



MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

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Massachusetts Genealogical Council
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Newsletter



President's Column

by Mary Ellen Grogan

The purpose of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council newsletter is to spread the word about the activities and goals of the Council. We want you to share this newsletter with anyone who may be interested: genealogists, researchers, historians, librarians, archivists. We want society leaders to forward it to their members, make copies and post them on bulletin boards in places where genealogists and historians meet. Maintaining and expanding access to records is our goal. Our mission can be summed up in three words:

ACCESS

EDUCATION

PRESERVATION

- **Access:** We work to ensure that researchers are able to access the records that they need. We do this by monitoring legislation, both state and federal, that affects our right to view and copy records. Unfortunately, the right of individuals to see records is under constant threat.
- **Education:** Education has two aspects. We hold day-long seminars to give genealogists and historians opportunities to discover new record sources and to learn better methods for analyzing and using that information in their research. We work actively with members of the legislature to inform them of our interests. We are also making renewed efforts to expand and consolidate our relationship with the records custodians. Those are the people who hold the data of concern to us: archivists, city and town clerks, librarians, and officers and staff of historical societies and museums.
- **Preservation:** We are working with organizations such as Familysearch and Findmypast to identify records of interest to us and try to expand the records that are available online. We want to identify and develop inventories of material in archives that are of importance to our supporters. We know there are records that are under threat of destruction due to poor storage conditions and lack of space. We read of significant loss of local historical materials in other states. We do not want it to happen in Massachusetts.

Help our efforts by spreading the word of our activities and providing a donation of time and/or financial support to the Council.

WE NEED YOU!

Every

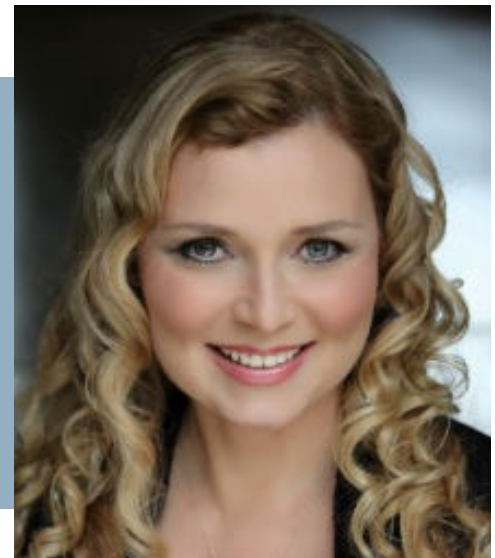
inhabitant of the Countrie shall have free libertie to search and weeve any Rooles, Records, or Regesters of any Court or office except the Councell, And to have a transcript or exemplification thereof written examined, and signed by the hand of the officer of the office paying the appointed fees therfore. 1639 Massachusetts Bodv of Liberties

MGC SEMINAR PORTAL



MGC Seminar Featured Speakers

CeCe Moore, our Sunday April 17, 2016 DNA Day speaker, is a genetic genealogy pioneer and leading media consultant. She is best known for her work on the PBS series *"Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr."* and for her multiple appearances as an expert on news shows such as 20/20 and CBS This Morning. She also works with individuals of unknown parentage, often reuniting them with biological family members through DNA research. As a strong advocate of genetic genealogy education, CeCe has taught at many genealogical institutes and conferences. She is the co-founder of the Institute for Genetic Genealogy and the founder of TheDNADetectives.



Lights, Camera, Genealogy Roadshow! Mary Tedesco, MGC's favorite "Genealogy Roadshow" rock star will be the luncheon speaker for the Saturday April 16, 2016 Seminar, *Genealogy Roadshow (PBS): Behind the Scenes*. Mary will share her experiences as a Host on "Genealogy Roadshow" (seasons 2 & 3) both in front of the camera and behind the scenes. We are proud to say that Mary is a former Board member of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council (co-Director of Programs and Director of Communication). Mary is also a professional genealogist, speaker, author, and the Founder of ORIGINS ITALY. She is the co-author of *Tracing Your Italian Ancestors* an 84-page Italian research guide published by Moorshead Magazines. In addition to her Italian ancestry on her father's side, Mary also has deep American roots (German, Irish, and Danish & English) on her mother's side and is a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Massachusetts Genealogical Council

2016 MGC Seminar

www.massgencouncil.org

April 2016

Date of Seminar

- Saturday, April 16, 2016
- Sunday, April 17, 2016
- You may attend one or both days

Location

- Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Marlborough, Massachusetts. Routes 495/20
- Arrangements will be made to pick up attendees at the Westborough Commuter Rail Station
- Hotel rooms are available at the Courtyard under the MGC rate for \$134 per night plus tax

Included

- Printed Syllabus
- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch
- Raffle prizes
- Free Parking
- Luncheon Topic Tables (reserved on arrival at the seminar)

Price

- \$75 for Saturday
- \$85 for Sunday

Speakers (see our website for additional information)

Saturday

Session 1 (9:00-10:00)

Mary Ellen Grogan: *Irish Genealogy - What Do You Do with the Records Available*

Margaret Sullivan: *A Needle in a Haystack: A Case Study in Identifying 19th Century Ancestors*

Diane Florence Gravel: *Internet Genealogy: Separating the Trash from the Treasure*

Session 2 (10:30-11:30)

Mary Ellen Grogan: *Irish Genealogy, Analysis, Evidence, and Using All Sources*

Eva Grizzard: *Taking Care of your Documents and Photographs*

Pam Eagleson: *Obituaries in Genealogical Research & Their Role in American Culture*

Lunch (12:00-1:45)

Mary Tedesco: *Genealogy Roadshow (PBS): Behind the Scenes*

Session 3 (2:00-3:00)

Helen Schatvet Ullmann: *Using FamilySearch Effectively, part 1*

Elizabeth Carroll-Horrocks: *Massachusetts State Library for Genealogists*

Rhonda R. McClure: *Using your Computer for Genealogical Analysis*

Session 4 (3:15-4:15)

Helen Schatvet Ullmann: *Using FamilySearch Effectively (what you don't know)*

Marian Pierre-Louis: *Looking After the Poor: Finding Your Ancestors in New England Poverty Records*

Barbara Mathews: *The Family History Narrative: Hooking your Readers, Gaining their Trust*

Sunday: CeCe Moore, internationally known expert and lecturer on the use of DNA for family history will be the featured speaker at this all-day seminar.

The Power of DNA: Genetic Genealogy Basics

Who Am I: Exploring Ethnicity Estimates

Digging Deeper with Autosomal DNA

DNA Stories from "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr."

How to register or contact us for more information

Full information is on our website. Go to our home page at massgencouncil.org.

Use the online registration form and register by credit card or print the registration form and mail it to us with a check or credit card number.

Contact us for more information at program@massgencouncil.org.

We hope you will join us for two very instructive seminars!

MGC 2016 Seminar

Public Transportation Information

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO THE COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT HOTEL

75 Felton Street, Marlborough, Mass.; western corner of Routes 20/ 495

MBTA Commuter Rail outbound from Boston on the Worcester Line on both Saturday and Sunday

Train leaves South Station at 6:40am and makes all station stops between Boston and Westborough. Train arrives Westborough Station at 7:50am. We will make arrangements for transportation between Westborough Station and the Marriott Hotel. We will need notice that you are using this option. We will be sending out an email to all registrants closer to the conference so that you can tell us if you are using this route. Be aware that Saturday trains commonly only open the car at the front of the train for passengers.

On the return trip, train leaves Southborough at 4:55pm and arrives at Boston at 6:00pm. Again we will arrange transportation to the station.

Metrowest Regional Transit Authority provides local bus service between their hub in Framingham (near the Commuter Rail Station) and Marlborough (www.mwrta.com)

The Marlborough service is on Route 7. The stop would be Route 20 and Felton Street. Service on Saturday is less frequent than on weekdays so this is not as convenient as the Commuter Rail. However, if you anticipate coming out on Friday and spending the night, it is a good option.

Peter Pan Bus Lines runs a weekday commuter bus from Marlborough to Boston

The bus arrives in the early evening in Marlborough at the corner of Granger Blvd and Newton Streets. It is a short walk to pick up the Route 7 MWRTA bus to the hotel.

OUTREACH TO SOCIETIES

By Sharon Christenson



Sharon Sergeant, MGC Vice President, presented an overview of the history of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council to the New England Chapter of AAHGS. She shared our many successes and milestones over the years as well as a few frustrations encountered along the way. This talk was given to help AAHGS NE members so they would know MGC better and to emphasize the importance of MGC's work in monitoring legislation and keeping public records open for genealogists. A packet of information was shared at the meeting and will be made available via email to members of the New England Chapter. The packet includes a graphic showing how a bill progresses through the legislature, making the process a little easier to understand and follow. MGC thanks Stella Pierce, President of AAHGS New England, for the opportunity to participate in their chapter meeting.

And many thanks to her members for their warm hospitality. Please get in touch with Sharon Christenson, publicity@massgencouncil.org, to invite MGC to a meeting of your group.

Sign Up NOW!!

**Massachusetts Genealogical Council
Seminar, April 16 and/or 17, 2016
Courtyard by Marriott Hotel,
Marlborough, Massachusetts**

Individual Mail Registration

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Special Requirements:

- ☐ I need a large print syllabus
☐ I need a seat in the front of the meeting room
☐ Other - email program@massgencouncil.org with those needs.
We will do our best to accommodate you

Days Attending;

☐ Saturday (\$75) ☐ Sunday (\$85) Total: _____

Please make check payable to: Massachusetts Genealogical Council

Mail check and registration form to: Massachusetts Genealogical Council
P.O. Box 5393
Cohituate, MA 01778-5393

We will be contacting you by email with additional information closer to the event such as driving directions, public transportation and plans for a Saturday night dinner at The Wayside Inn. Please check the website for updates and more information on the seminar.

Register Online Now!

www.massgencouncil.org

FEDERAL RECORDS REPORT

By Barbara J Mathews, CG, FASG; Director of Federal Records

The national Records Preservation and Access Committee initiated a new blog, "Records Advocate," at www.recordsadvocate.org.

Already there are three new posts:

- Welcome to the Records Advocate Sponsored by RPAC!
- You Can Help Keep Records Accessible! Sign the Genealogists' Declaration of Rights!
- Data Privacy Regulations in the European Union



Photograph by the Architect of the Capitol, 19 Dec 2011, posted on [Flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/architectofthecapitol/).

We now link to the most recent blog posts from Records Advocate from the homepage of our own webpage. Check out the links in our right-hand column. You can also have an email subscription to this new blog by clicking on the Subscribe button on its homepage.

If you are on Facebook, you can Like the Records Advocate page at <https://www.facebook.com/recordsadvocate/>

MGC Is Following Two Federal Bills

With the focus on presidential primaries recently, we've detected no action on either of the bills we are following.

<i>S 1073</i>	"A Bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes."	No action since the Senate Committee on Homeland Security read the bill, added amendments, and passed it back to the full Senate with a favorable recommendation in July 2015.
<i>HR 2003</i>	"A Bill to amend the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012, including making changes to the Do Not Pay initiative, for improved detection, prevention, and recovery of improper payments to deceased individuals, and for other purposes."	This bill remains in the House Ways and Means, and the House Oversight Committees where it has been with no action since April 2015.



MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE NEWS

By Teresa Scott, Director of Massachusetts Records

Public Records Law

MGC is closely monitoring the progress of legislation designed to change Massachusetts' public records law that is considered by many to be among the weakest in the country. Many groups, including the Massachusetts ACLU, the Massachusetts Freedom of Information Alliance, Common Cause Massachusetts, and the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association, are working to reform the law allowing greater and easier access to public records in Massachusetts.

Currently, the House has passed H3858, An Act to improve public records. The proposed legislation was significantly changed as it made its way through the House in response to complaints by municipalities that they would be burdened by the terms of the previously proposed legislation. The Senate will be voting on their version of the bill, S2120, An Act improving the administration and enforcement of the public records law, on Thursday, February 4. It is expected to pass which will then require the two branches to meet in conference to iron out the differences in the two bills.

Both bills require that state agencies and municipalities designate a records access officer and that records be provided in electronic format whenever possible. The bills also limit the fees charged for hard copies and the preparation of materials. Unfortunately, both bills retain the current exemption for the legislature, the judiciary, and the governor's office.

So what are the significant differences between the two bills? The Senate requires attorneys' fees be awarded to successful challengers of a denial whereas the House version leaves it up to the judge to award such fees. The Senate also imposes punitive damages up to \$5,000 for noncompliance. The House timetable requires responses to requests be made within 10 business days but allows the response process to take up to 60 days for state agencies and 75 days for municipalities. The Senate requires compliance within 15 days, up to 30 days if more complex, and provides a 30-day extension of good cause is shown.

MGC Asks Your Support for Legislation

MGC has put forth three pieces of legislation currently stalled in committees and supports a bill put forth by the Secretary of State. H2820 would eliminate the restriction on records of those born out of wedlock; restricts exemption of personnel and medical files to only those of living persons; and would remove the restriction on public inspection of records after 75 years. This legislation is stalled in the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. MGC's legislation, S1069 and S1629 would do much the same as H2820 (although S1629 would only open records older than 90 years) but are currently stalled in the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government and the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, respectively. Our bill, S1630, would provide for a non-certified copy of records for genealogical purposes thereby lowering the cost of historical research and is currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight. We urge Massachusetts' citizens to check if their representative or senator are on these committee and then contact them to urge their support of H2820 and S1630.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE MONITORING STATUS

By Teresa Scott, Director of Massachusetts Records

Bills the MGC supports:

****S1629 – An Act relative to records open to public inspection** – Opens all records, 90 years or older, in the custody of the state secretary. Sponsored by Kenneth J. Donnelly (by request). *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

****S1630 – An Act to lower the cost of creating record copies for historical researchers** – Provides a non-certified copy for genealogical purposes. Sponsored by Kenneth J. Donnelly (by request). *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

****S1069 – An Act to end the stigmatization of out-of-wedlock births** – Eliminates restricted access to out of wedlock birth records. Sponsored by Kenneth J. Donnelly. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government.*

H2821 – An Act relating to creation of a municipal records commission – Establishes a special commission to examine the status, maintenance, preservation, and storage of municipal records in the Commonwealth with support and advice from the Massachusetts Archives. Sponsored by Angelo M. Scaccia. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H2822 – An Act relating to the public records law – Provides authority to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, supervisor of records, or any officer designated by the Secretary to investigate violations or enforce the public records laws. Sponsored by Angelo M. Scaccia. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H3858 – An Act to improve public records – Regulates the access to public records by designating a records access official, outlining procedures to fulfill requests, and imposes penalties for failure to fulfill requests. (Previously H3665 which had previously incorporated H2772 and S1676.) *Currently approved by the House. The Senate is considering their own legislation.*

S2120 – An Act improving the administration and enforcement of the public records law – Regulates the access to public records by designation a records access officer, outlining procedures to fulfill requests, and imposes penalties for failure to fulfill requests. *Has been placed on the Orders of the Day for 4 February 2016 for a vote.*

S1144 – An Act relative to equal access to original birth certificates – Eliminates the date restriction on adoptees obtaining birth information. Sponsored by James B. Eldridge. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

S1633 – An Act improving access to public records – Provides for the designation of records access officers by each State agency and provide access to public records. Sponsored by James B. Eldridge. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

S1700 – An Act relative to obtaining information – Provides that custodians of public records comply within 10 days and the process for pursuing claims for failure to do so. Sponsored by Kathleen O'Connor Ives. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

**** Bills put forth by MGC.**

Full text of each of the above-listed bills can be found on the Massachusetts' Legislature website – www.malegislature.gov.

Massachusetts Legislative Monitoring Status (Con't):

Bills the MGC are simply monitoring:

*****H2820 – An Act relating to technical corrections*** – Removes entities receiving or expending funds for state pensions from the definition of public records. Eliminates the restriction on records of those born out of wedlock. Also restricts exemption of personnel and medical files to only those of living persons. *Caveat:* Restricts public inspection of records to “after the expiration of seventy-five years from creation of the record.” Sponsored by Angelo M. Scaccia. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H1051 – An Act relative to preserving Polish heritage in the Pioneer Valley – Establishes a commission to investigate the establishment of a heritage institute at University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Sponsored by Peter V. Kocot. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Higher Education.*

H1265 – An Act relative to public records requests – Increases the fines on public officials for failure to perform their duties with respect to public records from \$20 per month to \$100 per month. Sponsored by Diana DiZoglio. *Currently before the Joint Committee on the Judiciary.*

H1962 – An Act relative to the vital records trust fund – Apportions money received from the payment for certified copies issued by town or city clerks and establishes the Secure Vital Registry Trust Fund to be expended by the department of public health. Sponsored by Denise C. Garlick. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

H2034 – An Act preserving date of birth from city and town records – restricts date of birth for individuals in city or town public records to only the year of birth. Sponsored by Elizabeth A. Poirier. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

H2045 – An Act granting equal access to original birth certificates to all persons born in Massachusetts – Removes the date restrictions for adopted children to obtain original birth information. Sponsored by John H. Rogers and Michael F. Rush. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

H2716 – An Act further regulating access to public records – Establishes a public records division within the office of the secretary of the commonwealth and a commission of public records. Sponsored by Antonio F. D. Cabral. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H2717 – An Act to improve access to public records – Regulates electronic recordkeeping systems and that every state agency has a records access officer to respond to requests for access to public records. Sponsored by Antonio F. D. Cabral. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H2755 – An Act relative to public record fines – Provides a time limit for public records custodians to comply with requests and increase fines of such officials to \$100 per month. Sponsored by Bradford R. Hill. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H2794 – An Act relative to restricted vital records – Removes restrictions on out of wedlock birth returns but leaves in place certain other restrictions. Sponsored by Michael J. Moran. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

H2807 – An Act to maintain the integrity of the public records law – Expands the application of the public records law to non-profit corporations formed by political subdivisions. Sponsored by Angelo J. Puppola, Jr. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

**** Bills put forth by MGC.**

Full text of each of the above-listed bills can be found on the Massachusetts' Legislature

Massachusetts Legislative Monitoring Status (Con't):

Bills the MGC are simply monitoring (Con't):

H3862 – An Act relative to modernizing the Registries of Deeds – Requires the keeping of an entry book of registered land, in book or electronic form, by an assistant recorder. Appears to be uninteresting but Norfolk County Registrar of Deeds testified in favor of the bill which he believes would allow him to digitize deeds and then destroy the originals! (Previously H1493). Sponsored by the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. *Currently before the House Committee on Ways and Means.*

S1641 – An act amending public records law -- A minor technical restriction. Sponsored by Ryan C. Fattman. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

S1638 – An Act enhancing access to electronic public records – Regulates electronic recordkeeping systems and enhances access to public information contained therein. Sponsored by James B. Eldridge. *Currently before the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight.*

Bills the MGC will oppose:

H1942 – An Act to protect personal information – Expands current restrictions on out of wedlock, etc. births to all birth records such that a person can only seek his own record (or their attorney, guardian, parent). The provision would not apply to records before 1 January 1841. Sponsored by Kimberly N. Ferguson. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

H2036 – An Act relative to access to certain birth records – Limits access to records and returns of children born out of wedlock only where the infant was given up for adoption or the name of the father is not listed. Sponsored by Elizabeth A. Poirier. *Currently before the Joint Committee on Public Health.*

Full text of each of the above-listed bills can be found on the Massachusetts' Legislature website – www.malegislature.gov.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY WORKSHOP

By Barbara J Mathews, CG, FASG; Director of Federal Records

MGC Boston Public Library Workshop December 7, 2015

By Barbara Mathews



Photo Credit:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Massachusetts_State_House_7.JPG

Sharon Christenson and Barbara Mathews presented a two-hour workshop at the Boston Public Library a few weeks before the winter holidays. Sharon started with an overview of the history of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council, from its start as a committee within the Massachusetts Society of Genealogists, to its incorporation as a separate entity. She covered our successes and our frustrations, making a great case for the importance of a group active in monitoring the legislation. The second hour used a great new graphic showing how a bill progresses through the legislator, passing through committees, readings, evaluation, and votes.

MGC thanks the Social Sciences Department of the Boston Public Library for their support of our public education endeavor. We had a dozen attendees from around Massachusetts. They were eager to understand the process and told us they learned a lot.

We'd be happy to present one or both hours of this program to any of our member societies. Please get in touch with Sharon Christenson, publicity@massgencouncil.org, with any queries or questions.

Spotlight on Supporting Organizations

The Irish Ancestral Research Association - TIARA

By Susan Steele

TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association) established in 1983 as a non-profit organization, promotes the growth, study and exchange of ideas among people and organizations interested in Irish genealogical and historical research and education.

TIARA's monthly meetings encourage this exchange of ideas. Ten yearly meetings feature a diverse group of speakers. These meetings are usually held at the Mandel Center for the Humanities, Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. All are welcome to attend.

TIARA issues a quarterly newsletter featuring research strategies, member stories and articles of Irish and general genealogical interest. TIARA's website includes information on TIARA activities, member projects and a surname database. A library at TIARA's Auburndale office includes unique Irish interest books and CDs.

TIARA leads research trips in both the US and Ireland. Trips to Dublin and Belfast take place on an annual or biennial basis. Research assistance is provided before and during trips. Domestic trips have included Salt Lake City and New York City.

TIARA has joined The Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) in planning a second Celtic Connections Conference. This year's conference entitled "Celtic Roots Across America" will bring together those interested in all aspects of Celtic culture, through genealogy, history, music and literature. The two-day event will include 20+ lecturers and presentations by well-known experts and will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on August 5-6, 2016. See www.celtic-connections.org for details.

TIARA members have been involved in numerous preservation efforts including several cemetery transcription databases and the Foresters Project. Founded in 1879, to provide life insurance benefits for its members. The Massachusetts Catholic Order of Foresters accumulated thousands of records that included personal data, family information, physical examinations and beneficiary designations. Over a six-year period, volunteers indexed 27,000 records

before transferring ownership of these records to UMass Boston. TIARA volunteers continue to work with the Archives and Special Collections, Healey Library, UMass Boston in ongoing indexing of these records. See <http://blogs.umb.edu/archives/collections/foresters/> for a more completed description of the Foresters Project. TIARA members have also joined another UMass Boston volunteer effort - The Boston Police Strike Project. The goal of the 1919 BP Strike Project is to document and preserve the stories of the more than 1,100 police officers who were involved in this highly influential labor strike.

For more information about TIARA - contact, membership and project information: www.tiara.ie or write TIARA, 2120 Commonwealth Ave, Auburndale, MA 02466

Upcoming Meetings:

Friday, February 12, 2016: TIARA member Pam Holland, "Finding Cousins Using DNA? Tools and Case Studies for Exploring Your Autosomal DNA Matches".

Friday, March 11, 2016: James O'Toole, Author, Professor at Boston College
"Passing for White: Race, Religion and the Healy Family."



Spotlight on a Brand New Genealogy Lineage Society Group Descendants of Cape Cod and the Islands - DCCI

Descendants of Cape Cod and the Islands (DCCI) came about through a discussion on 17 May 2015 between Shari Kelley Worrell, Heather Welty Speas and Kimberly Ormsby Nagy, MD, with regards to the possible reorganization of the hereditary society, *Sons and Daughters of Nantucket*. Within a week of that discussion, a new lineage group had emerged with a founding Board in place.

It was decided to expand the ancestral area to encompass all of Cape Cod along with Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard and Elizabeth Islands. Karen Avery Miller suggested the new inclusive name of the society.

The new society quickly established eligibility, purpose and objectives, bylaws and articles of incorporation, an application form, brochure and other necessary forms.

The society was officially organized in the state of Illinois on 10 June 2015. Since then, 115 members from 34 states and 3 countries have been approved and continues to grow. In addition, key advisors were also appointed by the President General, Shari Kelley Worrell. The society's newsletter, *The Lighthouse*, was created, and premiered September 2015.



The society will hold its first annual meeting the weekend of October 28-30, 2016 in historic Sandwich at The Dan'l Webster Inn.

The first project of the society was the decision to offer for sale note cards and poster prints of Cape Cod Lighthouses by Bev (Mueller) Schreiber (1948-2014). The preservation fund for the Highland Light (oldest and tallest lighthouse on Cape Cod), located in North Truro, MA, was selected as the recipient of proceeds from the sale of these items. DCCI made its first donation of \$250 on 17 November 2015.

Purpose

The Society is organized exclusively for charitable, and educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Membership Eligibility

Membership is extended to men and women 18 years of age or older who are direct lineal descendants of an ancestor who was a resident, owned land, conducted a business or trade, or performed military or civil services prior to 31 December 1699, within the boundaries of present-day Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.

The following is a partial list of acceptable activities for eligibility:

- Ancestor resided and/or owned land in what is now Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.
- Ancestor engaged in trade or commerce in what is now Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.
- Ancestor established a trading post in what is now Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.
- Ancestor engaged in some of the initial surveying and exploring activities in what is now Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.
- Ancestor served as a court judge hearing cases pertaining to what is now Cape Cod, Elizabeth Islands, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket.

More information about the Descendants of Cape Cod and the Islands can be found on their webpage, Facebook Group Page, or by contacting DCCI President General, Shari Kelley Worrell.

Facebook Group Page Name:
Descendants of Cape Cod and the Islands

Website:
www.descapocodandislands.org

President General Shari Kelley Worrell
email: shariworrell@aol.com

Renew Your Support

SUPPORT MGC



MASSACHUSETTS
GENEALOGICAL
COUNCIL

P.O. Box 5393
Cohituate, MA 01778-5393
www.massgencouncil.org

info@massgencouncil.org

Safeguarding access to public records since 1980 and providing related educational opportunities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MGC:

- is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization
- is an all volunteer umbrella organization representing Massachusetts genealogists, historical societies, libraries and researchers concerned about records preservation and civil records access.
- sponsors annual educational opportunities to all genealogists in the form of programs or seminars

MGC NEEDS YOUR HELP to cover operating costs including:

- website maintenance and operation
- printing and distribution of materials related to records preservation and access
- participation at genealogical events to educate and promote records access
- testifying at public hearings

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PERTINENT FIELDS

☐ **INDIVIDUAL** (unlimited access to website, online newsletter, blog)

Donation: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$ _____

Name:

Email address:

Address:

City/State/Zip

Phone:

☐ home

☐ cell

☐ work

MGC is an all-volunteer organization. Can you help in these areas?

☐ Monitoring Legislation ☐ Education & Events ☐ Publicity ☐ Newsletter ☐ Fundraising

Contact president@massgencouncil.org for more information re: Organizations/Libraries

☐ **ORGANIZATION** (featured on website, newsletter & blog, eligible for records access presentation & vendor table when available, sends delegates to participate at MGC Board meetings.) Donation: ☐ \$ _____

☐ **LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION ONLY** (will receive paper copy of newsletter, may nominate a library delegate to attend MGC Board meetings.) Donation: ☐ \$20

Name of Organization/Library

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone:

Website:

Email:

President's name:

Email:

MGC Delegate:

Email:

• All Donations are tax-deductible and contributors will receive written acknowledgement of all gifts

DONATE by Mail:

- Make check payable to: Massachusetts Genealogical Council
- Print form and mail to: Susan Tellier, Treasurer
206 Beacon Park, Webster, MA 01570

DONATE Online:

Due to planned website updates, online payment will not be available until Spring 2016

• MGC Supporter News •

Important Information

For ALL Supporting Individuals and Organizations

With the new Massachusetts Genealogical Council status as a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization, the MGC board has made changes that will affect all of our Supporters as of 31 December 2015. After that date MGC will change from the current dues-paying model to an organization without required membership fees. You will no longer need a login designation to access the website. The information on the website is open to everyone.

We are, however, still requesting your annual financial support. All gifts from supporters will be 100% tax-deductible. In order to continue the vital work of preserving and expanding access to public records in Massachusetts, monitoring and proposing legislation to that effect and providing educational opportunities to genealogists, MGC needs your help. All of our participants are volunteers who give their time and expertise to make sure records are available to our use. No one receives a stipend. However, there are many

costs involved in maintaining our website, monitoring legislative activities in the Massachusetts and nationally, and providing education on the status of records availability that does cost money. This is why we are asking you to continue your annual support.

In the past, our roster boasts funding from over 100 individual Supporters and thirteen Supporting Organizations. So whether you have a history of backing MGC as an individual or as an organization, or are newly interested in the vital activities of our volunteers, you need only to visit the MGC website (www.massgencouncil.org) to access blogs, updates, announcements and newsletters. Please realize that in order to continue this important work, MGC will need all of our individual and organizational supporters now more than ever!

Your tax-deductible donation will allow MGC to continue the work that benefits the genealogical community in so many ways.

We recognize that a donation may be difficult for some; from you, we request your time. Right now, the website is being updated and we request that your supporter donation be sent by mail. A form is on page 13 of this newsletter, and on our website. In the future, you will be able to donate via our website through PayPal. Any offers of help should go to the Membership Director (membership@massgencouncil.org).

We know that most of our supporters have been with us for many years. That is a validation of the importance of our organization and we want it to continue. We are going to be investigating opportunities to provide more tangible thanks to our supporters. We sincerely hope that we can count on your continued support.

Contact membership@massgencouncil.org for any questions.

EDUCATION

MGC SEMINAR

You may have noticed that we have shifted the schedule of our seminars. Because of our heavy involvement with the New England Regional Genealogical Conference, held every two years, we've decided to hold our own seminar in the years when NERGC is not being held. That way New England will have a fine conference every year.

Sign up now for the 2016 MGC Seminar!!!



• Programs of Interest - MGC Supporting Organizations •

Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, Inc.

33 Marrett Road
Lexington, MA
781-861-6559
www.monh.org

Masonic Genealogy

Saturday, March 12, 2015, 10 AM-12 NOON

**Jeff Croteau, Manager of Library & Archives and
John Coelho, Archivist**

Jeffrey Croteau, Manager of Library & Archives, and John Coelho, Archivist, will provide you with the tools you need to begin your research on the Masons in your family's history. The workshop will include information on the types of Masonic records that exist, where they are located, and how they may be useful to genealogical research as it relates to Freemasonry. Participants will also learn how to use Masonic sources in conjunction with more traditional genealogical tools in order to implement effective search strategies.

Fee: \$15/museum members; \$20/non-members. Space is limited; registration is required by March 5, 2016. With questions or to register contact: programs@monh.org

(Program Information Credit: www.monh.org, Programs Section/Masonic Genealogy)

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA
617-523-0470
congregationallibrary.org

History Matters Series:

Migrations out of New England

February 18, 2016

**Unearthing the Working Class Origins of the
American Social Gospel**

March 2, 2016

***The Last Puritans* with Dr. Peggy Bendroth**

March 23, 2016

**Race, Revivalism, and the Making of a Religious Icon:
Inventing George Whitfield**

April 12, 2016

Information on how to register for these programs can be found on the Congregational Library & Archives Website.

MESSAGE FROM THE MGC NEWSLETTER EDITOR

By Kathleen Kaldis

It has been fun working on this edition of the MGC Newsletter. We are always looking for articles of interest or other interesting news from MGC Individual and Organizational Supporters. In addition, we are featuring a new section of this newsletter featuring new organizations that may interest the supporters of the MGC. Please spread the word about this newsletter. It would be a pleasure to print articles of interest in future newsletters.



Some Affiliate Societies at the Filming of Genealogy Roadshow

WE WISH TO THANK
 Afro-American Historical and
 Genealogical Society of New England
 Boston Public Library
 Cape Cod Genealogical Society
 Central MA Genealogical Society
 DAR Library
 Essex Society of Genealogists
 Falmouth Genealogical Society
 Jewish Genealogical Society of
 Greater Boston
 MA Society of Genealogists
 NE Chapter of APG
 NEHGS
 Scituate Town Library



MASSACHUSETTS
 GENEALOGICAL
 COUNCIL

Massachusetts Genealogical Council
 PO Box 5393
 Cohituate, MA 01778-5393