

Past Times MSOG

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS, INC.

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www.msoginc.org

President's Message

Family~ a Link to the Past & a Bridge to the Future. Whether or not you attended NERGC2019 in Manchester, NH, you probably recognize those words as the theme of the conference. And what a conference it was!

As a participating society, MSOG is committed to:

- Attend $\frac{3}{4}$ of the 8 planning meetings
- Sponsor one speaker
- Provide volunteer hours during the conference

We typically also opt to have a booth in the Exhibit Hall, with the option to select early as a participating society.

Within our own group, we not only look for a delegate to NERGC to attend the meetings, but also to volunteers who organize our exhibit hall booth. We owe all of those people a big THANK YOU!

NERGC delegates and officers will meet again at the end of June and announce the financial results of the conference. The sponsoring societies share in the profits of a successful event, and MSOG anticipates a check to support our society activities at that time.

Kelly Fox (MV) and Charlene Key Sokal (WR) put together a great booth, and what a variety of volunteers worked there! They didn't just sit behind the table and wait for business, they actively called over current members and engaged with the curious visitors. There was so much going on at the booth I don't know how people kept everything straight.

Most importantly, those working in the MSOG booth garnered 40 new members for MSOG! I have no idea how many for each chapter, but that will get worked out soon. These are special memberships for April through August – let's be sure to welcome them and encourage them to renew this summer!

Beyond the meetings and the booths, I saw MSOG members volunteering in all aspects of the conference from registration to raffles, to hosting speakers and monitoring the rooms.

And that doesn't even begin to look at the number of MSOG members who were selected to give a presentation or host a Special Interest Group (SIG).

The final participation numbers are not in as I write this article, but I think it's very safe to say

that MSOG outdid itself!

I especially appreciated comments about how wonderful the event was and how people wanted to volunteer for 2021 to ensure that the quality remains high and the current volunteers don't 'burn out.'

If you would like to participate in the 2021 NERGC conference, please be sure you are on their e-Zine list - all attendees are automatically included. And, of course, watch this newsletter and our website for when we select our sponsored speaker between December 2019 and February 2020.

On another topic, let me add to this issue a message of gratitude for volunteers Diane Beaumenot and Sara Campbell, the editors of our *Past Times* newsletter for the past two years. The June issue will be their last as editors. Our society owes them a great deal of gratitude for their efforts to keep us all informed on the activities of the society and all the chapters as well as activities within the genealogical community. I've said it to them in person, but the printed word tends to last longer - *Thank you, Diane & Sara!*
Seema Kenney

CALENDAR

Contents

President’s Message..... 1
 May Calendar 2
 Chapter News..... 2
 You Can Write a Journal Article..... 3
 At NERGC..... 4
 Volunteer Opportunities 5
 Officers..... 5
 Welcome New Members..... 6

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, May 11

1:30 PM

“MCOF – Mass. Catholic Order of Forrester Records” with Kathleen Kaldis

Acton Memorial Library
 486 Main Street
 Acton, MA

MERRIMACK VALLEY

Saturday, May 18

10:00 AM

“Tips and Tricks for Research Tools.” With Diane Brooks Sherry

Georgetown Peabody Library
 2 Maple Street
 Georgetown, MA

WORCESTER

Tuesday, May 14

6:00 PM -9:00 PM

Annual Dinner Meeting
 “Irish Gen. Before 1800” with Thomas Toohey

Eller’s Restaurant
 190 Main Street
 Cherry Valley, MA

Reserve before May 7
worcester@msoginc.com

BRISTOL

Saturday, May 18

11:00 AM Business Meeting
 11:30 AM Member Sharing
 12:00 PM Chapter Discussions

“Diseases and Epidemics in New England” with Lori Lynn Price

Funded by the
 Somerset Cultural Council

Somerset Public Library
 1464 County Street
 Somerset, MA

And in Other Chapter News...

The DNA Special Interest Group will meet on Saturday, May 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgetown Peabody Library.

Peg Plummer will speak about “News You Can Use: Update on using Segments and Alleles for Pinpointing Traits.”

Chapter Elections will be coming up soon. Keep your eyes open for details coming directly from your chapter.

MSOG’s Board of Directors will meet next on Sunday, June 23rd in Sturbridge. If you would like to attend, but can not get there, a video link can be provided. Contact any of the officers for details.

You (yes, YOU) Can Write a Journal Article for MASSOG!

The Spring Issue of *MASSOG* has just been sent to members. I'm sure you look forward to having a quiet moment to enjoy the articles, when you see it arrive in your mailbox. We are so lucky to enjoy the talents of the Editorial Board in producing this wonderful journal three times a year. In addition to their being an asset to the society, have you thought about how you as a family historian can also benefit from the guidance of the editors, and see your work in print?

We tend to highlight the journal as the biennial writing contest approaches. This year, 2019 is an "off" year, but we still need articles for publication. Your research can appear in the journal if you decide to put your data into words and paragraphs and share it with your fellow genealogists. There is no better way to organize your research, and to identify the holes in your time-line than by writing. Turn the facts into stories and bring the dates to life!

An article may be as simple as a bible transcription or information found at a Massachusetts repository. You may want to summarize three or more generations of a Massachusetts family that you have researched. Sharing the knowledge that you have gained through your research can benefit others. You may just find a cousin by putting your data out there for others to see. Another researcher may have information to add to yours when they see what you have done. *MASSOG* is indexed in *PERSI* (Periodical Source Index) which makes it searchable by others beyond our members. Our stories of our ancestors are never "finished" and publishing may lead to new brick-wall-busting connections.

Reading articles written by others is a good way to start to plot out a submission in your mind. If you don't have a full set of *MASSOG* on your shelf, you can view older issues and review the articles by logging in to the web site and selecting "Publications" from the menu.

If you use genealogical software, and I hope you do, you should explore the publishing options contained in the software. You will be able to print descendant reports that could form the backbone of an article. If you have input other facts beyond the vital record dates, these may appear in your report. Experiment with what is available in your program. You will likely find options you haven't seen before.

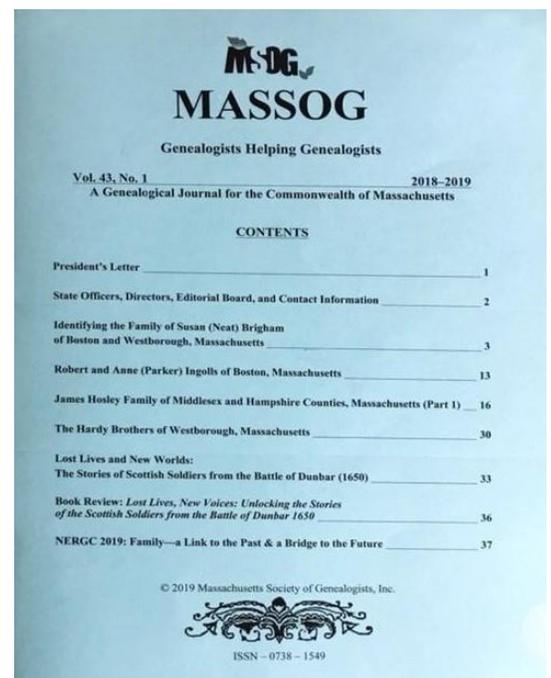
It is true that writing can be time-consuming. Starting the process may identify a missing detail that sends you on another search to fill in the blanks. You can come back and polish the wording, but not if you don't start writing.

Recording the source citations is best done as you research. Having downloaded a census or vital record image doesn't identify where it was found. Going back to find the images again takes time, so it is a good discipline to record them as soon as they are found. Don't let the citations intimidate you! Follow a consistent format and remember the key is to be able to direct others to the same source that you used. You can find tips for all kinds of documents at the Evidence Explained blog <https://www.evidenceexplained.com/> Once your article is submitted, the editors will review your citations and polish them up if necessary.

The editors also make your article better by suggesting changes in words or phrases before it goes to print. Where else can you get this kind of professional help so readily? They may ask, "Did you mean this?" or, "Should this come first?" It is impossible to edit your own work because it is so ingrained in your mind, and you know the characters so well. You can't appreciate the process until you have experienced it. You will be glad you did!

Guidelines for publication are found on our website at

<http://www.msoginc.org/msogwp/publications/massog/massog-submission-guidelines/>



At NERGC

Over 100 members of MSOG attended the recent NERGC conference in Manchester, NH. Some were volunteer organizers, who make this conference the jewel that it has been, year after year. Some came just to visit the exhibit hall, which hosted an impressive number of vendors and organizations. Some presented sessions, and some came to learn from their peers and the genealogy “rock stars” who were featured speakers. We are already looking forward to NERGC 2021 in Springfield MA!



Many thanks to our Booth volunteers:

Kelly A. Fox,
Charlene Sokal,
Diane Brooks-Sherry,
Diane Laferriere,
Pat Stano-Carpenter,
Wendy Sheppard,
Seema Kenney,

Jessica Greenwood,
Angela Harris, Elizabeth Handler,
Peg Plummer,
Susan Dion, Marylou White,
Christopher Norcross,
Dennis Hogan, Carol Katsulis,
Jim Scamman

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

There are many ways you can contribute your time and talents to MSOG, Inc. We are YOUR society and all of our members can make a difference. We all have areas where we excel, and you might be surprised that something that is fun for you seems like work to someone else.

- Still on that NERGC high? You may want to volunteer to be one of MSOG’s official delegates.
- Missing our monthly webinars? You can bring them back by organizing presenters or being the Host. The technology is really very simple to learn.
- Social Media guru? We would like to see more activity on our Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook accounts. Your expertise can help us bring valuable information to our members and potential members and supercharge our presence.
- Do you have a thing for Policies and Procedures? A new set of eyes is always helpful to help us make sure that our organizational documents are in order.
- Past Times Editor would look terrific on your resume’! We have found that having a duo of editors to share the monthly tasks has worked very well over the past two years. When life is hectic, there is always someone to rely upon to put this newsletter to bed.

Contact president@msoginc.org or one of your chapter officers to learn more.

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
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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

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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

DELEGATES

FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies)	Open	fgs@msoginc.org
MGC (Mass. Genealogical Council)	Raymond Gendreau/Kelly Fox, Alternate	mgc@msoginc.org
NERGC (N. E. Reg’l Genealogical Consortium)	Julie Szczepankiewicz/Open	nergc@msoginc.org

Welcome to Our New Members!

Bristol

Kristen Cabral
Barbara D Cummings
Helen Davis
Thom Greve
Deby Jecoy Nunes
Karen King
Tim Lewis
Kimberly Mailloux
Laurie McAvoy
Mary Murphy
Joanne Richards
Diane Segal
Kate Tolland

Merrimack Valley

Stephanie Aude
Laurie Brooks Evans
Maureen Collopy
Bonnie Croteau
Lucia Cusimano
Gerry Deyermond
Kristen Fehlhaber

Beverley Fieg
Lisa Francine
Ann Guiney
Deborah Karmozyn
Kerry Landsford
Cheryl McCarthy
Mary Ann Niles
Janet Peabody
Carl Remley
Stuart Robertson
Bill Robinson
Mollie Sanders Martin
Theresa Seip
Drew Tidwell
Ethelind Wright

Middlesex

Philip Beltz
Kim Bonner
Russ Brady
Mark D'Ambrosi
Deborah D'Arago
Julie Esposito

Susan Kilbride
Robert Lewis
Lisa Libretto
Julie O'Leary
Deborah Picard
Sean Pickett
Thomas A Pratt
Jamie Scarborough

Worcester

Wayne Blanchard
Jerry Carbone
Mary Cembrola
Robert Cembrola
Cathy Curtis Cooper
Mary Elkins
Gilles Turgeon
Judith A. Morrisette
Cathryn F Oles
Greg Paris
Joyce Peavey
Jennifer Powell
Frank Zybert



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