Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, Inc.
Monthly Newsletter

PastTimes

Volume 18 Issue 2 October 2026

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Membership Renewal ends September 1st

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

New Members

Merrimack Valley
Joel Waszak

Worcester
Jack Oleksyk

MSOG News

Annual Meeting
Saturday, November 7th
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

John Boyle O'Reilly Hall
17 Willow St, Westborough.

Please join us at a new location for this year's Annual Meeting. Our speakers will be **Sharon Inglis,** Vice President of Publishing at NEHGS, who will be presenting *Ten Steps to Writing & Publishing Your Family History* and **Carol Ansel,** Library Director at Godfrey Memorial Library, who will be presenting *Resources of the Godfrey Memorial Library with emphasis on Massachusetts*.

We'll begin the day at 9:00 with Check in and breakfast offerings. There will be presentations throughout the day, with a break at noon for lunch. We will end the day with the Door Prize drawings.

Directions:

From North or South take 495 to Exit 59B, this is Route 9 West towards Worcester. In 1.9 Miles turn left at the lights on Lyman St. In .4 miles turn right on Rte 30 (Main St). In .5 miles turn right on Willow St, just before the railroad bridge.

From West take Route 9 East towards Boston. In Westborough, take a right on Route 135 in 1.9 Miles take for 4th exit off the Rotary onto East Main St. Take a left just after you go under the railroad bridge.

On Line Registration will begin in October

If you have any questions,
please email Diane Laferriere at vicepresident@msoginc.org

President's Message

Fall is in the air with its changing foliage, earlier evenings and crisp air. Fall also means great genealogy programs for MSOG members as we continue with the new calendar year.

September also meant the 25th anniversary of 9/11, an event with particular meaning to me. During 2001, I had worked at two large insurance brokerage firms named Aon and Marsh and both companies had large numbers of employees working in World Trade Center. In June of 2001, I even visited Aon's 103rd floor in the South Tower and met people who did not survive the attack. Aon and Marsh collectively lost over 500 employees on 9/11, profoundly affecting all members of the insurance brokerage community, including myself.

My participation in the MSOG Writing Group has made me aware of the value of writing down family history. Reading the news articles on the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 triggered the resurfacing of many memories from that day. Inspired by my writing experience, I wrote down my own recollections from 9/11 so they could be shared with future generations. Consider doing the same so that some distant ancestor can see historical events through your eyes.

The MSOG Board held a board meeting on June 7th. The DRAFT minutes of this meeting are on the MSOG website and will be approved at our upcoming September 27th Board meeting. MSOG and its Chapters have a variety of programs to offer to our members this month:

- *The Worcester Chapter has Alex London talking about City Directories on Oct 3rd.*
- *The MSOG Book Club virtual presentation on Oct 6th will be on the book Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America by Karin Wulf.*
- *The MSOG Webinar on Oct 8th has Hillary Washburn talking about Genealogy and AI.*
- *On Oct 10th, the Middlesex Chapter will host Linda MacIver for a presentation on Genealogical Resources at the BPL and Leventhal Map Center: 24-7.*
- *The Bristol Chapter presents Sindi Broussard Terrien for an in-person-only workshop on Deciphering Old Handwriting on Oct 17th.*
- *On Oct 28th, the Merrimack Valley Chapter will host Pam Holland for a presentation on Anna's Origins.*
- *The Genealogy Discussion Group finishes October with a discussion on 28th on Best Genealogy Conference.*

See this Past Times issue or the website for updates and details on all our programs. If you can't attend, look under the Members Only section for replays of most of these programs.

Also, don't forget to renew their membership on our website if you have not yet done so already. Lastly, mark your calendar for the MSOG Annual Meeting on November 7th - details on this and the upcoming MSOG State Board elections will be in Past Times and on the website.

Thanks again for being a member of the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists.

Terry

October 2026 MSOG Meetings-at-a-Glance

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

MSOG Book Club

Tuesday, October 6
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Only

Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America
by
Karin Wulf

MSOG Members-only event

MSOG Webinar

Thursday, October 8
7:00 p.m.
Virtual Only

Hillary Washburn, EdD
Presents

Genealogy and AI

MSOG Members-only event

Worcester

Saturday, October 3
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Attend in person or virtually via Zoom

Alex London
Presents

City Directories

9:30 am Socializing
10:00 am Presentation

Worcester Public Library Saxe Room
3 Salem St. Worcester

This meeting is open to the public.

Middlesex

Saturday, October 10
10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Attend virtually via Zoom

Linda MacIver
Presents

Genealogical Resources at the BPL and Leventhal Map Center:24/7

10:30-11:00 a.m.
Short Business Meeting & Open Discussion
11:00 a.m. Presentation

This meeting is open to the public.

Bristol

Saturday, October 17
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Attend in person only

Sindi Broussard Terrien
Presents

Workshop on Deciphering Old Handwriting
Somerset Public Library
1464 County St, Somerset, MA

This meeting is open to the public.

Merrimack Valley

Saturday, October 24
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Attend in person or virtually via Zoom

Pam Holland
Presents
Anna's Origins

Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple St
Georgetown, MA

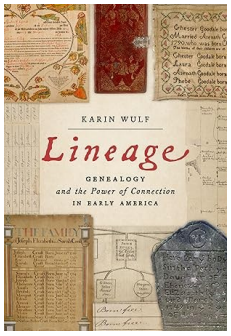
This meeting is open to the public.

Genealogy Discussion Group

Wednesday October 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Virtual Only
This is open to the public

MSOG Members-Only

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Members-Only Book Club

Tuesday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. *Virtual Only*

Lineage: Genealogy and the Power of Connection in Early America

By Karin Wulf

In eighteenth-century America, genealogy was more than a simple record of family ties--it was a powerful force that shaped society. Lineage delves into an era where individuals, families, and institutions meticulously documented their connections. Whether driven by personal passion or mandated by churches, local governments, and courts, these records appeared in diverse forms-from handwritten notes and account books to intricate silk threads and enduring stone carvings.

Family connections wielded significant influence across governmental, legal, religious, cultural, and social spheres. In the American context, these ties also defined the boundaries of slavery and freedom, with a child's status often determined by their mother, despite the prevailing patriarchy. This book reveals the profound importance of genealogy that was chronicled by family records, cultural artifacts, and court documents. These materials, created by both enslaved individuals seeking freedom and founding fathers seeking status, demonstrate the culturally and historically specific nature of genealogical interest.

Even as the American Revolution transformed society, the significance of genealogy endured. The legacy of lineage from the colonial period continued to shape the early United States, underscoring the enduring importance of family connections. Lineage offers a deep understanding of genealogy as a foundational element of American history, illuminating its vital role from the colonial era through the birth of the nation. (Amazon Review)

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, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. *Virtual Only*



Hillary Washburn, EdD

presents

Genealogy and AI

Join Hillary Washburn for a personal look at how she uses AI in her own family history research. Through examples from tracing her Sicilian roots, she will share how AI has helped interpret records, explore historical context, generate research ideas, and work through roadblocks, along with lessons learned about verifying AI-generated results.

Hillary Washburn is the Learning Experience Program Manager with the Massachusetts Library System and an enthusiastic family history researcher. She enjoys making new technologies approachable and helping others explore them with curiosity and confidence

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 Meeting

Saturday, October 3

9:30 am to 12:00 pm
In person or virtually via Zoom

Alex London

Local History & Genealogy Librarian at the Worcester Public Library
presents

City Directories

Description: An introduction to using city directories for genealogy, for those unfamiliar. The speaker will focus mostly on the less-obvious benefits for genealogists of the directories, beyond just filling in the gaps between census years. For example, these documents can provide give exact dates of death to help locate obits, or help find the nearest church to determine where to look for church records.

In person:
Worcester Public Library
Saxe Room
3 Salem St., Worcester

9:30 am Socializing
9:45 am: Short Business Meeting
10:00 am: Presentation begins

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

MASSOG Journal is looking for your contributions!

Preserve your research and tell the stories of your ancestors - *MASSOG* is always looking your submissions - ancestor profiles, brick wall solutions, 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'd love to help you transcript and publish them. First-time authors are always welcomed!

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

MSOG Chapter Meeting

For More Information: https://msoginc.org



Middlesex Meeting

Saturday, October 10

10:30 am to 12:00 pm
Attend virtually via Zoom

Linda MacIver

presents

Genealogical Resources at the BPL and Leventhal Map Center: 24/7

Come hear what this access means for genealogists as we look at some traditional resources as well as databases and digital offerings, including the acclaimed newspaper collections and the maps of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center. All available from home to all MA residents and some others with Mass. Connections, 24/7 with your BPL card.

Linda B. MacIver is an educator, lecturer, librarian and genealogy researcher. She retired from a 27- year career at the Boston Public Library Research Library where she inaugurated the BPL patron genealogy classes. She also organized two extremely popular seasons of the Local and Family History lecture series and developed the Intermediate Genealogy Summer Lecture series. Linda is the past Secretary and Civil Records Director for Federal Records for the Massachusetts Genealogical Council. She serves as the New England Representative for the Essex (England!) Record Office. Linda has a BA in History from the University of New Hampshire, an MEd from Boston University and earned her MSLIS at Simmons College.

Linda was the 2018 recipient of the Richard S. Lackey Scholarship to the Genealogical Institute for Federal Records (GEN-FED) and the inaugural recipient of the 2019 Senior at the Center of Excellence Award sponsored by Xerox Corporation and the City of Boston.

10:30–11:00 am:
Short Business Meeting and Open Discussion
11:20 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, October 17

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Attend in Person Only

Sindi Broussard Terrien

presents

Workshop on Deciphering Old Handwriting

Our Bristol Chapter Vice-President, Sindi Terrien, will conduct a workshop on how to decipher old handwriting using the strategies described by David Allen Lambert in September. Only the Business Meeting will be held virtually.

Sindi Broussard Terrien is a research genealogist, specializing in Acadian and Cajun women. Her blog My Many Mothers features biographies of her many great-grandmothers. She recently published Genealogy Fun While Developing New Genealogists and Fun with Genealogy Activity Book 1 which can be purchased on Amazon.com. She has written nine articles for the American-French Genealogical Society's publication Je Me Souviens Magazine where she is an associate editor. Sindi Broussard Terrien received a certificate in genealogical research from Boston University. Her passion for genealogy spans over twenty years.

Sindi also hosts Finding A Publisher, another emerging website, to help genealogy writers connect with publications.

Somerset Public Library
1464 County St., Somerset, MA 02726

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, October 24

10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Attend in Person or virtually via Zoom



Pam Holland
presents

Anna's Origins

Anna Elisabeth Mohrmann immigrated from Germany to Ohio in 1864 and quickly married. But her husband was not the man she had intended to marry. For years her origins in Germany and her parentage were a mystery. Learn how one record broke through her brick wall pointing to where she was born. Careful analysis then led to learning the names of her parents and grandparents.

Georgetown Peabody Library
2 Maple St
Georgetown, MA

This program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Massachusetts Genealogical Council

Tuesday September 29, 2026

Bonnie Wade-Mucia - *Warning Out! Following the Unwanted in Colonial New England*

Check their website for more details https://www.massgencouncil.org/m-o-r-e

MSOG Genealogy Discussion Group (Zoom)

Wednesday October 28, 2026

7:00 PM EST

This months topic will be "Best Genealogy Conference"

Check the MSOG Events page to register.

This program is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

MSOG & NERGC

For More Information: https://msoginc.org

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.

New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC)
April 14–17, 2027
Portland Maine
Registration opens 9/27/2026

What's New
If you've attended NERGC before, you'll recognize many of your favorite activities, but look closely, as we've added a few new offerings for 2027. We're also trying a new registration platform, Zeffy, in place of Whova. Take your time as you register to be sure you've signed up for everything you want.

Zeffy is free for nonprofits like NERGC, but it funds itself by asking purchasers for a donation at checkout. Please double-check your total before you complete your purchase to confirm you agree with every amount. NERGC is unable to refund donations made to Zeffy.

Syllabus Options
The syllabus is still available as a printed book for $50, to be picked up when you get your name tag in Maine. New this conference, you can instead choose Print-on-Demand through Lulu.com for a discounted price of $30 and have it delivered directly to you before the conference. There's no need to create a Lulu account. Once the syllabus is ready for printing, registered attendees will receive an email with an ordering link. As in the past you may download the syllabus digitally for free.

Wednesday Buffets
In addition to our regular luncheons and banquets Thursday through Saturday with speakers, we're offering a Buffet meal at lunch and dinner times on Wednesday. These are a chance to relax, catch up with genealogy friends, and meet new ones. No presentations are planned for these meals.

Panel Discussion
Be sure to arrive early enough on Wednesday to check in at registration and still have time to attend the 5pm Panel discussion with our Featured Speakers; Blaine Bettinger and Marc Thompson. Seating is limited so don't wait to purchase your ticket for this one-time event.

Streaming Sessions for Remote Attendees
Can't join us in Maine? We've partnered with select speakers to live stream their sessions to remote attendees while they're presented in person over the three days of the conference. These pre-selected sessions will not be recorded. You may purchase all 11 streaming sessions or just a single day. The full list of streaming sessions appears on page 14 of the Brochure.

Go to the NERGC.org website for the latest details

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.

Update: We will notify you as soon as we have finalized the dates in October to hold the Elections for our Society Officers. If you would like to participate in the voting, you will need to be a member in Good Standing before voting begins.

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.

New Member Benefit
for a limited time Heritage Books, Inc is offering
MSOG Members a 15% Discount on any order placed at
www.HeritageBooks.com
Just use code MSOG15

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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