



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

The February/March 2022 CMGS Newsletter marks my final CMGS Newsletter as the CMGS President. I would like to take this time to say thank all the members who have supported me during the past year and helped bring so many fantastic genealogical educational opportunities to the membership. Happy Researching!

VP's CORNER, by Susie Haenisch

Have you logged into your Ancestry account recently? Your home page looks very different from past years! Log on and explore your home page – it's personalized just for you. Ancestry has updated and rearrange their website, so it's essential to know which features will go away and which features will be revamped. HINT: The shoebox is still there but possibly going away, so capture all you have stored in your shoebox, so you don't permanently lose all that data if it is taken off the site!

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.

The shaking leaves are gone, replaced with green dots with a silhouette inside. Remember that Ancestry will not give you all your hints right away, so when you see the green dots and go through them one at a time, they will eventually be replaced with new dots – new clues for your Research. I doubt you will ever be without green dots because Ancestry keeps adding dots to your trees. They do not give you them all at once, but more hints will be forthcoming once an activity is noted on a particular ancestor.

Use the Ancestry tutorials to make your way through this new Ancestry site. Amy Johnson Crow has also developed a 4-part Zoom webinar to walk you through the new site. There is a cost to her learning program, but Ancestry also has its tutorials if you are a paying member.

While you're at it, FamilySearch has also had significant changes. Their website is **FREE** to all users, and they have tutorials that will help you conquer the learning curve. You need only to create your FREE account, and you are ready to dig in. Your investment of time is all you must get up to snuff with FS. I can attest to the value of their FS Wiki if you are exploring locality data. Don't ignore this invaluable FS resource for your family history research.

One more 2022 research tip – if you have not already explored The Family History Guide website (<https://www.thefhguide.com>) just do it! This incredible resource is also free, and chock full of excellent tips, resources, and guides to help you get started – or dig deeper into your ancestral lines. And it's FREE – my favorite price – although they welcome donations of any amount if you care to support their work. Warning – you can easily spend hours on this website following interesting links and discovering new resources, and their step-by-step learning program is excellent!

Happy 2022 New Year and Happy Ancestor Hunting!

**ARE YOU COUNTING DOWN TO APRIL 1st?
THE DAY THAT THE 1950 CENSUS IS GOING
TO BE RELEASED!!**

The digital images of the 1950 US Federal Census will be released, but there will be no index. There are lots of opportunities for individuals to help make these images searchable. Thanks to our V.P. Susie Haenisch, here are links if you are interested in being an indexer.

familysearch.org/en/info/1950project (for societies)
AND/OR

familysearch.org/1950census (general landing page to sign up and get updates)
AND/OR

1950project@NGSgenealogy.org (main page for NGS where you can ask your questions about the Census project)

JOIN THE CMGS EMAIL MAILING LIST

When you sign up for the CMGS Mailing List you will receive important information about the Society and invitations to attend all educational programming.

Click on the following link
<http://cepurl.com/hNx9Vr>

OR

Use the QR Code:



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 are not 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.

WINTER IS A GREAT TIME FOR...

- Online research projects
- Online courses
- Taking the time to review older research and get organized!
- Making plans for Spring and Summer research projects.

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*

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

Tuesday, March 22, 2022, is the scheduled annual meeting date, and we are looking for individuals who would like to help CMGS on our path forward. **The Board of Directors has many vacancies, and we are looking for individuals who would like to share their thoughts and ideas with us.** The Board will have their meeting virtually every month. The pandemic has made us all zoom savvy, and we can be involved in many organizations even though we may not reside in the same community or state of the organization. If you or someone you know may be interested, please contact the nominating committee:

- Janet Fortunato queenkatt64@yahoo.com or queenkatt64@gmail.com, or
- Carol Bosworth at cambosworth@gmail.com



The Board of Directors consists of **12 members** including the officers. Each member serves for a one-year term and may be reelected annually. You do not have to commit to being an officer to be a Board Member. These lists describe the duties of each Board member so individuals will have the expectations for each position.

Board Members are Stewards of the Society and have the following responsibilities while serving on the Board:

1. Transact the business of the Society between membership meetings
2. Direct committees
3. Approve membership meeting programs
4. Authorize disbursements
5. Appoint delegates to our affiliates
6. The Officers have these responsibilities:

President

1. Carry out administrative and executive duties
2. Appoint committee chairs with approving the Board
3. Sign, with the Secretary, all contracts and documents authorized by the Society
4. Sign, absent the Treasurer, checks for authorized disbursements on behalf of the Society

5. Be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee
6. Prepare an annual report to be given at the annual meeting
7. Focus on goals
8. Prepare agenda for Board and Membership meetings each month, with Secretary
9. Interact with all Board members regularly
10. Develop high communication standards,
11. Enforce rules of order at Board meetings

Vice President

1. Assume the duties of the President absent, or at the request of, the President
2. Assume the duties of the President for the remaining term of office in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President
3. Director of the Program Committee

Secretary

1. Keep a record of the proceedings of the Society
2. Keep, and have available for reference at all meetings a copy of the Procedure Manual
3. Prepare and maintain a file of the current inventory of all legal documents, records, and equipment belonging to the Society
4. Maintain a file of annual reports
5. Sign, with the President, all contracts and documents authorized by the Board.
6. Send out notices of all meetings
7. Correspond the Society
8. Prepares the agenda with the President each month
9. Maintains a file of Society correspondence

Treasurer

1. Report financial matters to the Board of Directors
2. Act as custodian of all funds of the Society
3. Sign checks to disburse society funds
4. Write monthly and annual financial reports
5. Deposit society funds promptly
6. Pay all approved bills promptly
7. Maintain financial records
8. Provide financial records for audit

We hope you will consider joining the Board. Help us plan for the year(s) ahead and keep our Society a vibrant part of the genealogy community!

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Approved by the CMGS Board of Directors

CMGGS 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 an 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.***

CONFESSIONS OF A SLACKER . . . by Susie Haenisch

The challenging Covid years of 2020 and 2021 should have been a boon for my family history research progress. They were not. I stayed home (a lot!), canceled all travel plans and family outings, limited my outside contact with the world, including only grocery shopping every other week and only in the early mornings. My days started early, and I had very few distractions during the daylight hours.

The pandemic would have been perfect timing to dig into my family's Research and finally get to all those nagging questions and brick walls I had piling up. What happened?

I cleaned— my attic, basement, and two spare rooms. I read books gathering dust on my bedside table. I took over full-time care for my 97/98-year-old mother, who faced some challenging health issues, and transported my husband to and from countless doctor's appointments as he faced his health dilemmas. I picked up some hand stitching projects I had set aside for a time when I could work on them. I cooked more. I cleaned more. I tried to organize more. And I even pulled out old family photos and scanned them into digital records. I even watched some Hallmark movies and documentaries on the changes in our planet's climate due to global warming. I wrote hand-written letters to old friends and updated my Christmas card and birthday/anniversary lists. And I gardened and got outside much, through the snow, wind, sun, cold, and heat.

But I must confess. I did little research into my family's history records. I don't know why. I just wasn't

inspired. In the past several years, my research has been scattered. That's the term that best described my sloppy research techniques – SCATTERED! There was no direction, plan, or organized approach to my feeble attempts to research my family. I looked at the low-hanging fruit, checked out a few shaking leaves on Ancestry, and looked in on FamilySearch to see what new things they found for me. But I did nothing of great worth.

In looking back, this two-year reprieve from in-depth Research was a good thing for me. I needed that break. Because now, I'm more than ready to dig in and using my research time wisely and efficiently. That led me to the Research Like a Pro system. And I love it. I'm finally back, baby!



WHERE WILL THEY GO? by Janet Fortunato

During this new surge of the Covid-19 pandemic, I thought of what happens to people's genealogy research if they are taken ill and cannot work on their genealogy or pass away before they make plans about what happens to their Research.



These are fundamental questions we should ask ourselves if we have not already planned or asked family members if they will take on continuing your Research. Do they have someone they can pass on all their arduous work? Is it a family member? Will the family member want it? Or will it go to a Society they belonged to? Where else can they donate all this valuable information?

Where will mine go? To my oldest daughter because she showed interest. What about the bookshelves of genealogy-related books? I have started a spreadsheet in Excel to catalog all my books. Will my bookaholic daughter want to add my collection to her already burgeoning collection of over 1,000 books? I have only about 50 genealogy-related books.

Plan now and put it in your living will. Tell your family what you want to happen with your genealogy research and other personal items. We have all put a lot of time, energy, and Research into discovering our ancestors and their stories. It would be a shame if it ended up in a landfill!!!

BEST WAY TO AVOID FALLING INTO RABBIT HOLES . . . Write a Research Question, by Susie Haenisch

Truly, 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 focus on answering 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. There, I can easily be side-tracked by following up a draft registration record that leads to a military history 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 places and political climates and ethnic history and world events. The 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 shocked 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/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

22 February 2022

VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

7 PM – 9 PM

The Maine-Canada-Ireland Connection – Seeking Rogers' Roots

Presentation by Carol McCoy

This enlightening case takes the listener through the extensive search for the supposed Scottish roots and parentage of James C. Rogers of Brewer, Maine. Ultimately, we learn that the Rogers were not from Scotland but were early Irish emigrants to Nova Scotia, Canada. The case reinforces the importance of testing data, seeking primary Evidence, and using a wide range of sources to solve genealogical problems. You will learn ways to overcome false assumptions, use vital records, censuses, deeds, probate, court records, newspapers, cemetery records, online family trees, and online resources to discover an ancestor's migration route and parentage.

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcqqqT4uHtHTvZNUcg6xgZiCbUgmwi_R

28 February 2022

CMGS / LEOMINSTER LIBRARY JOINT PROGRAM

VIRTUAL MEETING

7 PM – 9 PM

Genealogy Escape Room

Presentation by Thomas MacEntee

Accidentally, you are locked in at the Leominster Public Library after hours. It seems that you fell asleep in a cubicle while researching the history of the pink flamingo lawn ornament. Your current research subject is Donald Featherstone, often credited with creating the pink flamingo "craze" of the late 1950s. You MUST complete your research on Don Featherstone by answering the questions below and FIND THE 1950 US Census Enumeration District for the Featherstone family based on their 1940 US Census address to UNLOCK the main door and escape! Think your genealogy research skills are up to the challenge?

Click <https://forms.gle/7Ba5SbadniuYyvvP8> to get started! NOTE: You are allowed to use ANY online sites for GENEALOGY research; most clues can be found on FamilySearch at <https://familysearch.org>. You will also need to use the Steve Morse One-Step website

at <http://stevemorse.org>. And if you "cheat" by simply using Google to find information, you are only cheating yourself out of an amazing story of an amazing man. Once you've answered some or all of the challenge questions, make sure you are registered for the LIVE REVEAL during the upcoming webinar "Genealogy Escape Room: Donald Featherstone and The Case of the Pink Flamingo" sponsored by the Leominster Public Library on Monday 28 February 2022 at 5:00 PM EST ... visit <https://leominsterlibrary.org/> and click EVENTS to REGISTER TODAY!

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nPis1TYaR067g0EAnxo1-w

22 March 2022

VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

7 PM – 9 PM

Paddy on the Railway: Irish Labourers and the Building of the Great Western Railroad

Presentation by Dennis Picard

The "Western Railroad" of Massachusetts was chartered in February of 1883. The five-year project linked the Boston & Worcester Railroad to Springfield, across the Connecticut River, and on to the New York State line. Although many ethnic groups were represented in the thousands of skilled and unskilled workers, the vast majority of the hard work was done by those of Irish birth or heritage.

Zoom Registration Link:

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-6trzwoH9OIMzx_K0cVmtoZUOjm9fRB

26 April 2022

VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

7 PM – 9 PM

Family Medical History and the Importance for Generations

Presentation by: Carol Bosworth

Carol is a nurse clinical specialist in Forensic Nursing doing family research since 1993. As a nurse, she especially knows the need for families to know their Family Medical History. Carol will have valuable insights for us to consider in our Research.

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvcOmuqzoiE9EFNqxewB7xDSGqGtRx942r>

7 May 2022

CMGS YARD SALE

709 Main Street, Leominster, MA
7 AM – 3 PM

Last September we held a very successful yard sale at the home of Kathleen Kaldis and we are planning to do so again this Spring. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 7, 2022 and will again be held at 709 Main Street in Leominster. If you have been re-organizing or cleaning out your office, home or garage, we would love to have your items for this fundraiser. All the proceeds go to the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society to continue our goals of education and preservation. Thank you in advance for all donations (including help on the day of the sale).

May 24, 2022

VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING

7 PM – 9 PM

Building a Genealogy Research Toolbox

Presentation by: Thomas MacEntee

Are overwhelmed with the number of online resources for genealogical research? Are you constantly working with unorganized bookmarks or favorites? Printing out lists of websites you use most? Learn how to build a research toolbox that is organized, easy-to-use, and can be accessed from almost anywhere.

Zoom Registration Link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMs_dOuqqDMuHNKy5Uo4Wm0D9mmz0ti-TYKm

June 22, 2022 "Yours for Humanity: Abby- a one-woman play about Abby Kelley Foster by Lynne McKenney Lydick

LIVE PRESENTATION

LEOMINSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

7-9 PM

*Leominster Public Library
in partnership with the Central MA Genealogical Society presents*



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
at 7:00 PM

Accidentally, you became locked in at the Leominster Public Library after hours. It seems that you fell asleep in a cubicle while researching the history of the pink flamingo lawn ornament. Your current research subject is Donald Featherstone, often credited with creating the pink flamingo "craze" of the late 1950s. You MUST complete your research on Don Featherstone to UNLOCK the main door and escape!

Think your genealogy research skills are up to the challenge?

Click <https://forms.gle/7Ba5SbadniuYyvP8> to get started!

Once you've answered some or all of the challenge questions, make sure you are registered for the LIVE REVEAL during the upcoming webinar hosted by genealogist Thomas MacEntee! Visit www.leominsterlibrary.org and click CALENDAR OF EVENTS to REGISTER TODAY!

Sponsored by the Friends of the Leominster Library

The **Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society (CMGS)** is a non-profit educational organization incorporated in Massachusetts.

CMGS has the following objectives:

- To promote an interest in genealogy and family history.
- To encourage and instruct members in the performance of genealogical research and promote the maintenance of quality genealogical standards and documentation.
- To promote adherence to the accepted standards for the use and care of genealogical records.
- To help preserve public and private records and artifacts and work to ensure their accessibility for historical and genealogical purposes.
- To contribute records as appropriate to libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies.
- To publish genealogical and historical information in a regularly issued newsletter and in any other publication.

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.
- **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.
- 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.

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???

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www.cmgso.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED