Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
Monthly Newsletter

PastTimes

Volume 17 Issue 10 June 2026

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Membership Renewal begins July 1st.

It's easy, just log into the MSOG website and renew online.

Writing Special Interest Group

Interested in joining? Login to the Members Only section of the Website. Go to Event Registration

New Member

Bristol Chapter
Peggy Walsh

MSOG News

MASSOG is looking for your contributions!

The next issue of the MASSOG journal will be hitting your inbox (or mailbox) soon - but just as genealogical research never stops, neither does the opportunity to publish your articles, ancestor profiles, and other manuscripts of interest to genealogists.

Do you have private manuscripts, old records, bibles, or documents you've found in your research that others would benefit from? We want to help you transcript and publish them - email us at massog@msoginc.org with your submissions and ideas.

In addition, we want to celebrate the nation's 250th by celebrating the ancestors who fought for what they believed in. We are looking for profiles on your Revolutionary-generation ancestors to help you tell their stories!

Contact massog@msoginc.org with your ideas - we look forward to hearing from you!

2026 MASSOG Writing Contest

The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc., will hold its next biennial writing contest in 2026. We hope that many of you will participate. The rules will be the same as for the 2024 writing contest. There will be three prizes: $100 for first, $75 for second, and $25 for third place.

What should you write about? You could describe the solution to a brick-wall mystery or provide a brief family history related to Massachusetts. You might also relate a historical story pertaining to Massachusetts. If you have another idea and are wondering whether it would be appropriate, feel free to contact us at massog@msoginc.org.

Your entry must be submitted as an electronic file and should not exceed 12 pages, including footnotes. Please submit your entry by the submission deadline, **August 2, 2026, to writingcontest@msoginc.org.**

A few things to keep in mind:

- Complete contest rules are available at the MSOG website, under Publications.
- Your entry should cover no more than three generations of a family and must not contain vital data for living persons.
- Because all MASSOG articles are indexed in PERSI, please use full names of your subjects and full town and state names in your title.
- Footnotes should follow our preferred citation formats, which are relatively brief and simple. For example, a federal census citation needs only the year, place, roll, and page. These formats have been described in recent issues of MASSOG:
  - "Formatting Footnotes" in Vol. 42 (2017–2018), No. 2
  - "Citing Massachusetts Vital Records" in Vol. 45 (2020–2021), No. 2

Best of luck to all writers!

President's Message

For this last publication of Past Times before the summer break, let's look back at the past year.

The programs provided by the MSOG Chapters and from MSOG's monthly Webinar have given our members valuable information on a wide range of genealogical topics. We have learned, among other things, how to trace our bartender ancestors, analyze land transfers in New England and to better understand ChatGPT. Several speakers have offered tips on tracing Revolutionary War ancestors, a most appropriate subject for America's 250th Anniversary year. Our members have likewise expanded their knowledge on French-Canadian genealogy with a program discussing Quebec's Les Filles du Roi while another helped our understanding of French -Canadian immigration to New England. Other speakers showed us how to research military records from the War of 1812 and what can be found in military pension records.

Beyond our program offerings, MSOG has also added more content to our website. It now incorporates helpful links to other genealogical organizations and has new section called the U.S. 250th Anniversary. New initiatives such as MSOG Writing Group SIG continue to be a terrific learning experience for all the participants, having held its 4th meeting this May. The monthly Genealogy Discussion Group initiated by Diane Laferriere remains a new venue for members to discuss genealogy in an informal group setting. Our Book Club similarly permits our members to share feedback on books related to history and genealogy.

This year has seen the successful passing of the torch on the MASSOG Journal. The new co-editors, John Manning and Erik Swanson, had taken over the reins from Liz Grube and published their first edition. The spring 2026 MASSOG Journal shines a spotlight on the lives of ordinary Massachusetts residents in the Colonial and early Republic time periods.

June begins with the MSOG Book Club's June 2nd discussion on the book, We the People, by Jill Lepore. The Worcester Chapter will hold its annual dinner on June 6th followed by a presentation. On June 13th, Luanne Crosby will present Music of the Civil War at the Middlesex Chapter meeting. The Bristol Chapter meeting on June 20th hosting Marybeth Rua-Larsen and John Larsen to discuss the life of Patience (Greene) Brayton, an early abolitionist from Southeastern Massachusetts. The Merrimack Valley Chapter meeting on June 27th will then close out the month, the program is TBD, check the website for updates. See Past Times for more details.

The MSOG Board will hold a meeting on June 7th. Just a reminder to renew your membership online this summer (preferably while on a beach somewhere) before September 1st. It's easy to do on the MSOG website and will allow you to continue to receive all your member benefits.

Thanks again for being a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists and hope everyone enjoys a wonderful summer.

Terry

June 2026 MSOG Meetings-at-a-Glance

To pre-register for these events: https://msoginc.org/eventListings.php?nm=107

MSOG Book Club

Tuesday, June 2
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Only

We the People
by
Jill Lepore

MSOG Members-only event

MSOG Webinar

Thursday, June 11
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Only

Sylvia Tracy Doolos
Presents

Bound by Law, Freed by Law: Women and Our Legislative History

MSOG Members-only event

Worcester

Saturday, June 6
5:00 p.m.
Attend in person

Annual Dinner and Meeting

Samuel Slater's Restaurant
at Indian Ranch
200 Gore Rd, Webster, MA

See details on Page 5 to RSVP and on the MSOG Website

Middlesex

Saturday, June 13
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Attend in person or virtually via Zoom

Luanne Crosby
Presents

Music of the Civil War

10:30 am Socializing & refreshments
11:00 am Presentation

McAuliffe Branch, Framingham Public Library
746 Water St.
Framingham, MA

This meeting is open to the public.

Bristol

Saturday, June 20
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Attend in person or virtually via Zoom

Marybeth Rua-Larsen & John Larsen
Presents

Learn about Patience (Greene) Brayton (1773-1794)

Somerset Historical Society
274 High St.
Somerset, MA

This meeting is open to the public.

Merrimack Valley

Saturday, June 27
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Attend in person only

To Be Determined

Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple St
Georgetown, MA

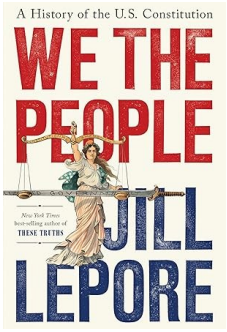
This meeting is open to the public.

Writing - Special Interest Group

MSOG Members Only
Tuesday, June 16 at 7:00 p.m.

MSOG Members-Only

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Members-Only Book Club

Tuesday, June 2
7:00 p.m. *Virtual Only*

Go to msoginc.org Events to see a list of the upcoming books.

We The People
By Jill Lepore

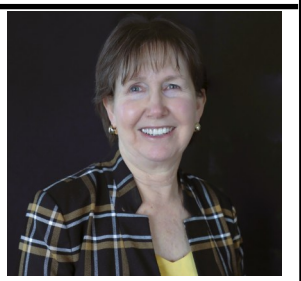
The U.S. Constitution is among the oldest constitutions in the world but also one of the most difficult to amend. Jill Lepore, Harvard professor of history and law, explains why in We the People, the most original history of the Constitution in decades—and an essential companion to her landmark history of the United States, These Truths.

Published on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding—the anniversary, too, of the first state constitutions—We the People offers a wholly new history of the Constitution. "One of the Constitution's founding purposes was to prevent change," Lepore writes. "Another was to allow for change without violence." Relying on the extraordinary database she has assembled at the Amendments Project, Lepore recounts centuries of attempts, mostly by ordinary Americans, to realize the promise of the Constitution. Yet nearly all those efforts have failed. Although nearly twelve thousand amendments have been introduced in Congress since 1789, and thousands more have been proposed outside its doors, only twenty-seven have ever been ratified. More troubling, the Constitution has not been meaningfully amended since 1971. Without recourse to amendment, she argues, the risk of political violence rises. So does the risk of constitutional change by presidential or judicial fiat. (go to msoginc.org for more details about this book)

You must be logged in as a Member to register for the Book Club
https://www.msoginc.org/members.php

Go to "Event Registration" to register for the book club.

Members-Only Webinar



Thursday, June 11
7:00 p.m. *Virtual Only*

Sylvia Tracy Doolos
presents

Bound by Law, Freed by Law: Women and Our Legislative History

Women do not simply appear in records—they cross legal thresholds. Trace women's stories through the law and discover how centuries of legislation restricted, reshaped, and recorded women's rights. Using maps and timelines, we will explore the laws that most affected women's records and see when those changes may have influenced your ancestors.

Sylvia Tracy Doolos has pursued genealogy for more than forty-five years and has worked as a professional genealogist for the past fifteen years as the owner of New Leaf Genealogy. She is President of the Wales, Ireland, Scotland, England Family History Society (WISE) and Past President of both the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) and the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists (CAPG). She is actively involved as a genealogical volunteer with both the Denver Public Library and the Carbon Valley Library and is a member of several other genealogy societies.

You must be logged in as a Member to register for the Webinar.
https://www.msoginc.org/members.php

Go to "Event Registration" to register for the Webinar.

MSOG Chapter Meeting

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Worcester Chapter Annual Dinner Meeting

Saturday, June 6

5:00 PM
Attend in Person

Samuel Slater's Restaurant
at Indian Ranch
200 Gore Rd, Webster, MA

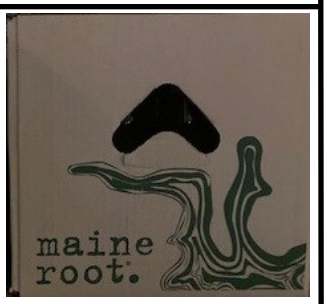
Please join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting! It will be In Person only at Samuel Slater's Restaurant on the shores of beautiful Webster Lake. Come early to check out the view! Bring a book that has influenced you or been important to your family research and we'll compare our choices.

There will be a choice of three entrees to choose from that day. Menu options and prices are being finalized and will be shared with Worcester chapter members and anyone who RSVP's.

Pay by cash or check made out to MSOG Inc at the dinner.
There will be a Cash Bar for beverages.

Please RSVP to worcester@msoginc.org by May 28th.

MSOG Member Sharing



We want to know about your Mass/Maine Roots - especially prior to 1820. Send Names, dates, location to Middlesex@msoginc.org.

Get organized now so we'll have a beautiful display in our booth at NERGC 2027 in Portland, ME!

MSOG Board has decided to, once again, have a booth in the NERGC Exhibit Hall. We're looking to share your Ancestors information. Our booth theme is

"Massachusetts: the birthplace of Maine"

We'd like to highlight the connection between Maine and Massachusetts. To do this, we would like to gather information about your ancestors who lived there before 1820 as well as members who lived, vacationed, or otherwise spent time in Maine.

MSOG Chapter Meeting

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Middlesex Meeting

Saturday, June 13

10:30 am to 12:00 pm
In person or virtually via Zoom

Luanne Crosby

presents

Music of the Civil War

Join us as local songwriter, singer, and guitarist Luanne Crosby plays a selection of songs from and about the Civil War era, highlighting the importance of music for the soldiers and the loved ones left at home.

Luanne developed her Civil War presentation when she was asked by the Westborough Historical Society and Westborough Historical Commission to play at their "Living History Day" in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Luane will share a compelling and entertaining story about music from that period, the composers who wrote them, and how the soldiers brought them into battle. Her narrative is illustrated with songs sung by North and South alike. Many are sentimental and romantic and many more are patriotic and speak of love for country and the willingness to die for the cause. You may be surprised at how many melodies you will find familiar, even if you don't know the background of the composition; proof that music is a historical reference that is part of all of us, even if we are not conscious that it's taken its place within our hearts.

Over the years, Luanne has played extensively in this country and abroad at assorted venues including clubs, concert halls, corporate events and private parties, as the front woman of her own band. Now primarily a solo performer, she enjoys playing for occasions that celebrate the importance of local community connections.

For more information about Luanne, please see her website: https://www.luannecrosby.com/civil-war-program.

In person:
McAuliffe Branch,
Framingham Public Library
746 Water St,
Framingham, MA 01701
https://framinghamlibrary.org/mcauliffe-branch

10:30–11:00 am: Socializing and refreshments
11:00 am: Presentation begins

Those who wish to attend virtually, should pre-register at msoginc.org—Events.
https://msoginc.org/eventListings.php?nm=107

MSOG Chapter Meeting

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Bristol Meeting

Saturday, June 20

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Attend in Person or virtually via Zoom

Marybeth Rua-Larsen & John Larsen

presents

Learn about Patience (Greene) Brayton (1733-1794)

Patience (Greene) Brayton, an early abolitionist, preached at the Quaker Meeting House in Somerset, Massachusetts (formally Swansea, Massachusetts). Born on 7 November 1733 in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, Patience devoted much of her life attempting to put an end to slavery. On 18 May 1758, she married Preserved Brayton in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Following their marriage, she managed to convince Preserved to grant his slaves their freedom.

Travelling around the country and overseas, she preached her message as a Quaker minister. In 1783, she arrived in England, where she tried (unsuccessfully) to persuade King George III to abolish slavery. Unperturbed, Patience continued travelling around England, Ireland and Scotland, preaching to whoever would listen.

Shortly before returning to the US in September 1787, she became ill. However, she continued preaching until her death on 30 July 1794 at the age of 60 years old. She was buried in Friends Cemetery, adjacent to the Quaker Friends Meeting House, in Somerset, Massachusetts.

Somerset Historical Society
274 High St.
Somerset, MA 02726
https://somersethistoricalsociety.com/

Business Meeting 11:00-11:30 am
Member Sharing 11:30-11:55 am
Presentation Begins at Noon.

This program is FREE and OPEN to the Public

For more information contact: bristol@msoginc.org
Schedule of Events Available at: https://msoginc.org

Those who wish to attend virtually, should pre-register at msoginc.org—Events.
https://msoginc.org/eventListings.php?nm=107

MSOG Chapter Meeting

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Merrimack Valley Meeting

Saturday, June 27

10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Attend in Person Only

Merrimack Valley Chapter welcomes you. We had a last minute cancellation and are working to find a replacement. We will update the Event on the website once we have finalized our plans.

Come join us at the Georgetown Peabody Library.

Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple St
Georgetown, MA

This program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Upcoming Events

MGC: Panel Discussion of Town Clerks

Coming in June 2026
(follow them on facebook for updates https://www.facebook.com/massgencouncil/)

Presentation are free, but registration is required!
For more information, go to www.massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e

MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

East Coast Genetic Genealogy Conference

August 21-23, 2026

Embassy Suites at Boston Logan Airport
& virtually
For more information, go to https://ecggc.org/



To stay updated on the latest Genealogy events check out
ConferenceKeeper.org

2027—2029 MSOG Board Nominees

The Nominating Committee is delighted to present the 2027-2029 slate of nominees for the upcoming Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.'s election this fall.

The candidates are:

President: Terry Dugan (incumbent)

Vice President: None offered

Treasurer: Diane Laferriere

Secretary: Blaine Bettinger (bio below)

Historian/Archivist: Dick & Kathy Knowles (incumbents)

Membership: Erik Swanson (bio below)

Blaine Bettiner:
As a professional genealogy educator and author, I have extensive experience creating and maintaining accurate, well-organized records. I am deeply committed to the integrity and preservation of records, which aligns directly with the responsibilities of this role. I would be proud to serve MSOG's members and Board in this capacity.

Erik Swanson:
Erik started researching his family over thirty years ago and was lucky enough to know four of his great-grandparents. He has English, Sicilian, Irish, Canadian, German, and Swedish ancestry. He's a member of the Worcester Chapter of MSOG, the New Hampshire Society of Genealogists, the Maine Genealogical Society, the Essex Society of Genealogists, the Genealogical Society of Nova Scotia, American Ancestors, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, and the National Genealogical Society. He currently serves as co-editor of MASSOG, and as social media coordinator for NHSOG.

More details will be provided in the September issue of Past Times.

Enjoy your summer!



Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
P.O. Box 215, Ashland, MA 01721-0215

Statement of Purpose

MSOG's mission is to promote and encourage Massachusetts genealogical research at all levels - beginner, amateur, and professional. MSOG 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 ensure 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)

Membership Information

Membership is from September 1 to August 31, with the membership renewal period beginning each July 1.
INDIVIDUAL dues are **$30** per year. FAMILY dues are **$40** per year
The membership application is on our website: https://msoginc.org/onlineJoin.php

State Officers and Board Members 2025-2027

President	Terence Dugan
Vice President	Diane Laferriere
Treasurer	Paul Brueggemann
Corresponding Secretary	Vacant
Recording Secretary	Anne Borg
Membership Director (interim)	Diane Laferriere
Co-Historian/Archivists	Dick & Kathy Knowles

For more information go to https://msoginc.org/about.php

MASSOG Editors	John Manning & Erik Swanson
Past Times Editor	Vacant
Webmaster	Deb Cardoni
Bristol President	Bonnie Mendes
Merrimack Valley President	Wendy Sheppard
Middlesex President	Seema Kenney
Worcester President	Greg Paris

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