



# MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Established in 1980

[www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Having been officially elected president of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council, I would like to welcome the many new members who joined us at the seminar this past July. We have received much praise for the successful seminar, and we thank you for the compliments!

Unfortunately, by October MGC was in the midst of dealing with the other part of our mission, namely guarding access to birth, marriage, and death records. A committee of the Massachusetts legislature (the General Court) was considering legislation limiting access to these records. Our membership was notified. Sharon Sergeant, past-president Bernie Couming, and Shirley Barnes testified at the committee hearing. Since more action on the matter will still take place, we will continue to be vigilant and to keep you posted.

Note also that archivists, historians, and others are joining genealogists in pressing Congress for more funding for NHPRC (National Historical Publications and Records Committee). Details of what you can do can be found on page 5.

There is also good news to report. The next seminar and annual meeting will take place this spring, on April 22, 2006. Since the Marlborough Conference Center was such a convenient site and since their staff was especially helpful, we will be returning to that venue for this seminar.

Sharon Sergeant, our Director of Programs, is once again planning a stimulating day. The noted speaker Meldon J. Wolfgang will be sharing his expertise with us, as well a staff member of the National Archives, and many panel and workshop leaders. It promises to be another stimulating day. Check out this newsletter for more details.

A Healthy New Year to you all!

*Daphnah Sage*

### **Federal Regulations UPDATE Regarding Access to Vital Records**

Proposed federal regulations regarding access to vital records were scheduled to be released for review and comment in December 2005. The release date has been changed to June 2006. We will also provide updated details in our next newsletter.

## MGC BOARD MEMBERS 2003-2004

### OFFICERS

Daphnah Sage, President  
Mary Ellen Grogan, Vice President  
Benjamin Woznick, Treasurer  
Peter Viles, Secretary

### DIRECTORS

Ann Dzindolet, Archives  
Shirley Barnes, Civil Records  
Christine Sweet-Hart, Newsletter Editor  
Sharon Sergeant, Programs  
Michael Brophy, Publicity  
Sheila FitzPatrick, Ways & Means  
Bob Stone, Webmaster

### BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The MGC Board meets on Saturdays, from 1p.m. to 4p.m., four times a year at the National Archives in Waltham, unless otherwise noted. Meetings are open to all interested genealogists. Massachusetts genealogical organizations are urged to send a representative to these meetings. Contact: [info@massgencouncil.org](mailto:info@massgencouncil.org).

## HISTORY AND MISSION STATEMENT

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council was founded in 1980 and has dedicated itself to serving the interests of the state's genealogical community.

The Council's stated purposes are: to act as advocates in monitoring legislative and administrative activities of governmental agencies which affect genealogists; to sponsor and present legislation and programs designed to expand the resources and accessibility of services; to develop and promote the growth, education and exchange of ideas among persons and organizations interested in the pursuit of genealogy; and to provide other activities to advance genealogy.

## BOOK REVIEW

Brenda Dougall Merriman, CGRS, CGL, *About Genealogical Standards of Evidence: A Guide for Genealogists*, Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, Second Edition, 2004.

This slim, 93-page volume is an excellent compact reference for the novice genealogist, or for one looking to bring their research up to standards used by the more advanced genealogical community.

The first half of the book explains the background of genealogical research: genealogical research standards, including types of resources; analyzing evidence; the Genealogical Proof Standard; and citation and documentation of evidence. Also included is a section on practicing and applying standards, including self-improvement and education, online and correspondence courses, personal attendance institutes, certification and accreditation, lineage societies of Canada, and writing and publishing resources.

The second half of the book focuses on examples of Canadian vital records, church records, etc. used in research. In the back of the book is a listing of books, articles, audiotapes, and websites for further information.

It would be a great resource to add to the curriculum of a genealogical course or seminar, as it does not overwhelm the reader with technical information, but does give enough information and avenues for further learning that make it a worthwhile book to have on your shelf.

## **MGC 2005 CONFERENCE REVIEW**

**by Sheila FitzPatrick, Director, Ways & Means**

What can be said about our annual seminar held in July 2005? Fabulous! An easy to find venue, knowledgeable speakers on lesser known collections in the archives, a variety of vendors with a wide array of genealogical products, great food, and congenial companions. What more can a seminar participant ask for?

Over 150 enthusiastic genealogists spent the last Saturday in July in a woodland retreat in Marlborough, Mass., and heard from the experts from the National Archives, Northeast Region. Dianne LeBlanc, Regional Director, opened the day by telling us where NARA is today and where it's going. Then came the decision which of three lectures to attend: archival techniques, custom house records, or a beginner's "how-to". This was followed by lunch (another decision at the hot and cold buffet), where we could sit with the members of the Association of Professional Genealogists and pick their brains on a variety of topics.

The afternoon resumed with choices among census records, federal court records, or local history. The last track of the day consisted of a choice between immigration records, New York records, or a case study. The conference closed with our panel of experts doing a Q & A session. The only negative: one person could not attend all the lectures without being cloned!

Lucky us! We are returning to the Verizon Conference Center in Marlborough on April 22, 2006, for our annual seminar. Mark your calendars and we'll see you there!

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## **FEDERAL LAW THREATENS CLOSURE OF VITAL RECORDS ACROSS THE NATION; MGC, APG, FGS/NGS MEMBERS QUESTIONING LAW'S JURISDICTION**

Proposed regulation drafts for the Federal Public Law 108-458 Section 7211 threaten to close vital records access nationwide. These regulations were scheduled for the formal review process in December 2005 but have now been delayed until June 2006.

Members of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council, the Association of Professional Genealogists and the FGS/NGS Records Access Committee have begun questioning the jurisdiction of this Federal law, as well as the validity of the proposed regulations draft, by contacting Federal and state legislators.

The MGC will host a panel discussion at our April 22 Annual Meeting and Seminar, where legislators, vital records registrars, town and city clerks, archivists and other officials from all over New England will be invited to present their views to the genealogical community.

The MGC will also host a panel discussion of records access issues at the 2006 FGS Conference in Boston. We will provide additional details in our next newsletter. In the meantime, please contact your legislators and ask them if they are aware of this issue. Please, tell them that genealogists across the nation are questioning the validity of the proposed regulation drafts for Public Law 108-458 Section 7211.

## ACTION ALERT:

### COMMITTEE RESTORES NHPRC FUNDING; SENATE NEXT!

*This article was adapted from the archivists website at [www.archivists.org/news/nhprc-June21\\_2005.asp](http://www.archivists.org/news/nhprc-June21_2005.asp)*

**June 21, 2005**—The House of Representatives has restored funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission in its budget bill—with \$5.5 million for competitive grants and \$2 million for program administration! The House Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD, and the Judiciary (T-THUD) approved that addition on June 21. This is a very positive result—and the organizations and individuals who raised their voices to request restoration of funding can be very pleased.

But there's more to be done—now in the Senate—to preserve this funding or to raise it to the \$8 million in grants and \$2 million in administration that the archives, records management, history, and research community has identified as the *essential* level of funding.

To ensure that this funding survives through the next stages of the budget process, the following steps must be taken:

**Send letters to your senators.** If your senator is on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury, Transportation, HUD, and the Judiciary, ask him or her to propose that the funding recommended by the House be increased to \$8 million for competitive grants and \$2 million for staff and administration in the National Archives budget. (For a list of committee and subcommittee members, see [www.savearchives.org](http://www.savearchives.org)).

If your senator is not on the Appropriations Committee or the Senate T-THUD Subcommittee, ask him or her to contact Senator Kit Bond, chair of the T-THUD Subcommittee (if your senator is a Republican), or Senator Patty Murray, ranking member of the T-THUD Subcommittee (if your senator is a Democrat), with a request that the funding recommended by the House be increased to \$8 million for competitive grants and \$2 million for staff and administration in the National Archives budget.

**Make a visit to the home offices of your senators or representative. Or, if you or your constituents** are going to be in Washington, DC, plan to visit your members' DC offices. If you can't talk with the senator or representative, talk to his or her staff members—and specifically the staff member who handles appropriations issues. Again, urge them to contact their colleagues on both the Senate and House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittees on Treasury, Transportation, HUD, and the Judiciary to voice their support for the restoration of funding for NHPRC.

**For more information and to obtain addresses/fax numbers for House and Senate committee members:**

- Society of American Archivists: [www.archivists.org](http://www.archivists.org)
- Council of State Historical Records Coordinators: [www.coshrc.org](http://www.coshrc.org)
- SaveArchives.org, a Web site dedicated to preserving our nation's archival heritage: [www.savearchives.org](http://www.savearchives.org)

As always, our success this year will depend on the level of coordination, involvement, and commitment of those archivists, historians, documentary editors, and others who

care about NHPRC. Please forward this update to others who may be interested or able to help. There is strength in numbers! Questions? Suggestions? Contact:

- [info@coshrc.org](mailto:info@coshrc.org) or [nbeaumont@archivists.org](mailto:nbeaumont@archivists.org) or [admin@savearchives.org](mailto:admin@savearchives.org)

**Members of the Joint Task Force on Advocacy:**

- Council of State Historical Records Coordinators: David Carmicheal, Sandra Clark, Kathleen Roe
- SAA: Peter Gottlieb, Joan Krizack, Rand Jimerson, Richard Pearce-Moses, Nancy Beaumont
- National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators: Tim Slavin
- ARMA International: Stacey Moye

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## **GENEALOGISTS' CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS REVISED**

*This is the official press release from the BCG. For more information, please see their website at [www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org).*

The Board for Certification of Genealogists announced that, effective immediately, it has consolidated three research categories into one category that will be called Certified Genealogist. All those holding a current credential as Certified Genealogical Records Specialist, Certified Lineage Specialist, or Certified Genealogist will hold the designation of Certified Genealogist. The Board also established application requirements for the single credential and voted to continue the existing renewal requirements for those already certified.

The Board reached the decisions after extensive talks at the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in Salt Lake City on October 16. Incoming board president Connie Miller Lenzen, CG, of Portland, Oregon, explained that the change has been made for two reasons. "First, regardless of the type of work they do, all genealogists have the same skills. Second, having three research categories was confusing to both the genealogical community and the general public. The categories were different, but the differences were not well understood. We expect that the public can now more easily hire a certified person without being concerned about the differences. The one thing that will not change is the Board commitment to excellence in genealogical work."

In May 2004, the Trustees approved the following motion, Lenzen continued: "Anyone demonstrating competence in all general skill areas of research, evidence analysis, kinship determination, and reporting should be eligible for certification as a genealogist, without further distinction or limitation. Upon implementation, all certified persons in any research category would hold the designation Certified Genealogist." After more than a year of discussion, soliciting input, planning, and writing, the Board voted on the final draft of the revised application guide.

The new requirements have been designed to test the four skill areas used by all genealogists. The requirements are:

1. Acceptance of the Genealogist's Code.
2. Background resume

3. Document work with a BCG-supplied document: transcribe, abstract, and evaluate the document, prepare a research plan.
4. Document work with an applicant-supplied document: transcribe, abstract, and evaluate the document, prepare a research plan
5. Research report prepared for a client
6. Case study of conflicting or indirect evidence
7. Kinship determination project. The project is to include at least three couples in successive ancestral generations. The project may be in the form of a narrative genealogy, narrative lineage, or narrative pedigree.

Complete details for each requirement will be posted on the BCG website, [www.bcgcertification.org](http://www.bcgcertification.org), by December 1 of this year. Beginning January 1, 2006, only applications using the new requirements will be accepted. The new BCG Application Guide will be available at the National Genealogical Society conference in Chicago in June 2006.

The trustees also determined that individuals certified by BCG will still need to renew their certification every five years and that requirements for renewal will remain the same as they are now, regardless of the certification category previously held. Those requirements include an updated resume and the submission of up to four work samples. Current holders of the CGRS and CLS credentials will have until November 1, 2006 to make the transition to the CG credential. BCG's teaching categories, Certified Genealogical Lecturer and Certified Genealogical Instructor, are not affected by the change to a single research credential.

Also unchanged is the two-step application process. Individuals file a preliminary application form and then have up to one year to submit their completed portfolio. Those who have already filed a preliminary application form will have the opportunity to decide whether to continue under the previous requirements or convert to the new requirements. Any preliminary applications filed on or after January 1, 2006 must follow the new requirements.

Since its founding in 1964, The Board for Certification of Genealogists has promulgated in research, lectures, and publications attainable, uniform standards of competence and ethics that have become generally accepted throughout the field. Its publication, The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual, sets forth the currently accepted standards for all areas of genealogical research.

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## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN MATERIALS TO BE DIGITIZED**

*The following is a press release issued by the Massachusetts Historical Society. It is available in its entirety at [www.masshist.org/about/news.cfm?newsitem=16](http://www.masshist.org/about/news.cfm?newsitem=16).*

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners has awarded the Massachusetts Historical Society a grant to digitize primary sources that document "African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts." The Society will present historical manuscripts, rare – in some cases unique – published works, artifacts, and visual materials that serve as a window upon the lives of African Americans in Massachusetts from the arrival of the first slaves on the ship *Desire* in 1638 through the abolition of slavery under the Massachusetts Constitution of 1780. Through true-color, large

format images, linked to searchable transcriptions and enhanced by contextual historical and biographical information, the MHS will make the unique or difficult-to-find materials available to the widest possible audience at masshist.org.

Highlights will include the Society's unique copy of **Samuel Sewall's *The Selling of Joseph*** (1700), the first antislavery tract published in New England; manuscript letters and poems written by Phillis Wheatley, the first published African American poet; the flag and medallion of the Bucks of America, the Commonwealth's first Black military unit; and accounts, receipts, and other documents related to the African slave trade and the internal slave trade in colonial New England.

As a researcher who has made use of many of these items at the MHS noted in supporting the Society's grant proposal, the "content of the materials provided will help to stimulate and inform a public discussion and shape scholarly research in ways that will further reveal the diversity and democratic tradition inherent in American history" and "will further help to educate the public by providing the evidentiary bedrock upon which nonprofessional historians and general readers can verify or examine claims made about New England slavery and African-American history."

The "African Americans and the End of Slavery in Massachusetts" project will begin on December 1, 2005 and be completed by October 1, 2006.

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## **TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ADVOCACY AND THE FIGHT CONTINUES**

*Adapted from a presentation at the November 19, 2005 Board meeting by Shirley Barnes, Civil Records Director*

The MGC turned twenty-five this year. Over the last two and a half decades, there have been many challenges to vital records access in this state. All of these challenges have been met head on by MGC members who have risen to the occasion and helped maintain the continued availability of records to researchers. Who is MGC and how did it come into being? The following is a brief history of the MGC and its involvement with the vital records of Massachusetts.

In 1976 concern began to grow in the federal government about fraudulent use of vital records. In 1977 a group of genealogists came together with a shared apprehension about a proposed bill that would close access to vital records for fifty years. An additional cause for concern was the condition of the records; many falling to shreds from use, especially at the state registry, then located in the State House.

The registry was moved from the State House to nearby Ashburton Place for a short period of time until the space was taken for a day care center. The registry and the records were uprooted again, this time to the basement of 150 Tremont Street, a location that proved to be fraught with problems, not the least of which were several gas leaks. In addition, a sewer break dumped garbage from the restaurant above, and freezing weather brought water and cement chunks from the street into the records room. Damaged records had to be sent out for cleaning and restoration twice, at considerable cost, thereby temporarily removing them from public access. New space that was well lit and spacious was then leased at 470 Atlantic Avenue, on the second floor. Unfortunately,

the owner decided to take back the space, and the lease was lost. The last move, in 2000, was to the present location at 150 Mount Vernon St., Dorchester, next to the Bay Side Expo Center in a space formerly occupied by a bank.

In 1980, the Massachusetts Genealogical Council was formed in an attempt to move the oldest vital records, those from 1849-1889, into the care of the State Archives where they would be better protected. In 1983, a bill passed as Chapter 374 of the Acts of 1983 that did just that. In 1986, an amendment was passed that clarified several issues with the original bill. Since then, records have been moved from the vital records office to the State Archives in five year blocks to match the range created with the indexes.

About 20 years ago, the State Registrar formed a committee to recodify and update Chapter 46 and other Massachusetts General Laws. This update threatened to cut off access to the vital records once again. MGC genealogists, among other interested parties, protested the intended closure at a hearing before the Committee on Government Regulations, and the bill was not reported out. The Committee chair suggested that the genealogists and the State Registrar meet to discuss the issues. Over the course of the next year in several meetings, the genealogists fought hard to keep access to records open, as it has always been, to protect the records, and to understand all the changes and proposals from the Department of Public Health (DPH). Agreement on the contents of the bill was finally reached by all participants. However, in the next legislative session, the bill failed to be filed by DPH.

Since then, this very long bill affecting records, access, and preservation, has been filed and re-filed. The latest bill, H-2233 filed by Rep. Thomas O'Brien for the DPH, was supposed to be the above-mentioned bill. However, it had been changed enough so that the genealogical community opposed it. As a result of our efforts, the bill did not pass.

Once again the MGC is facing a challenge to the accessibility of vital records in the state. We need everyone's help to make sure that this access is not taken away. We are counting on all of you to help us at this crucial time. Please support bill H-3448. For full text of the bill, please see [www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/ht03/ht03448.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/bills/house/ht03/ht03448.htm). Look for ADDITIONAL UPDATES in the next issue, including ways you can help with this important work.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

**Newsletter Contributions:** If you would like to have the projects or activities of your society included in the MGC newsletter, please send them to: Newsletter Editor, Massachusetts Genealogical Council, P. O. Box 5393, Cochrane, MA 01778, or via email to [editor@massgencouncil.org](mailto:editor@massgencouncil.org).

**Newsletter Options:** If you would like to receive the newsletter via email, please contact the newsletter editor at [editor@massgencouncil.org](mailto:editor@massgencouncil.org).

**Coming in the Next Issue:**

Legislative changes that will impact access to vital records. News, reviews, articles of interest.

MGC conference 2006 information. Early registration deadline will be **MARCH 15, 2006**. Detailed information regarding this year's conference will be in the next newsletter.

**Address/Email Change?:** Keep the MGC newsletter coming – inform us of any changes by contacting us at [editor@massgencouncil.org](mailto:editor@massgencouncil.org).

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMES TO BOSTON!

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) are pleased to announce that the 2006 FGS/NEHGS Conference will be held in Boston. FGS and NEHGS are proud to bring together some of the finest genealogical presenters from not only the United States but also England, Scotland, Ireland, and Canada for this four-day conference. You will have an opportunity to learn from those who work in the very repositories from which you need information. The 2006 FGS/NEHGS Conference will be the largest genealogical event ever held, with more than 370 educational opportunities in classes, workshops, and luncheon presentations. Enjoy rare opportunities to hear speakers from five countries. Take one of the advanced workshops or attend the specialized Librarian's Day or Professional Management Conference sessions.

**DATES:** Wednesday, August 30 to Saturday, September 2, 2006

**LOCATION:** Hynes Convention Center, Back Bay, Boston

**HOST HOTEL:** Sheraton Boston Hotel, Room Rate: \$159.00 single/double. \$40.00 each additional person. Reservations: 800-325-3535

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.fgs.org/2006conf/FGS-2006.htm> Be in-the-know on special offers and keep informed about the many special events and conference "firsts" that are planned by reading the "conference blog": <http://www.FGSConference.blogspot.com>.

**CONTACT:** to receive a paper copy of the registration and conference information, contact FGS, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940. Phone: 512.336.2731

**REGISTRATION:** Four day registration: \$155 (by 1 Jul 2006); \$185 (after 1 July 2006). Single day registration: \$81 (by 1 Jul 2006); \$95 (after 1 July 2006)

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## MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES ADD TO VITAL RECORDS COLLECTIONS

Birth and marriage records from 1911-1915 are now available on microfilm at the Archives. Deaths from 1911-1915 are being microfilmed and are not available at this time. It is estimated that they will be available soon.

## MGC Annual Meeting and Seminar Program Preview

Saturday April 22, 2006

**8:00am-10:00am Program registration**

**9:00am-9:45am Massachusetts Genealogical Council Annual Meeting**

**10:00am-11:00am Researching "Birds of a Feather": How Prosopography, Cluster Studies, and Record Linkage Techniques Can Help Put New Leaves On Your Family Tree.** *Meldon J. Wolfgang III* introduces several useful techniques developed and used by researchers in other academic disciplines that may help dismantle those "brick walls".

**11:15am-12:15pm Legislative Actions Affecting Records Access:** Panel discussion about the proposed regulations for the *Minimum Standards for Birth Certificates section 7211* of Public Law 108-458 *Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004*. This panel will discuss both the intent and scope of the Federal law, as well as the jurisdiction of the states, and the multitude of studies that document credit card and electronic systems fraud versus vital records vulnerabilities.

**12:00pm-1:30 pm Full Buffet Lunch** [Please let us know on your registration if you need a special meal.]

**1:30pm-3:00pm Workshop and Breakout Session Tracks**

**TRACK 1 Meldon J. Wolfgang III Sleuthing in the Stacks: Using Non-Traditional Resources to Uncover Genealogical Clues.** Explores references used by professionals in other research disciplines, suggestions for conducting a secondary literature search and resources not commonly used by genealogists. Great for those researchers who have hit a "brick wall" or "dead end" in their research!

**TRACK 2 NARA Beyond the Census: Local History in Federal Records.** Intermediate and advanced researchers can learn from a myriad of examples for Post Civil War Taxes, Bankruptcy, Customs, Corps of Engineers, Works Progress Administration and GSA Surplus Property Disposal records.

**TRACK 3 Genealogy Society Workshops: Additional fees may apply for problem solving sessions.**

**TRACK 4 Genealogy Vendors:** Panel discussion to learn about genealogy vendor expertise and products – including your own local society!

**3:15pm-4:15pm FGS Boston 2006: Preparing for the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference:** Panel discussion about the opportunity of the decade, when the FGS Conference comes to Boston in August 2006!

**4:15pm-5:00pm Door Prizes and Announcements**

**COSTS:** Early registration (due by March 15/Regular registration: Members (\$50/\$60), Non-members (\$60/\$70). You may join MGC now for \$10 (2006 Annual Dues).

# MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

## DUES RENEWAL NOTICE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2006

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council is dedicated to serving the interests of the state's genealogical community. Founded in 1980, the Council's stated aim is to develop and promote the study and exchange of ideas among persons and organizations interested in the pursuit of genealogy. Its programs and activities are designed to complement those of the many genealogical and hereditary societies throughout the state and to provide a statewide forum for genealogists.

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council (MGC) is composed of both individual and organizational members. Individual members receive the newsletter, participate in activities organized by the MGC, and may attend the Annual Meeting and Seminar at a discounted members-only rate. All organizational members receive the newsletter. Organizational members of groups based in Massachusetts are encouraged to send a delegate to the quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors. Delegates are voting members of the Board. Membership in the Council is open to any person or organization interested in its activities upon payment of dues. The membership year runs from 1 January through 31 December. Note: Dues are NOT tax-deductible.

**Your membership is important to us. We hope that you will decide to renew your membership and continue your participation in the work of the MGC.**

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION(Delegates only) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status: RENEWAL or NEW (please circle correct status)

Please indicate type of membership:

\_\_\_\_ Individual \$10.00    \_\_\_\_ Organization \$15.00    \_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00

(Family memberships for the same mailing address: 1 newsletter sent for both parties, both eligible for seminar discount).

Make checks payable to: Massachusetts Genealogical Council

Mail to: Massachusetts Genealogical Council, P.O. Box 5393, Cochrane, MA 01778-5393.

**MGC has a number of committees that work on various projects. If you are interested in getting involved, please indicate your interest(s) and we will contact you!**

\_\_\_\_ Monitoring legislative and access issues

\_\_\_\_ Preparing the newsletter

\_\_\_\_ Organizing and running the annual seminar

\_\_\_\_ Helping to maintain and update the website

Massachusetts Genealogical Council  
P.O. Box 5393  
Cochituate, MA 01778  
[www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Have you remembered to renew your membership?

If the mailing label has "05, rather than "06, it's time to renew. Individual membership dues are \$10.

Our ability to serve as an advocate for genealogists in Massachusetts is based on the strength and size of our membership. Your membership is important to us. Thank you for your support.

**BE SURE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEMBER DISCOUNT TO OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND SEMINAR TO BE HELD ON **APRIL 22, 2006** AT THE MARLBOROUGH CONFERENCE CENTER.**

### MGC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Allen County Public Library, Indiana  
Afro-American Genealogical Society  
American-French Genealogical Society  
Billerica Friends of Genealogy  
Central Mass. Genealogical Society  
Descendants of Whaling Masters  
Essex Society of Genealogists  
Friends of the Silvio O. Conte Archives  
The Genealogical Roundtable  
Greater Boston Chapter of the Assn. of Professional Genealogists  
The Irish Ancestral Research Assn.  
The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston  
The Massachusetts Society of Genealogists  
The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants  
The National Society of the

Daughters of the American Revolution  
New England Historic Genealogical Society  
Plymouth County Genealogists  
The Waltham Historical Society

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### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Council is open to any person or organization interested in its activities upon payment of dues. The membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Dues are \$10 for individual; \$15 for family (same mailing address), and \$15 for organizations. Dues are NOT tax deductible.