



Access — Education — Preservation

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2019

President's Column

By Barbara Mathews, CG, FASG



Welcome to the MGC Newsletter. We have a lot to tell you. We've been active on your behalf for the past year, organizing our seminar, monitoring legislation, and participating in planning for NERGC 2019.

Your support is important to us. It helps us to pay expenses for our webpage and our educational events. Most of all, it buoys us up when we testify before the legislature on your behalf.

The board met several times this year to discuss upcoming issues and to coordinate our planning. Among our new initiatives was the establishment of a DNA Committee, with Pamela Guye Holland (chair), David Allen Lambert and Susan O'Connor. DNA is a rapidly changing area of genealogy. We felt that we needed to understand how we could support genealogists in accessing these helpful records or in educating about privacy, ethics, and terms of service.

The 2018 seminar registration also marked the unveiling of our new website. I commend Richard Reid, our new webmaster, for his hard work to get this site up and running. Credit also goes to Susan O'Connor for developing the seminar pages and to Brigid O'Donnell for collaborating with Richard to get the registration system working smoothly. Next up for our website is its complete integration with our membership systems. In addition to this work, the board passed a stringent information security policy to keep your registration and membership information private.

STAFF CHANGES

Over the past fifteen months, we've accepted the resignations of Newsletter Director Mary Ellen Grogan, Communications Director Sharon Christianson, and Massachusetts Civil Records Director Teresa Scott. They each put in years of service to MGC and it was hard to see them go. After months of search, we recruited new volunteers to these important positions. In November the board approved Angela R. Schofield as Newsletter Director, Francine Crowley Griffis as Communications Director, and C. Yvonne Hickey as Massachusetts Civil Records Director. Each of them brings well-honed skills to their positions. We look forward to many years of fruitful



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President's Column..... 1
- Your Board..... 2
- 2018 Seminar..... 3
- 2018 Seminar Cont. 4
- Westborough Hospital
Records..... 5
- Federal Records Access... 6
- 2020 US Census6
- Greek Archives6
- Philips Library 7
- MA Records Access ,,,,... 8
- Berkshire Athenaeum..... 9
- Membership News..... 10
- Membership Form..... 11
- NERGC Update12

**Join Us At
NERGC
booth 703
April 3-6
2019
Manchester,
New Hampshire**

**Register online
www.nergc.org**



Mary Ellen Grogan and Barbara Mathews testify before the Administrative Oversight Committee in 2016.

The people on the board of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council are volunteers who work hard on your behalf, monitoring legislative activities and producing quality genealogy seminars. Please reach out to a member of the MGC Board or visit our website to explore available rewarding volunteer opportunities.

We always need people to help with publicizing our activities, learning more about bills in the Massachusetts and US legislatures, and working on our annual seminar. Don't underestimate your skills. If you can walk and lift a box, write an article or tweet about us, you're in! We need computer savvy people, writers, legislative advocates, coordinators, organizers, and communicators. Just tell us your skills and we will fit you in.

Send us an email if you are interested. We'd love to have you join a committee and learn about our work.

Contact MGC President, Barbara Mathews, CG, FASG

Email: President@MassGenCouncil.org

work together on your behalf.

2019 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

It's time to renew your membership to MGC. The membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st. The cost is \$20 per year for both individuals and institutions. We've set up the website to accept payments with credit cards. Just click on the PayPal link and you will be able to pay either with your own credit card or through your own PayPal account. Find the membership links for individuals or societies at: <http://www.massgencouncil.org/2017/join-our-community/>

For those of you who prefer to fill out a paper form, we've put one on page 11 in this newsletter.

NERGC 2019

We're looking forward to our activities in the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium's conference this coming April. It's in Manchester, New Hampshire. We will sponsor the Thursday luncheon with Jennifer Zinck as our speaker – focusing on DNA and the many issues it raises.

Stop by our booth in the NERGC exhibit hall, April 3-6, 2019. Whether or not you're a member, be sure to add your raffle ticket to the collection in our booth. You could win a registration to one or two days of our own upcoming seminar in 2020.

Thank you for your on-going support of MGC. We are all excited to be working on your behalf. We'll help make NERGC 2019 successful this year. Next year we'll put on our own MGC 2020 Seminar. And all along the way, we'll monitor records access issues for you.

Your Board

President : Barbara Mathews, CG, FASG

Vice President: Stella Pierce, Ed.D.

Secretary: Linda Maclver, MSLIS, M.Ed.

Treasurer: Susan Tellier

Program Director: Susan O'Connor

Communications Director: Francine Crowley Griffis

Civil Records Director/Federal: Kathleen Kaldis

Civil Records Director/Massachusetts: C. Yvonne Hickey

Membership Director: Brigid O'Donnell

Webmaster: Richard Reid

Newsletter Director: Angela R. Schofield

Archives Director: David Darby

Way & Means Director: Charlene Sokal, MSLS

AAHGS Delegate: Carolyn Saunders

AMG Delegate: Richard Reid

CMGS Delegate : Bonnie Sweatman

ESOG Delegate : Barbara Beake

Friends of Irish Research Delegate: Richard Reid

MSOG Delegate : position open

NEHGS Delegates: Anne Meringolo

WMGS Delegate: Dave Robison

The 2018 MGC Seminar

By Susan O'Connor

We had a wonderful time at the 2018 Seminar April 7-9 in Marlborough. It spanned two full days, with three tracks of speakers on day 1 and one speaker for four presentations on day 2. People expressed enthusiasm about the learning opportunities. A shout-out to our capable Program Director, Susan O'Connor, and to her team of people, including Brigid O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Grogan, Susan Tellier, Sharon Christianson, and Sharon Sergeant. They did a great job keeping things organized and making registration as painless as possible.



Susan O'Connor, Brigid O'Donnell, Mary Ellen Grogan, Barbara Mathews, Susan Tellier, and Sharon Christenson stand ready to register people early on Saturday morning. Photo by Linda MacIver.



Our member societies had booths in the exhibit hall. Here, TIARA provides information to attendees about their own upcoming Celtic Connections Conference. Photo by C. Yvonne Hickey.

Of course, we had the most brilliant presenters.

The Saturday program had three tracks.

One track was Jennifer Zinck, presenting four topics on DNA research. Another track focused on archives and libraries; there we learned about the collections at the American Antiquarian Society, the Springfield History Library and Archives, the Massachusetts Archives, the Commonwealth Library, and Digital Commonwealth. In our last track, we heard two lectures on following families in New York state, and two lectures on researching American Revolutionary and Civil War veterans. We had the MGC-members-only fireside talk from Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, on day 1. Dr. Jones then presented four in-depth and thought-provoking presentations from him on the second day.

Our Saturday luncheon program was a skit with audience participation. Our Civil Records Directors for Massachusetts (Teresa Scott) and Federal records (Kathy Kaldis), together with the President (Barbara Mathews), the MSOG Delegate (Yvonne Hickey), and a DNA committee member (David Allen Lambert) put on a skit, "Genealogy in 2092," the date on

which the 2020 census becomes public. Yvonne set up the audio visuals, including slides and leading the audience in their participation.

In Act 1, the three genealogists were attempting in 2092 to access the 2020 census, finding it inaccurate, and other records to back it up closed. Along strolled the NEHGS Genealogist (David Lambert, playing himself), who told them if anyone was going to change that, it would have been their grandmothers in 2018. The audience gave us our scene-changing Twilight Zone humming, while we hastily became our own grandmothers for Act 2. We looked at the issues we face today, like insuring accuracy in the 2020 census, being able to read cursive handwriting, and opening records to access. We vowed to make a difference. Yvonne queued the Twilight Zone music and we moved into Act 3, in which we were again in the future in 2092, but this time it wasn't dystopian. Instead it was a genealogists' utopia. We have wonderful access. Even the NEHGS Genealogist (playing



Barbara Mathews, Teresa Scott, Kathy Kaldis, and David Allen Lambert provide a dystopian view of 2092 genealogy research. Photo by Linda MacIver.

The 2018 MGC Seminar

himself) strolled in to report that his hip replacement surgery had been successful.

Our luncheon speaker on Sunday was Charles Price of Lexington, Massachusetts. He has been a member of the Lexington Minutemen for 40 years, playing the part of Prince Estabrook, a slave of the Estabrook family. He discussed the Battles and the role his status as an enslaved person played in his participation. He also told us about the policies of the fledgling country towards slaves and the politics used by the English to attract slaves to their side. It was an eye-opening experience.



Charles Price of Lexington portrays Prince Estabrook, a slave who fought in the Revolution. Photo by Linda MacIver.

OUR HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

This wonderful event was made possible by our generous sponsors. All are member societies who have supported us more than once, giving us the wonderful chance to provide a full and robust conference.

Gold level sponsors: the New England Historic Genealogy Society, and the New England Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Silver level sponsor: The Irish Ancestral Research Association.

Bronze level sponsor: the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston.

THE 2020 MGC SEMINAR

The Program Committee has already started its work planning the 2020 seminar. Stop by booth 703 at NERGC 2019 to pick up our Save-the-Date flyer.



At the end of Sunday, the Program Committee paused with Dr. Jones to give delighted fist pumps. Back row, left to right, Thomas Jones, Brigid O'Donnell, Barbara Mathews, Susan Tellier. Front row, Mary Ellen Grogan, Susan O'Connor, Sharon Christianson, and Kathy Kaldis. Photo by C. Yvonne Hickey.



Attendees Connie Reik, Pat Gales and Kathleen Rubano at our 2018 seminar catch up with each other in the hallway. Photo by C. Yvonne Hickey.

WESTBOROUGH STATE HOSPITAL RECORDS

By Barbara J. Mathews, CG, FASG, and Charlene Key Sokal, MLIS

Westborough Insane Asylum

Also known as the State Lunatic Hospital, Westborough State Hospital, and the Massachusetts State Hospital.

The Westborough facility provided homeopathic treatment and took in patients from other hospitals who wanted this type of treatment. In 1939 it began using physicians from regular medical schools.

For information on its closure in 2010, see Lee Hamel, "[Westborough State Hospital Set to Close](http://asylumprojects.org/index.php/Westboro_State_Hospital_set_to_close)," *Telegram and Gazette*, Worcester, Mass., Sunday, 11 April 2010. (http://asylumprojects.org/index.php/Westboro_State_Hospital_set_to_close)

Institution	Record Type	Direct Link to Item
Westborough Insane Asylum	Inpatient Registers	
	v. 1 (1886-1891)	FHL DGS 8093554, item 3
	v. 2 (1891-1898)	FHL DGS 8093554, item 4
	v. 3 (1898-1905), first part	FHL DGS 8093554, item 5
	v. 3 (1905), second part	FHL DGS 873427, item 1
	v. 4 (1905-1910) is missing	
	v. 5 (1910-1915)	FHL DGS 8073427, item 2
	v. 6 (1915-1918)	FHL DGS 8073427, item 3
	v. 7 (1918)	FHL DGS 8073427, item 4
Westborough Insane Hospital	Institutional Registers	
	v. 16 (1886-1891), first part	FHL DGS 7833945, item 8
	v. 16 (1891-1902), last part	FHL DGS 8093555, item 1
	v. 17 (1902-1907)	FHL DGS 8093555, item 2
Westborough State Hospital		Massachusetts State Archives, record group
	Inpatient commitment registers, 1886-1926*	HS7.04/1115X
	Inpatient case files, 1886-1960, 1970-1977*	HS7.04/173X
	Inpatient histories, 1886-1892	HS7.04/278X

*Deemed restricted. Call the Massachusetts State Archives for access guidelines, 617-727-2816.

We can look at the experience of one woman, Fannie E. Johnson, to understand more about the patient and institutional registers at Westborough. [In volume 3, on an unnumbered page, as patient number 4714](#), we learn that Fannie was admitted on 15 October 1900 for “man ac” [acute mania] and was deemed “recovered” and discharged on 21 January 1901. Her commitment had been ordered by a district court but we don’t learn which court, where she was born, or where she had been living. Fannie, however, had a second hospitalization in Westborough. [In volume 17, p. 1, as patient number 5199](#), we see that this is her second hospitalization. We learn that Frances “Fannie” E. Johnson had been sent there by a District Court, but this time the register shows it was Quincy District Court. She was a 55-year-old widow who had been born in Gonic, New Hampshire [a neighborhood of Rochester]. She had been living in Brookline and Quincy. The town was paying the hospital costs. Admitted on 1 April 1902, she was discharged on 13 May 1910 when she was removed by the Trustees. The comment “Rec.” probably means that she was considered recovered. During her second hospitalization, the register contains no space for a diagnosis. Further research in [Massachusetts Death Records on Ancestry](#) shows that Frances E. Johnson died 25 August 1911 probably from a heart condition although she had no regular medical care. She died in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and is buried in Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

We are working on a series of blog posts that go over the oldest state institutions, providing some background information and links to catalog entries. Please check back with us for our upcoming posts.

FEDERAL RECORDS ACCESS REPORT

By Kathy Kaldis, Director of Civil Records/Federal

FAMILYSEARCH MICROFILM-TO-DIGITAL MIGRATION PROGRAM UPDATE

We have learned more about records access at FamilySearch Affiliate Libraries. The original FamilySearch plan was that affiliate libraries would have full access to the digitized materials, but currently this is not the case.

FamilySearch is doing what they can to mitigate the restriction of records as they negotiate new contracts with the owners of the record collections. However, the reality has been that affiliate libraries have **4% less access** to certain record collections since many of the records that had once been available to Affiliate Libraries on microfilm are not available to them in digital format. Of that 4% are some of the most used collections within the genealogical community. *One example is the New York City Municipal Vital Records Collections.*

It is essential to keep in mind vital records laws in the jurisdictions in which the records originated may have changed since they were filmed many decades ago. For example, records closure periods in the District of Columbia, were extended in 2018 to 125 years for births, and 75 years for deaths.

Digital records on FamilySearch have four categories of access permissions:

- 1) those that can be viewed only on microfilm at the FHL in Salt Lake City (never available for digital access);
- 2) those records which are viewable digitally both at FHL and at a local Family History Center (FHC);
- 3) those records which are viewable at FHL, any FHC, or a FamilySearch Affiliate Library (this could be NEHGS or your local library — if your local library has signed up); and
- 4) those which can be digitally viewed by the public when they are logged into their free FamilySearch online account.

There are fifty-three Greek Orthodox parishes within Massachusetts. The “Support Greek Archives!” initiative can be found at: <https://supportgreekarchives.wordpress.com> .

RECLAIM THE RECORDS FOIL PENDING REQUESTS

Wyoming, Missouri, New York City, New York State, and New Jersey.

See www.reclaimtherecords.org

GREEK ARCHIVES NEED SUPPORT

The Greek financial crisis has resulted in extreme budget cuts to government agencies, and Greek archival repositories are among them. This situation poses a significant threat to the preservation of historical documents and cultural ephemera under the purview of regional archive offices. Greek tax law hinders the donation of money to government agencies, although the donation of materials and supplies is acceptable.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 2020 CENSUS

For genealogists, the federal census is a serious tool for tracing individuals and families over the decades. Often it's the first tool we use when we encounter a new family. Its accuracy is of critical importance to us.

It takes a lot to ensure that accuracy, from improving the computerized technology infrastructure, to training the census takers, ensuring that all segments and neighborhoods are counted, and testing the whole thing up front to find unintended issues.

For 2020, this testing was limited. This is what the Census Bureau states:

The Address Canvassing portion of the 2018 Census Test took place in three sites: Bluefield-Beckley-Oak Hill, W.Va.; Providence County, R.D.; and Pierce County, Wash.

The enumeration phase of the 2018 Census Test (self-response, nonresponse follow-up, and group quarters), which took place in Providence County, R.D., has concluded.

As much as we love Rhode Island, a single location test site might not uncover issues found in inner cities, or on scattered farms and ranches. The Census Bureau cited budget issues. We'll keep on top of this topic. We want future genealogists to have accurate data.

NEW READING ROOM FOR THE PHILLIPS LIBRARY

❄️ FORMERLY IN SALEM, NOW IN ROWLEY ❄️



by Pamela Guye Holland

The Phillips Library, part of the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), recently reopened at its new, state-of-the-art facility. While no longer in Salem, the new building in Rowley, at 306 Newburyport Turnpike, consolidates all its holdings which previously were scattered in different buildings. The modern building has a beautiful reading room, plenty of free parking and welcomes researchers 6 days a week.

The library's collection contains Salem and Essex County materials as well as subject matter related to Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Oceanic, Native American and other cultures. Material that will especially interest genealogists includes documents from the Salem Witch Trials, ship log books, and maps. The library's catalog *Philcat* can be accessed at <http://pem-voyager.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/vwebv/searchBasic>

In October I got to go on a behind-the-scenes tour with colleagues from the New England Historic Genealogical Society. We first visited the reading room and were treated to some specially pulled manuscripts for us to look at. While it is a closed stack facility, the reading room does have some books you can browse. Other material will be retrieved by the staff and brought to you in the reading room. They also suggest you contact them prior to your visit so they can have your material ready.

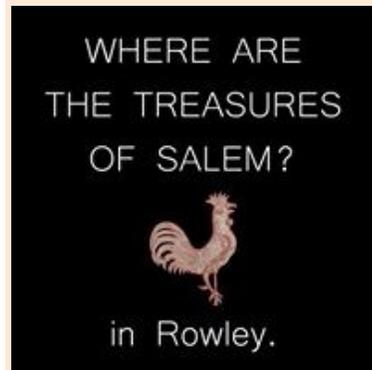


The rest of the huge facility is dedicated to conserving and housing its vast collection. Books and manuscripts are kept in climate-controlled rooms, are easy for staff to access and can now be carefully preserved. Before, many materials were almost inaccessible and not kept in climate-controlled environments. The staff is also working on digitizing many of its materials which was not feasible before moving to Rowley.

While not as much of an interest to genealogists, the remainder of the building houses the PEM's art collection. Some of these rooms felt like the closing shots from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

THE MUSEUM DID NOT INCLUDE THE PATRONS AS STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DISCUSSION ON THE MOVE TO ROWLEY

The Phillips Library has been inaccessible for years as the Peabody Essex Museum determined what to do with the original building in Salem, as well as the collections. Patrons were not included in the discussions. Loyal patrons opened a Facebook group to organize and to provide public feedback on the



move.

That Facebook group became the Friends of the Phillips Library. Its new webpage is here: <https://keephistoryinsalem.com>

In the months leading up to the PEM announcement, the Facebook group uncovered the history of the library, showing that it was comprised of several Salem institutions which were joined over time. Bequests made to those institutions were clearly intended to stay in Salem.

It was in 1992 that the Peabody Museum and the Essex Institute consolidated. The latter contained family materials submitted to the Essex Institute and its predecessor organizations over centuries.

The buildings used previously by the Phillips Library are historic. The museum provided a cost to attach a state-of-the-art archives facility to the historic homes, \$32 million, which was contested by architects consulting with the Friends group.

MASSACHUSETTS RECORDS ACCESS REPORT

UNDER THE GOLD DOME: THE TORCH PASSES TO THE 191ST GENERAL COURT,
LET THE LIGHT SHINE BRIGHT!

By C. Yvonne Hickey

On January 2nd, 2019, in 45 degree weather, and under sunny skies, the legislative bodies of the 191st General Court of Massachusetts were sworn into service, as they are every first Wednesday of an odd numbered year. Historically, the first order of business for both the House of Representatives and the Senate is to establish additional governance both independently and jointly. Some public records activists see this initial charge as an opportunity to address some unfinished business stemming from 2016. Currently the General Court of Massachusetts, the executive office of the governor and the judicial branch are not subject to public records law.

Chapter 121 of the Acts of 2016 was signed by Governor Baker (R) in the summer of that year, during the 189th General Court (<http://bit.ly/2TsOzROCHAP121>). Section 20 of this Session Law designated that a 14 member Special Legislative Commission on Public Records be formed, tasked with delivering a recommendation by the end of 2017 to "...examine the accessibility of information concerning the legislative process of the general court and the expansion of the definition of public records." At the end of 2018, as the 190th General Court closed, there stood a dozen members of the commission unable to agree to a joint recommendation.

However, on December 31st, 2018, a subset of the Special Legislative Commission, all from the Senate, submitted to then Senate Clerk, William Welch, a recommendation to be placed on file. The 58 page report can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2toS2eVSenate6>. It is officially filed as: Communication SD.2874 of the 190th General Court. It is penned by the following Senators: Walter F. Timilty (D), Paul Feeney (D), Joan B. Lovely (D), Cynthia Stone Creem (D), Donald F. Humason, Jr. (R) and Mark C. Montigny (D).

It is worth a read. In addition to recommendations offered by these 6 senators, you will find a written testimony supplied at the request of the Commission by Lawrence Friedman, a Professor of Law at New England Law, who teaches Constitutional Law, Information Privacy Law, National Security Law, and State Constitutional Law. The meeting minutes of the Commission are also included as well as benchmarking data from other states.

A more recent assessment of states, pertaining to records access, is contained in the "Open Government Guide" by the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, which can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/2Rz3VCDREPORTERS>. Massachusetts is not listed in the January 2019 newsletter, but many states are listed at the time of publishing this MGC Newsletter. Save the link and use the information in your genealogical research efforts. MGC will monitor developments pertaining to the above defunct Commission and encourages you to understand the alignment of those that serve you in the General Court of Massachusetts to issues that matter to you as a Genealogist.

In each Newsletter we'll highlight those you may wish to Follow for Freedom... of Information.* Follow these five today on Twitter:

[@MassBar](https://twitter.com/MassBar)

[@CommonCauseMA](https://twitter.com/CommonCauseMA)

[@MassNewspapers](https://twitter.com/MassNewspapers)

[@MaClerks](https://twitter.com/MaClerks)

[@SecretaryOfMass](https://twitter.com/SecretaryOfMass)

You should be following us already on Twitter:

[@MassGenCouncil](https://twitter.com/MassGenCouncil)

[@Yvonne_Hickey](https://twitter.com/Yvonne_Hickey)

*MGC is not responsible for, nor is endorsing, the content of these third parties.



Local Repository of Note: The Berkshire Athenæum, Pittsfield, MA

By Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy of New England

The building housing the current Berkshire County Registry of Deeds and Probate Court was the original location of what has always been known as the [Berkshire Athenæum](#). Founded by local influential families in the mid-19th century it was once not only a library but a museum. Not long after its opening, the building proved too cramped for the enormous collections of books and artifacts that came to reside there. The Crane family (think of the paper on which our currency is printed) funded the construction of what we know today as the Berkshire Museum in 1903. The phenomenal early growth is attributed to Harlan Ballard, the first Director. Since its inception, the Athenæum has been a haven of literacy, research, children’s activities, and a number of other public services. The transition from private to public funding began in the early 20th century.



In 1979, a young woman came to work at the Athenæum as a “benefitted part time evening assistant” and since 2000 has served as the Local History & Melville Collections Supervisor. Kathy Reilly has been the guide for many initiatives at the Athenæum. It is safe to say



that Kathy is largely responsible for the depth and breadth of the collections available, not the least of which involves the acquisition of the records of National Archives and Records Administration formerly housed at the Silvio

Conte Center which was defunded by the Federal Government several years ago.

Genealogical researchers here in Western Mass are well served by the Athenæum. The most important asset, of course, is a knowledgeable staff who are ready, willing, and able to assist anyone’s research needs. Most is available on a self-serve basis. The shelves are chock full of

collections: vital records of many cities and towns in Massachusetts, family genealogies, the catalogs of several Massachusetts genealogical societies, transcribed cemetery records, immigration records, the Drouin and Hale collections, naturalization records and much more. Other collections are searchable in digital indices. Search a large collection of vertical files containing such interesting collections as the 18th century sermons of Rev. Thomas Allen 1743-1810, written in a code yet to be deciphered!



The acquisition of the records of the NARA could be considered a *coup de généalogie!* All but parts of the Civil War and Spanish American War are available. These records are accessed only by staff. Much like retrieving records in Washington DC, you make a request and a few minutes later, it will be on the table for you.

Those of you familiar with NARA records will recognize the files shown here. They are the same files once housed at the Silvio Conte Federal Building in Pittsfield. The finding aid was written by Jean Nudd, an employee of NARA who now works out of the Waltham facility.

Pittsfield was the home of the famed author Herman Melville. He lived on an estate he called “Arrowhead” which had been occupied by the Melville family until the early 20th century. It is now owned and operated by the Berkshire Historical Society. The Athenæum houses one of the world’s largest collections of Melville memorabilia. Many of his books, pieces of his scrimshaw collection, whaling artifacts and even a passport that contains the signature of his friend Nathaniel Hawthorne.



The Berkshire Athenæum, a worthy destination!

MEMBERSHIP

By Brigid O'Donnell

New England is the last bastion of open records states. With your support MGC can continue to effectively serve the genealogical and historical communities. MGC welcomes both individual and organizational members. Both have access to our newsletters and are welcome at our board meetings. In addition, we ask organizational members to designate a delegate to participate actively in our meetings and to bring information about records back to their societies.

We make every effort to keep those with an interest in public records informed of the current state of legislative and regulatory activity that affects researchers. This is important because of the consistent and repeated efforts to close access to records.

**Renew or Join the
MGC Community Today!**

MGC has been recognized as tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Memberships are fully tax-deductible. All of our staff (officers, directors, and committee members) are volunteers. No one receives a salary. We do however have expenses to meet in order to support a webpage, and to engage in educational conferences.

We encourage our supporters to make a donation to MGC to help pay for our operating expenses which include website maintenance and operations, participation in genealogy events and conferences, testifying at public hearings, and printing and distributing information on subjects relating to access to records. We need you to join us! Non-voting membership supports our efforts on your behalf.

A Special Note to our PayPal Subscribers:
 If you set up PayPal to automatically send us your membership fee every year, make sure that you told PayPal to increase that fee to \$20.
 We increased our fees from \$10 to \$20 two years ago. PayPal won't change it until you tell it to. Thanks!





Massachusetts Genealogical Council
 • safeguarding access to public records since 1980 •
 P.O. Box 5393
 Cochituate, MA 01778-5393
 www.massgencouncil.org info@massgencouncil.org

MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL
access • education • preservation

A recognized 501(c)(3) all-volunteer umbrella organization representing Massachusetts genealogists, historical societies, libraries and researchers.

PRINT FORM and SUPPORT MGC by Mail:
 • **Make check payable to:**
 Massachusetts Genealogical Council
 Susan Tellier, Treasurer
 206 Beacon Park, Webster, MA 01570

or go to massgencouncil.org for electronic registration and payment

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

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL PERTINENT FIELDS

<input type="checkbox"/> MEMBER – INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION		January 1-December 31	
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (MGC minimum since 2017)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____	
Name of INDIVIDUAL:			
Email address:			
Address:			
City/State/Zip			
Phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> home	<input type="checkbox"/> cell	<input type="checkbox"/> work
Name of ORGANIZATION:			
Address			
City/State/Zip		Phone:	
Website:		Organization Email:	
President's Name:		President's Email:	
MGC Delegate:		Delegate's Email:	

Contact president@massgencouncil.org for more information re: Organizations/Libraries	
<input type="checkbox"/> LIBRARY - SUBSCRIPTION ONLY	Newsletter via online link or paper <input type="checkbox"/> \$20.00
Library Name:	Email:
Contact Person:	

<input type="checkbox"/> DONOR	• unrelated to membership dues •
<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____

MGC is an all-volunteer organization. Can you help in these areas?
 Monitoring Legislation Education & Events Publicity Newsletter Fundraising

Revised 1/22/2018



New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference

Thursday-Saturday, April 4-6, 2019

Manchester Downtown Doubletree Motel

Manchester, New Hampshire

Special Tracks on Wednesday

www.nergc.org

Registration now open!

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council is proud to be a member society of the New England Genealogical Consortium. Our board members have been working with the NERGC conference committee to plan a wonderful educational opportunity this April in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Come meet other MGC members at these activities:

- We'll have booth 703 in the Exhibit Hall, so drop by to say hi and to pick up our Save-the-Date flyer for the 2020 MGC Seminar.
- We'll be raffling a ticket to the full two days of our own Seminar in 2020, so drop off your raffle tickets for a chance to win this valuable prize.
- We're sponsoring lunch on Thursday, April 3rd. Be sure to add it to your own registration. Jennifer Zinck, a leading DNA specialist, will talk about the many issues surrounding testing.

Massachusetts Genealogical Council
PO Box 5393
Cochituate, MA 01778

www.massgencouncil.org

newsletter@massgencouncil.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



MASSACHUSETTS
GENEALOGICAL
COUNCIL