail Williams during that month. The third indictment is for a much later date. It is for having performed witchcraft on the body of her niece, Rebecca Towne of Topsfield on, before and after September 1st. The words of Sarah Cloyes, wife of Peter Cloyes of Salem Village was evidently written in the same hand.” Many indictments were written out in advance with the name of the accused written in later. “All three indictments against Sarah Cloyes have the word ‘ignoramus’ written in still another hand on the reverse. After the word ignoramus, in yet another hand occurs Robert Payne’s distinctive signature on all three indictments.” Robert Payne was the new jury foreman in January of 1693.

[\(Indictment v. Sarah Cloyce, No. 1\)](#)



The Jurors for our Sovereigne Lord & Lady the King and Queen doe present That Sarah Cloyce Wife of Peter Cloyce of Salem — in the County of Essex Husbandman upon or about the n<sup>th</sup> Day of April — In the yeare aforesaid and divers other Days and times as well before as after Certaine Detestable Arts called Witchcraft and Sorceries Wickedly Mallitiously and feloniously hath used practised and Exercised At and in the Towne of Salem in the Country of Essex — aforesaid in upon and against one Abigail Williams of Salem — aforesaid Single Woman — by which said Wicked Acts the said Abigail Williams the Day & Yeare — aforesaid and Divers other Days and times both before and after was and is Tortured Afflicted Consumed Wasted Pined and Tormented against the Peace of our Sov<sup>r</sup> Lord and Lady the King & Queen their Crowne and Dignity and The Law In that case made and Provided

**Did Your European Immigrants settle in  
New York City  
Part 1**

**- New York City Naturalization Database**

The Summer of 2023, New York City opened New Naturalization Database. According to an article posted in July by Sean Daly.

Naturalization documents hold precious information for genealogists. The boroughs (counties) of Queen and Bronx have just opened a new online database with fresh color scans never before online, with more boroughs to come.

In New York City, the Queens Public Library, and the New York State court system Division of Technology have worked together with funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in Washington D.C. to create a free platform with over 400,000 naturalization dossiers from 1794 to 1952. The database is now online after four years in the making, is indexed and searchable,

access at [nynaturalizations.com](http://nynaturalizations.com) or access the search engine at [naturalization.nycourts.gov](http://naturalization.nycourts.gov). These public records are online for the first time. A few of the dossiers even have photographs.

Each downloadable PDF may contain a combination of an immigrant's Declaration of Intention, Petition of Naturalization, Certificate of Arrival, Certificate of Naturalization, Oath of Allegiance, or other documents. Reminder, that naturalization could be started in one county or borough and finalized in another. More boroughs and counties may be on the way! The [nynaturalizations.com](http://nynaturalizations.com) site and its database has been designed to incorporate naturalization dossiers from other boroughs of New York City and counties of New York State. The projects are dependent upon funding; once this is in place, digitization, and indexing, done by an outside supplier, then double checked by court archivists will take from 18 to 24 months. Manhattan and Brooklyn County court files, have a significantly higher volume of naturalization records. It's possible these boroughs will join the New York State Unified Courts platform. Two years at least would be necessary in the event funding can be obtained. Remember naturalization could be started in one county and completed in another.

Existing online resources about New York City area naturalizations collections are already available online, sourced from US National Archives and Records Administration which has a useful finding aid. NARA's records include federal, but not state or county records post 1906. Of course, a naturalization dossier finalized in federal court will likely have the first papers if filed previously in county court. Geneanet partner FamilySearch has an informative wiki page about such resources, while Geneanet parent company Ancestry.com offers several collections. New York, State and Federal Naturalization Records, 1794-1943; Early New York Naturalizations, 1792-1840; New York, Index to Petitions for Naturalization filed in New York City, 1792-1989. Note: When you land

on a digitized page through a search at FamilySearch or Ancestry.com, always scroll to the previous and following pages, as a complete naturalization dossier may contain as many as 20 pages!

The New York based German Genealogy Group (GGG), nonprofit association is an excellent free resource for NYC genealogy, and it's not just for Germans, with an excellent overview and searchable indexes. These indexes and others for NYC births, marriages, deaths, etc. are all easy to search, with wildcards, date ranges, and borough selection. Tips for searching [nynaturalizations.com](http://nynaturalizations.com): This site went live on June 29, 2023, here are some tips to help you get the most out of this new tool.

The search screen has a direct URL which you may wish to bookmark:

<https://naturalization.nycourts.gov/>

It's best to search by names. The petition # field overrides the name fields, it's best to use no number at all.

The First Name and Last Name fields apply a 'starts-with' filter; think of it as an invisible asterisk wildcard. For example, 'Schmi' as a last name will match Schmi, Schmid, Schmider, Schmidinger, Schmidt, Schmitt, Schmit, Schmitz, Schmiedel, ....

I found this to be a 'trial and error' search for my Augusta Adamski. It only searches according to the way it was transcribed, so it took many searches to locate her, the information found was great, but as of yet they have many bugs to work out. Being a state program, that may take years.

*January 1, 2024, is fast approaching and we all need to renew our memberships. The BOD is going to continue the multi-year memberships for those interested.*

Please include your current address, phone number and most importantly your e-mail address with your renewal.

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR C.M.G.S.  
MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1 JANUARY 2024  
MEMBERSHIP**

***SPECIALS IN ADDITION TO THE ONE  
YEAR RENEWALS***

**Valid until December 31, 2024**

Individual Membership:

One-Year \$15.00

Three-Year \$40.00

Five Year \$65.00

Family Membership

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](mailto:CMGSOrg1@gmail.com) confirming your transaction and the email associated with your PAYPAL account.

We wish all of you a very happy Holiday Season from the CMGS Board of Directors



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