

Past Times **MSOG**

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

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www.msoginc.org



President's Message

Seema Kenney

NERGC 2019 is fast approaching, MSOG is a perennial participant and sponsoring organization in this event, and we are always proud to see so many members volunteering their time at the conference! Please consider volunteering again this conference. You may work at registration, introduce a speaker as a session host, be a door monitor, or help with signs or greetings. If you'd prefer something you can do with MSOG friends, consider spending some time as a host in our booth in the exhibit hall.

With a goal of a thousand attendees, NERGC is always a great opportunity to promote MSOG, as a whole or for the chapter you know the most about. Of course, it's also an opportunity to meet new cousins,

make new friends, catch up with acquaintances, introduce yourself to speakers, learn about other groups, software, books, repositories, and, of course, educate yourself!

If you have not attended a NERGC event, prepare yourself! It's a BIG deal. There are three days of conference presentations (each session lasting an hour), and this year there are nine or ten to choose from each hour! There are also additional opportunities to sign up for workshops, which are small group presentations often with hands on exercises, meals which include a presentation, and special activities on the pre-conference day on Wednesday, April 3rd.

NERGC only happens during the odd numbered calendar years, so it's a long wait for the next one. This year's event is in Manchester, New Hampshire. All presentations and the exhibit hall are in the same building and the on-site parking rate is reasonable for those who stay at a different hotel or commute. The exhibit hall is open to the public at no charge.

There are also special evening activities on Thursday that make the day very special. The Society Fair is an opportunity to learn about several genealogical groups around

New England which may have something to aid in your research, or give you an idea you'd like to see incorporated into MSOG's activities or member benefits. After the Society Fair, there are Special Interest Group meetings (SIGs) for smaller group discussion on a topic of mutual interest.

Early bird registration for NERGC gives you a \$30 discount on the three day admission. The deadline for early registration is February 28, 2019. You could also choose a single day registration. Registration will close on March 30, 2019 for the printing of conference materials, but on-site registration will be available at the conference April 3-6. I hope to see you there!

New England Regional Genealogical Consortium

Family—a Link to the Past



a Bridge to the Future

The conference brochure and registration form can be found at:

<https://www.nergc.org/2019-conference/>

CALENDAR

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MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.
 MSOGINC.ORG
 P.O. Box 215
 Ashland, MA 01721-0215

Statement of Purpose

The Society’s mission is to promote and encourage Massachusetts genealogical research at all levels—beginner, amateur, and professional. The Society is a Massachusetts nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. The corporation was formed for the following reasons:

- “To bring together all persons interested in genealogy, beginner, amateur, and professional;
- To set standards of conduct; to insure public access to records; to provide education in genealogical research;
- To act in whatever manner needed to promote genealogy and family history; and
- To bring together families both past and present.”

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 6 June 1975

Past Times

Editors: Diane Boumenot and Sara Campbell

Past Times is published monthly (except for July & August) by the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., and is available free to all at msoginc.org.

Membership Information

Members receive the *Past Times* newsletter, free issues of MASSOG, free queries, and access to webinars. Membership is from September 1 to August 31, with membership renewals due by July 1.

- INDIVIDUAL dues are \$25.00 per year
- FAMILY dues are \$30.00 per year

Membership applications received July 1st and thereafter will be applied to the following year’s membership.

Membership choices are:

- BR/Bristol
- MV/Merrimack Valley
- MX/Middlesex
- WR/Worcester

Chapter affiliation is at the complete discretion of the member, regardless of residence. The membership application is on our website.

Join using PayPal online or mail your application and check.

Address any questions to president@msoginc.org or to the appropriate officer, committee chair, or delegate; email addresses are listed on page 5.

MIDDLESEX

Saturday, February 9

1:30 PM

“Digging Deeper with Military, Pension & Probate Records”
 with Diane Boumenot

Goodnow Library
 21 Concord Rd.
 Sudbury, MA

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Saturday, February 23

10:00 AM

“Brickwall Collaboration”
 Member Sharing

Georgetown Peabody Library
 2 Maple Street
 Georgetown, MA

WORCESTER

Saturday, February 2

9:30 AM

“The Danger of On-line Trees”
 With Dave Robison

Worcester Public Library
 3 Salem Street
 Worcester, MA

BRISTOL

Saturday, February 16

11:00 AM Business Meeting

11:30 AM Member Sharing

12:00 PM “International
 “Ancestor Day”

Member Sharing with Multi-
 Cultural Refreshments

Somerset Public Library
 1464 County Street
 Somerset, MA

DNA SIG in the Merrimack Valley

Join us at the Georgetown Public Library on Saturday, February 2 at 10 a.m. for a DNA discussion led by Peg Plummer.

Looking for a New Challenge?

MSOG would like to bring back our monthly webinars, but we need someone to step up and coordinate the technology to make this happen. Many previous speakers would be willing to present again, and it is a great format to launch our members who have never presented a webinar before. A team of two or three people to take this over would be ideal. One person would act as moderator and one would monitor the technology. The GoToWebinar software is easy to learn. Contact any Board member if you would like to help.

A Genealogist's Trip to Saipan

Sara E. Campbell

We take our genealogy brains with us wherever we go, and I took mine to Saipan recently. I had the opportunity to spend six weeks working in the American Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, doing disaster recovery work with FEMA after Super Typhoon Yuto devastated a significant part of the island on October 25.

These assignments come quickly, without a lot of time to prepare. When I heard the engineering/planning (the other half of my brain) contract was being signed I started searching the internet to get a hint of what I could expect.

I quickly reviewed the timeline of history for the island: from colonization and forced conversion to Catholicism by the Spanish in the 1600s, possession by Germany after the Spanish American War, and then by Japan at the time of World War I. The island was taken from the Japanese during a pivotal battle in WWII, and residents attained US citizenship in the 1970s.



Although we had little time for sight-seeing, inspections of the damaged housing gave me the opportunity to see all corners of the island. Naturally, I was attracted to the cemeteries. The first one I wandered through is located on a high point called Wireless Ridge. I was introduced to the curbed style of the graves with concrete markers. There were many Korean inscriptions.

I reviewed the Find a Grave pages for Saipan and added some photos that I had taken as I explored the largest

cemetery, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. The area of the cemetery is vast and adding photos would be a long term project. The preferred format of photos is to crop tightly to the stone, but these memorials generally include many family members and have a wide variety of styles and colors. Some have tiled surfaces, and a few had remains of awnings.



The majority of the island is formed of coral limestone which is not suitable for gravestones, making concrete the material of choice.

There are seven cemeteries established for Saipan on the Find a Grave web site. The majority of the hundreds of memorials were entered by Mark Goniwiecha, an individual on Guam who has for the past five years mined newspaper notices from local papers and used them to populate the cemeteries. His member page contains a long description of many of the common native Chamorro family names, and describes the naming patterns that come from the Spanish use of mothers' maiden names as either a middle name or a surname. Kudos to Mark for his work! It shows the impact one person can have.

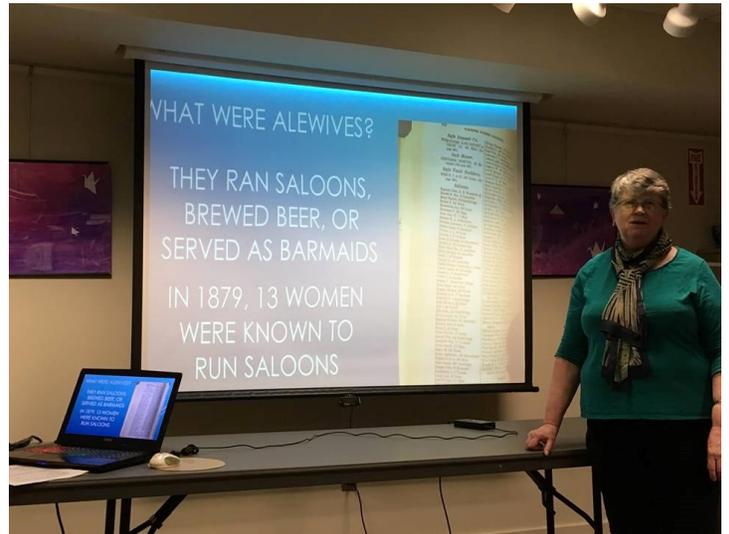
A Veterans' Cemetery, opened in 2006, is located at the north end of the island. All burials are marked with flat government-issued stones. It is a serene, manicured area beneath the cliffs. Photographing of these graves would have been a manageable project if I had had the time.

Whether or not we leave home, our genealogical journeys provide opportunities to educate ourselves in areas we may never have imagined.

At the Chapters



Middlesex Chapter President Deborah Lee Stewart presented member Cynthia Winterhalter with her MASSOG 2018 writing contest second prize certificate for her research entitled “A Search for Mary Dodge, wife of Benjamin Rackleff of Edgecomb, Lincoln County, Maine.”



Charlene Sokal presented a lecture on “Women’s Work, Varieties of Women’s Businesses” at the Wayland Public Library.

Photos by Elizabeth Handler.



Michael McClellan (left) spoke at the January meeting of the Bristol Chapter on “Forming Good Habits in Genealogical Research.” Among those in the audience were Michael McClellan (right) and C. Yvonne Hickey.

Photo by David MacRae

Call for Speakers

Would you like to speak to a new audience on a topic of genealogical interest? For many years Senator Jamie Eldridge has held a Senior Conference in Hudson, MA during April school vacation. MSOG is often a participant. Beside being there to increase awareness of our organization, we also have an option to present one hour talks to small audiences of senior citizens.

This is a great opportunity to speak to a small group on a topic that interests you. If you would like to be considered to give a presentation, please contact Charlene Sokal with your topic and a maximum of 50 words describing your presentation. She can be reached by email at csokal@charter.net. Last year there were three lecture spots. We will include as many lecturers as there are slots for 2019. Please indicate if you are willing to give your presentation more than once. This is a daytime event on a weekday during the week of April 15-19. "Getting Started" and topics relating to various ethnicities would be especially appropriate for this event, as are topics related to telling your own story.



THE MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

STATE OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

President	Seema-Jayne Kenney	president@msoginc.org
Vice President	Kelly A. Fox	vicepresident@msoginc.org
Treasurer	Diane Laferriere	treasurer@msoginc.org
Corresponding Secretary	Patricia Stano-Carpenter	correspondingsecretary@msoginc.org
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Pyle Handler	recordingsecretary@msoginc.org
Membership Director	Margaret R. Fortier	membership@msoginc.org
Historian/Archivist	Wendy Rawson Sheppard	archivist@msoginc.org
Bristol Chapter	Kathleen Rubano, President	bristol@msoginc.org
Merrimack Valley Chapter	Diane Brooks-Sherry, President	merrimackvalley@msoginc.org
Middlesex Chapter	Deborah Lee Stewart, President	middlesex@msoginc.org
Worcester Chapter	Charlene Key Sokal, President	worcester@msoginc.org
MASSOG Editor	George D. Martin	massog@msoginc.org
Past Times Editor	Diane Boumenot & Sara Campbell	pasttimes@msoginc.org
Webmaster	Hope Tillman	webmaster@msoginc.org

COMMITTEES & CHAIRS

Annual Meeting	Kelly A. Fox	annualmeeting@msoginc.org
Audit	Robert Farmer	auditor@msoginc.org
Research & Education	Open	research@msoginc.org
Technology	Hope Tillman	technology@msoginc.org
Writing Contest	Editorial Board	writingcontest@msoginc.org

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MGC (Mass. Genealogical Council)	Open/Kelly Fox, Alternate	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (N. E. Reg'l Genealogical Consortium)	Julie Szczepankiewicz/Open	nergc@msoginc.org

New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC)

April 3-6, 2019
Doubletree by Hilton
Manchester, New Hampshire

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