

## Legislative Activity — Stay Informed!

MGC regularly communicates with members about Massachusetts and federal legislative activities concerning records preservation and access. MGC does this several ways.

- ◆ Our website at [www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org)
- ◆ Our blog, the MGC Sentinel
- ◆ Panel discussions at MGC Seminars and the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium Conference (NERGC)
- ◆ MGC's Newsletter and electronic bulletins
- ◆ Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn

If you would like to help monitor the activities of the Massachusetts legislature, please contact our Director of Civil Records at [StateRecords@massgencouncil.org](mailto:StateRecords@massgencouncil.org).

To help with issues confronting the Social Security Death Index and other federal issues, email [FedRecords@massgencouncil.org](mailto:FedRecords@massgencouncil.org).

### MGC Seminar

MGC's Seminar has consistently offered top-notch speakers who discuss research and records access on subjects from repositories to technology to immigration to court records.

MGC partners with its member organizations, archives, and historical repositories throughout the state, as well as vendors, to provide an enriching educational experience to all attendees.

Not only that, breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee!

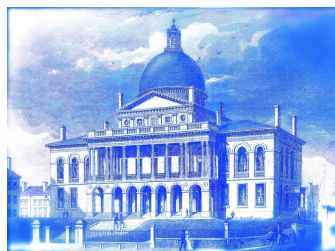


## MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL

### BODY OF LIBERTIES

Approved by the Massachusetts Bay Colony General Court in 1639 and published in 1641.

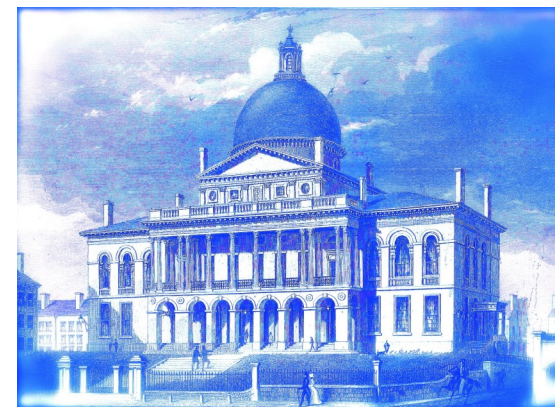
“Every inhabitant of the Countrie shall have free libertie to search or veewe any Rooles, Records, or Registers of any Court or Office except the Councill, And to have a transcript or exemplification thereof written examined, and signed by the hand of the officer or of the office paying the appointed fees therefore.”



November 2018



## MASSACHUSETTS GENEALOGICAL COUNCIL



**Safeguarding researchers'  
access to public records and  
providing educational programs  
for the genealogical community.**

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



## About MGC

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council was founded in 1980 and is the umbrella organization representing Massachusetts genealogists, historical societies, libraries, and researchers concerned about records preservation and free and unfettered access to civil records.

MGC serves as the records access watchdog and provides a reality check for the Massachusetts Legislature regarding access issues.

Thanks in large part to efforts by MGC, genealogists are able to access all Massachusetts vital records located in the State Archives in Dorchester.

Government-produced records are public records. Massachusetts enacted its first law ensuring that public records are open records in 1639. The public good is improved when historians, genealogists, journalists, authors, investigators, and other citizens, have access to records. Genealogists owe it to themselves to advocate for open public records.

Massachusetts Genealogical Council

P.O. Box 5393

Cochituate, MA 01778

info@massgencouncil.org

## Support MGC

New England is the last bastion of open records states. With your support MGC can continue to effectively serve the genealogical and historical communities.

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.

MGC works with the Federation of Genealogical Societies' Records Preservation and Access Committee to keep abreast of current issues nationwide and coordinate threats to access to records.

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 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.

## Become an MGC Member

January 1 - December 31

\$20 Annual Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ Donation

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City,  
State, \_\_\_\_\_

*For Organizations Only*

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate  
to MGC \_\_\_\_\_

Delegate's  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City,  
State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**Massachusetts Genealogical Council**  
Mail to:  
**MGC, P.O. Box 5393, Cochituate, MA 01778-5393**

Or donate online at [www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org)

Get involved with MGC! Please indicate your interest(s) below.

- Legislative - Monitoring Public Records access issues
- Publications - MGC Newsletter & Website
- Education & Events - MGC Annual Seminar
- Membership & Publicity - Help promote MGC

### Save A Tree

By default, the MGC quarterly newsletter is **emailed**. If you prefer a paper copy, please initial here: \_\_\_\_\_