

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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www.falgen.org

Newsletter
February – April 2007

President: John M. Caspole
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers
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The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

Program Notes From Meetings

Holdings of the American French Genealogical Library

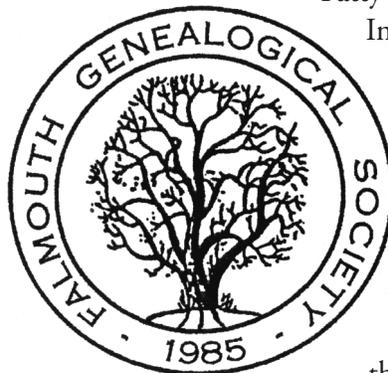
Talk presented by Patty Locke – November 11

by John M. Caspole

Patty Locke, who runs the research department at the American French Library in Woonsocket, RI, now in its 27th year of operation, spoke about the abundant resources available at this library about an hour away from Falmouth. The library is located in Woonsocket at 78 Earle Street West and is open Monday 11 to 4, Tuesday 1 to 9 and Saturday 10 to 4. More information can be found at its website www.afgs.org.

The AFGS has a large holding of parish books (reportories) and is constantly working to acquire more. It has more than 10,000 volumes of repertoires (marriage records), genealogies, biographies

and histories, as well as genealogical journals and publications of regional, national and international scope.



Patty spoke about the “Blue Drouin.” The Drouin Institute (l’Institut Généalogique Drouin) was a very prestigious institution. It was located for many years in Montréal, PQ and was the gold standard for genealogical research. In 1937, The Drouin Institute began a project to microfilm church and civil records and continued it until 1942. During that time, teams of people went to all the villages, towns and cities in the Province of Quebec and French speaking parts of Ontario, New Brunswick and even the United States.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Meetings for 2007

Saturdays, 10 a.m, Falmouth Senior Center, Dillingham Avenue*

- Feb. 10 Internet Genealogy Workshop
- March 10 Walter Hickey – What’s New at NARA?
- April 14 Barbara Jean Mathews, CG – Writing Your Family History
- May 12 Tales of Our Ancestors – Member Stories
- June 9 Annual Meeting – Midge Frazel – The Ellis Island Experience
- July 14 Summer Genealogy Workshop

*****Meeting Place Change*****

While the Renovation of the Falmouth Public Library is underway our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road from 2 to 4 p.m.

Women in the Seventeenth Century

Presented by Marge Gibson – December 9

At the December meeting Marjorie Gibson's topic was "Life for Women in 17th Century New England." She discussed the status of women, their daily living, laws of inheritance, marriage, divorce and witches.

Women were raised to obey their fathers and then their husbands at all times. It was believed that intellectual exercise would overtax their weak minds; however, they were taught to read the Bible but rarely to write. A woman was supposed to be submissive, charitable, virtuous and modest; women had to sit with their small children, apart from the men in the meetinghouse. Most women did live under these restrictions which is why it is so difficult to learn about them except from court records which should always be searched.

If a husband's status was lower than his wife's, his became hers after marriage. Women did not work; however, if a man was away or deceased, the wife might carry on his business, such as running the farm or possibly a tavern. Whatever money or goods a woman brought to her marriage belonged to her husband, and when her husband died she was only entitled to one-third of the property. She could not sell it as it was to go to her children or step-children at her death. Consequently, widows soon remarried as they usually had no means of support and widowers needed someone to care for them, their children and their households. Occasionally a man might agree to a prenuptial contract which entitled his wife to her own money and property that she had prior to marriage.

Unmarried young men and women had to live with a family and abide by the family rules. The punishment for adultery could be fines, banishment, whippings, having an "A" branded on the forehead, or in a few cases death by hanging. Sometimes the cause of a wife's infidelity was a husband's abuse or neglect. Although divorce was condemned, it was permitted in cases of adultery, incest, impotence or desertion if the spouse was absent for seven years. The latter was so that a woman could remarry which would prevent her family from becoming a town charge.

In "A Search for Power: The Weaker Sex in Seventeenth Century New England," author Kyle Koehler stated

that between 1620-1699 there were 129 petitions for divorce; 139 women innkeepers and liquor sellers; and about 315 persons, mostly women, accused of witchcraft. In addition, there were 112 men and 141 women captured by Indians, and 56 men and women who committed suicide from 1620 to 1709. Also, from 1620 to 1700 there were 35 women suspected of killing their children, mostly infants. One woman killed herself when she found she was pregnant with her 20th child. Clearly, 17th century New England was a very difficult and stressful place in which to live and maybe the reason so many early colonists returned to England.



Genealogical Workshop – January 12

This workshop is primarily for beginners but it often is an opportunity for anyone who has a problem in his or her research to ask any one of the more experienced members if they know of a possible solution. We break up to small groups, by ethnic groupings, using experienced members as facilitators, and by software or computer issues for those with problems associated with using these products. We find that the open discussion of any problem often generates more than one solution.



American French Genealogical Society

Continued from page 1

The result was a fabulous collection of primary source records including births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials ranging from the founding dates of a parish or town until 1940. In 1997 the American copyright for the film and the International copyrights for the books were purchased by The American French Genealogical Society of Rhode Island.

The Red Drouin books (now on CD) cover 1608-1760. Red Drouin contains abstracts of marriage records from Quebec. It lists bride, groom, parents, date of marriage and place of marriage. On marriage of first person who came to Canada, place of origin is also listed. The Petite Drouin is an overlap of the Red and Blue Drouins.

Continued on page 3

From the President

John M. Caspole

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New England Regional Genealogical Conference April 26-30 at Hartford, Connecticut

NERGC Program Highlights

Why attend a genealogical conference? Presentations and lectures by experts give you an opportunity to learn more about all aspects of genealogy. The eight separate tracks at New England CONNECTIONS are organized around these themes: Ethnic Genealogy, Federal Records at the National Archives, Genealogical Techniques, New England Research, Records and Sources, Skills and Methodology (how to manage your research), Technology, Writing and Documents. The lectures themselves range from introductory topics to more specialized sessions such as Megan Smolenyak's presentation, "Trace Your Roots With DNA." See the full program at <http://www.nergc.org/2007/program2007.htm>.

NERGC Hotel News:

Hartford Marriott Downtown (<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/BDLDT>) is at the Convention Center, 200 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. There are plenty of hotel rooms at the Conference Hotel for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights – April 26, 27, 28. Book as many nights as you can at the Conference



American French Genealogical Society

Continued from page 2

The King's Daughter is an intricately detailed depiction of the women who landed in Quebec between 1663 and 1673. Nearly 1,000 women were recruited by King Louis XIV to go to New France to marry and populate the colony. Most persons of French-Canadian ancestry can trace their lineage to many of these early settlers.

Patty's presentation was very comprehensive and interesting; so is the website and you can get a full description of all their resources. If I had French Canadian roots, I'd be sure to join AFGS.

Hotel; don't be left out of activities by being off-site during the evening hours. We want to fill our originally guaranteed rooms, and preferably the entire hotel, for the conference period. Those wishing to arrive a day early for Librarians' Day (April 25), or to settle in early for the conference which begins in earnest on Thursday should know that if you call the Marriott reservations center and request a room for Wednesday through Saturday nights, they'll tell you they are "full." What they mean is that only Wednesday is full! There is plenty of room on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at our special conference rate, and you need to persevere. For more information about the Conference, go to www.nergc.org.

Family History Center at Cataumet

Now Open every Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm.

After a brief break for the holidays our experts are staffing this center on Tuesday afternoons taking advantage of the great equipment and ordering microfilms from Salt Lake City center. Take your problem there and get help or expand your search capabilities accessing Ancestry.com.

North Falmouth Cemetery – News of Local Interest

The North Falmouth Cemetery Association (NFCA) oversees the old cemetery behind the N.F. Congregational Church. Longtime NFCA member and N.F. Village Assoc. historian Bill Dunkle prepared detailed layout drawings back in the 1990s. Such intricate works are extremely valuable, but not always adequately updated. Another person had done considerable work to put much of the lot ownership and burial info into an Excel worksheet. Thankfully, Steve Molyneau, the new project manager for NFCA, has these two valuable resources, but much needs to be done to update and clear up the records.

The Chair of the NFCA would like us to be able to digitize our plot layouts, with the goal to make updating the

Continued on page 4

Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



The holidays may have brought some of you new genealogical books. I was happy to have received two: *Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century* by Michael J. LeClerc and Henry Hoff, and *New Englanders in the 1600's* by Martin E. Hollick. The first will help me

record some of the research I've accumulated in a way that will help my family will understand and appreciate it! The second may help uncover some new names and generations in the early colonial years. We will suggest them for additions to the Falmouth Public Library.

Speaking of the Falmouth Public Library, we are looking for some volunteers to expand our Tuesday afternoon sessions so we can cover both the Family History Center in Cataumet and the Falmouth Public Library. If you would like to help, please call 508-548-3408. Our earlier issues with Cataumet have been resolved. We are being helped by an excellent church volunteer who is doing everything she can to acquire not just LDS microfilms, but also good computers, readers and printers. Anyone who has not searched the LDS films of original records should come see on a Tuesday.

On a more important and more immediate note, please do not throw out those Christmas cards without reading them closely. I find that mine are a treasure trove of important family data. For instance one card had the note, "I'm spending Christmas with my daughter Molly and new husband Dave in Chicago. They were married last August." Well, as family historian and record keeper, don't you want to contact the sender and find out Dave's name, birth information and the date and place of their wedding? Of course you do!

Another popular card is the annual family photo greeting. These can be saved (archived) by writing the names of the family members shown and the year on the back

of the card. A manila file with the family surname is a good place for these. These family photos can also be scanned and saved into your genealogical database if it supports photos. Family letters should also be saved, as over the years they track the family's activities and places of residences. Sometimes family migrations occur right before our eyes! We just don't call them that! Hopefully the letter will state why a move was made. There, now we've just found a way to clean up after Christmas and contribute to the family history files!



From the President

Continued from page 3

records faster and easier. Steve doesn't really see a way of doing so without purchasing an expensive software program such as AutoCad for plot sales, availabilities, ownerships, burials, etc. He would also like to find some spreadsheet-type program that would not only allow compiling the info, but also popping out sets of data such as available plots and owned plots pending future use. Steve is looking for a free application that might be helpful, but has not found a wide variety for sale. Steve says, "I certainly don't have up to \$500 or more to buy one! Anyone got a suggestion?"

Helpful Publications

There are lots of genealogical printed publications available: *New England Ancestors*, *NEHGS Register*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Ancestry Magazine* to name a few. You never know what you can learn from one to another. Unfortunately *Heritage Quest Magazine* went under several months ago but, as Marge Gibson reported in our Nov-Jan newsletter, it was taken over and now is back as *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. The current issue for Jan/Feb 2007 contains interesting articles on using historic maps, The Conquest of Ireland, Norwegian Naming System, Genline-Swedish records online, and a listing of Genealogical Societies and Libraries and other articles. Every issue seems to be getting better.

Continued on page 5

Plan to Attend This Wonderful Event: The New England Regional Genealogical Conference April 26–29 in Hartford

If you haven't done so already, consider attending this wonderful genealogical conference in April. For all the information about the upcoming event in Hartford, visit the NERGC Web page at <http://www.nergc.org/2007/ezine.htm>. More information is posted on the NERGC Blog, <http://www.nergc.org/2007/ezine.htm>.

The web page has lots of information, ranging from the conference schedule, bios and pictures of the speakers,

a floorplan of the Exhibit Hall, a list of exhibitors, and more. The Blog is up-to-date thanks to Jeannie Sherman of the Connecticut State Library staff. Try posting a comment "just for fun."

The full program brochure as well as the two page "flyer" are available in .pdf format on the NERGC web page, www.nergc.org and can be printed out.

Wanted: Stories for the Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter

As editor, I depend on contributions from members to create an interesting newsletter. To date, I've been very pleased to find stories and tips emailed to me that I can share with our members. Please consider sharing your breakthroughs and brick walls. Let us know what you're obsessing over this month. You will find lots of kindred spirits reading the newsletter who will enjoy your triumphs and tribulations and maybe respond with a tip.

Here's some of what's been keeping me going this month: I discovered in the 1841-1910 MA vital records recently posted on newenglandancestors.org that my gg-grandfather, Ivory Littlefield (b. 1809) remarried in Boston after my gg-grandmother Mary Ann Littlefield died. Similarly, I discovered that my gg-grandmother Ellen (Murphy) Carr remarried after my gg-grandfather Timothy Carr died. Even more exciting was opening an email from a recently-found cousin containing a picture of her great-grandmother who was the older sister of my grandfather, Edward F. Mahady, plus a picture of my grandfather and his funeral program which I already had. I've had such positive experiences finding cousins online. Not only are they instant friends but great resources.

Please email stories to me to share in the newsletter. Many thanks, Janet

JanetBChalmers@aol.com

From the President

Continued from page 4

Nova Scotia Vital Records

The following was copied from NEHGS eNews No. 300, December 13, 2006, On-Line Genealogist and is a potential resource for those with Nova Scotia ancestors. Question: Does NEHGS have vital records for Nova Scotia for the 1920s to the 1930s? Answer: NEHGS does not own microfilm or digital images of vital records that late into the twentieth century. In the near future Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management will be releasing twentieth-century records of deaths (1908-1955) and marriages (1912-1930) on their website. Birth records will be released after the passing of one hundred years (e.g., 1908 births will be released in

2008, etc.). NEHGS does have microfilm of Nova Scotia Births and Deaths 1864-1877, and marriages from 1864 to about 1912. We look forward to the release of the twentieth-century databases. To find out more go to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/vitalstats/>. For later vital records (Births after October 1, 1908; Marriages 1931 to the present; Deaths 1956 to the present), contact <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/vstat/>.

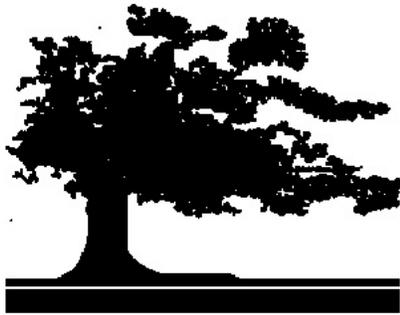
Welcome to a New Member

Our membership chairman and treasurer Ed Shibata informs us that Robert H. Wilcox just joined the Falmouth Genealogical Society to become member #354. He is researching Carroll of Ireland, Wilcoxson of England, Gassin of France, McQuade of Ireland, and Moag of Ireland.

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REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE**



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Hartford Marriott
Downtown
Hartford, Connecticut**

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SOCIETY FAIR, AND
FREE 20-MINUTE CONSULTATIONS AT
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Reservation Form see <http://www.nergc.org>**

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Program Notes From Meetings

by John M. Caspole

Internet Genealogy Workshop – Feb. 10

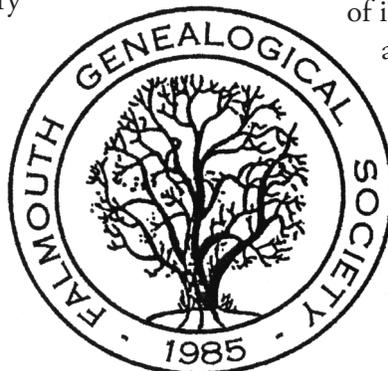
Internet workshops always attract a good audience and so it was on this cool but sunny February morning. Working as a team, Ed Shibata and John Caspole presented a four page handout and a live on-line presentation featuring some of the lesser known genealogy web sites and taking suggested sites from the audience. You will find a copy of the handout in this newsletter. As always, if you find a significant genealogy website, please send it to us for inclusion on our list.

What's New at NARA-National Archives, Waltham – March 10

Presented by Walter Hickey

Walter came down from New Hampshire to tell us what NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) has available other than census and naturalization docs.

He said that the Internet has had a profound impact on NARA causing it to rethink its operations, reducing hours open and staffing. NARA does plan to put all of its data on the web when money is available and as soon as it can be indexed. That's great news. Walter suggested that early census indexing had a 19% error rate, so if you can't find Granny, then you should search the whole community (town) as she will be there. (I know that as a fact due to a misspelling of my surname)



World War I draft registrations can yield some genealogical data. The draft cards for men born from 1877 to 1897 who were regarded as draft age are already released to the public. In 1942 the draft cards of men aged 45-62, the old men's draft registration at that time, were released. Walter noted that men in "Skilled Trades" were not drafted as they were needed in war production. The Massachusetts file is arranged alphabetically.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Meetings for 2007

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Senior Center, Dillingham Avenue*

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|---------|---|
| May 12 | Tales of Our Ancestors – Member Stories |
| June 9 | Annual Meeting – Midge Frazel – The Ellis Island Experience |
| July 14 | Summer Genealogy Workshop |

*****Meeting Place Change*****

While the Renovation of the Falmouth Public Library is underway our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road from 2 to 4 p.m.

From the President

John M. Caspole

jcaspole@comcast.net

President's Reflections

The June meeting brings to a close my two terms (yes, we have term limits) as the FGS President. It was preceded by two terms as Treasurer. During that time I got to know many of you better. My goal has been to ensure the continuity of the Society and with the help of the Board we think you will be pleased with my successor, to be announced in May and elected in June. Successful people surround themselves with even smarter people and that drives an organization. I want to recognize my fellow officers for their contributions: Bob Rice as Vice President and Program Chair, Ralph Wadleigh as 2nd Vice President and Library Chair and delegate to NERGC, Ed Shibata our Treasurer who does a bundle of different things, and Ron Kelsey, our Secretary. Also, a special tribute to Donna Walcovy for her dedication and persistent pursuit of volunteers to develop and publish our Cemetery Transcription Project on the Web, a really major undertaking. Others on the Board are John

Peri, Eleanor Baldic and our honorary Board member, Joyce Pendery, C.G. Another important job, The Editor, is filled by Janet Chalmers who takes on the task of pulling together all the information and produces this newsletter. And I am reminded too of Claire Maybury, who was our Treasurer for a year but was taken from us. And who can forget Dorothy Sandlin, who for so many years took care of greeting people and passing out name tags. Get well Dorothy and come on back. And Dara Bowin who mails out our publicity. There are a number of members who diligently show up every Tuesday afternoon, formerly at the FPL but currently at the Family History Center in Bourne, and provide technical research assistance to other members and to the public. This has been our core extension program for years and fills a community need. I thank you folks for your loyalty and contribution. By the way, we had fun doing it. It takes a lot of people to help this organization run as

Continued on page 3



Program Notes

Continued from page 1

Nation-wide files of applications for Veteran's headstones from 1878 to 1903 and from 1925 to 1940/1 include Civil War vets.

US District Court Records will be digitized. Some records from the 1841 and 1867 Bankruptcy Acts are now indexed. Other information includes cases on failure to pay excise taxes, Admiralty cases, slave trade cases and customs cases, counterfeiting cases, mutiny cases, piracy cases, records of deceased and deserted seamen from 1871 to 1950s, and returns from American Counsels overseas. There are some crew lists but you must know the ship's home port.

In any case, check out these two websites: <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/> and www.loc.gov for more research possibilities.

Writing your Family History – April 14 Presented by Barbara Jean Mathews, CG

Barbara Mathews, a Certified Genealogist, joined us to discuss ways to write your family history. She emphasized the fact that technologies are changing so fast that what you have on your computer today may not be able to be opened 25 or 50 years from now and that putting your research and supporting information in a book form, using acid free paper and real ink (not toner), is the surest way to ensure your descendants will be able to access your research. She suggested various ways to preserve information: scrapbooks, autobiographies, biographies, storybooks and classic genealogies. She generously provided a copy of her syllabus containing resources that will help you prepare any one of these formats. Copies were handed out at the meeting and anyone desiring a copy can have one by e-mailing jcaspole@comcast.net.

Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



In a gala ceremony, ground was broken for the new library addition on March 30, 2007. In fact, the ground had been broken by the contractors weeks before, but the ceremony needed a dose of spring weather to make it more festive. And festive it was,

with many town and state officials attending as well as those members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society who have served as library volunteers. The ceremony was followed by a delicious buffet luncheon. We were promised that the construction will be finished in one year, that is, spring of 2008. That doesn't sound too long to wait for what will be a significant upgrade to the

library's infrastructure and size. Isn't it wonderful that we live in a community that supports its library? Of course, there is a need for additional funds, especially for furniture and interior amenities. The Falmouth Public Library Foundation is spearheading efforts to raise the additional monies. If any FGS members would like to add their support, donations should be sent to the Foundation at 15 Carlson Lane, Falmouth, MA 02540.

On a personal note, I am preparing to go to Scotland for the first time in May. Part of my preparation is to read as much as possible about Scotland's political and social history, focusing to the extent possible on the Orkney Islands where I am researching the ancestors of Isabella Traill, who emigrated to Boston in 1760. I thought I would share this list with you in case any of

Continued on page 4



From the President

Continued from page 2

smoothly as it does. I hope others will volunteer to share some of the load and take part in ensuring the Society's continuity.

NERGC 2007

By the time you read this the New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be history. We do know that 500 family researchers have signed up and there could be more. Reports are that the facility in Hartford is spacious. FGS is a participating member of the conference and if the conference is successful we will receive a share of the profits which is significant to FGS. All of our members who are attending are volunteering at least two hours toward our commitment to provide 20 hours service there.

I'm looking forward to being there, hearing some experts on selected subjects, and especially meeting other researchers who may have stonewalls to overcome. A special thanks to Ralph Wadleigh for being our delegate to NERGC and carrying this responsibility. Folks, if

you didn't make it in 2007, start planning to attend the next NERGC in 2009.

Cape Cod Genealogical Society-Bus trip to Boston

Our sister Society is planning a bus trip to Boston with stops at Boston Public Library and New England Historic Genealogical Society on Thursday May 17th. The cost is \$28.00. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Pickup is at Burger King on Exit 6 off Rte. 6 or at the Sagamore Park & Ride at 8 am. Departure from Boston is at 3:15 pm.

The BPL encourages you to have a BPL card before coming to research. You can get it there but it takes time. Check the BPL website for more info. NEHGS is \$15.00 for a day if you are a non member. If interested, make out a check to Cape Cod Genealogical Society for \$28.00 and mail it to Ellen Geanacoplouos P.O. Box 1636 Harwich, MA 02645. Include your pick up point, phone number and e-mail address and preferred destination.

It can be worthwhile especially if you do not want the problem of driving into Boston and finding parking.

Report on the Cemetery Transcription Project

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Donna E. Walcovy, Program Chair
falcem@hotmail.com • 508-477-1947



This summer several activities will be happening in various graveyards in Falmouth related to the FGS-CTP.

Note: If you are in doubt if certain activities will take place on the assigned dates due to weather conditions, please phone 508-477-1947, after 9:00 am of that day and a recorded message will inform you.

I need to know when and where you will be volunteering. Please let me know at least one week prior when and where you will volunteer. No volunteers and I don't show up!

Friends Burying Ground, West Falmouth

Beginning in June Ralph Wadleigh will lead volunteers to photograph each gravestone. Please contact Ralph if you are interested in helping. Park at the West Falmouth Library.

East Falmouth Burying Ground, East Falmouth

Beginning Thursday, May 3, 2007, from 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm every Wednesday and Thursday

Continued on page 5



Bookends

Continued from page 3

you had Scottish roots. I am sure the list could be much longer, but at least I'll have a framework of general knowledge when I arrive. Some of the books are in libraries, some in personal collections. Let me know if any are of interest to you and we'll try to get them to you. I'm sure I'm just scratching the surface!

Orkney, A Historical Guide, Caroline Wickham-Jones, 1998

Orkney, County Book Series, Hugh Maverick, 1951

The Crofter and the Laird, John McPhee, 1970

Travels in Galloway, Donald MacIntosh, 1999

The Intelligent Travelers Guide to Historic Scotland, Philip A. Crowl, 1986

How the Scots Invented the Modern World, Arthur Herman, 2001

The Lion in the North, John Prebble, 1971

Eyewitness Travel Guide to Scotland, DK Books, 2004

Various issues of *Scotland Magazine*

Members and friends wishing to continue their research activity while the main library is closed are invited to visit the Family History Library at 1220 County Road, Cataumet, MA where each Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm, experienced genealogists are available to help with research problems.



Welcome to New Members

from Ed Shibata, Treasurer

We welcome the following three new members who've joined since the November-April Newsletter:

- Maureen V. Macklin of Worcester, who is researching Davis, Baker and Irons
- Kate Welch of Vineyard Haven, who is researching Crowe, Welch, Walsh, Ryan, Vainia and Mur-rina
- June S. Williams of Gardner, who is researching Davis, Irons, Smalley, Miles, Gifford, McAdams, Handy, Heyne, Enos and Crosby

I also read the daily Orkney newspaper, *The Orcadian*, on the web at www.orcadian.co.uk

Cemetery Transcription Project

Continued from page 4

through the end of June – cleaning gravestones and assisting with repair of gravestones. Please note: This burying ground is looking for Hostas, Lilly of the Valley, and daylilies. Please consider making a contribution from your garden as you thin your plants this Spring. Park near the East Falmouth CVS and walk over.

Village Burying Ground and Church of the Messiah Cemetery, Woods Hole

Beginning Friday, May 4, 2007, from 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm every Monday and Friday until finished, probably at the end of June – reading and transcribing each gravestone. Park at Villiage Cemetery

Old Town Burying Ground, off Mill Road

Beginning Tuesday, June 12, 2007, from 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm every Tuesday until August 28, 2007 – cleaning gravestones and assisting with repair of gravestones. Volunteers are permitted to park in the burying ground.

St. Joseph Cemetery, on Jones Road

Beginning Friday, September 7, 2007, from 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm every Friday until late October – reading and transcribing each gravestone. Park in the cemetery.

Methodist Society Burying Ground, Main Street

Beginning Wednesday, July 11, 2007, from 10 am to noon and noon to 2 pm every Wednesday and Thursday

Falmouth's Time Capsule

Guests to our April meeting brought news about the 100 year opening of Falmouth's time capsule buried under a rock on Woods Hole road. They are trying to interest some organization to sponsor and finance an opening celebration. It is hoped that the opening can be arranged for this year. Maybe it will have some family histories in it. Who knows? Watch your local newspaper for more information.

through the end of September 2007. Cleaning gravestones and assisting with repair of gravestones. Please note: This burying ground is also looking for Hostas, Lilly of the Valley, and daylilies. Please consider making a contribution from your garden as you thin your plants this Spring. Park near the Old Poor House.

CTP Activities To Do At Home:

- Proof-reading various graveyards once they are on-line on the FGS-CTP website www.falgen.org/cem
- Inputting data in EXCEL to make an Index for various graveyards.
- Reviewing printed cemetery Alpha Index with on-line website to check all maiden names have been added to the Index.
- Tracing the Rev. Smythe 1905 map of The East End Burying Ground to create a good copy for the website.
- Researching Falmouth Vital Records to add information to each Individual Record Form on various cemeteries on the FGS-CTP website.



New Databases on *New EnglandAncestors.org*

Source: NEHGS eNews No. 316 April 4, 2007, Vital Records of the Town of Dorchester, Massachusetts to the end of the Year 1849

http://www.newenglandancestors.org/research/Database/vital_records/default.asp

This collection of the vital records of Dorchester was originally published in two volumes: *A Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston Containing Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the End of 1825*, and *Vital Records of the Town of Dorchester from 1826 to 1849*.

Dorchester was first settled in 1630 and remained an independent town until 1870, when it was annexed to Boston. The original area of the town of Dorchester

Continued on page 6

www.bpl.org

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

At our March membership meeting, NARA Archivist Walter Hickey spoke about using the web site of the Boston Public Library, if you have a card for that library. Why had I never thought about that? Many of us have had to get a card there to use their microtexts or to call for a book from the stacks.

So go to www.bpl.org and click on "Electronic Resources." Then you will have a long list of databases from which to select. Try "Genealogy" and you will see a list of what is available in Biography, Genealogy, General, and Newspapers. Under Genealogy, you will find a *Boston Globe* Obituary Database covering 1971-1974 and 1983-2002, a Biography and Genealogy Master Index, and Heritage Quest Online. If you don't have a Falmouth Public Library card, here's another way to access Heritage Quest. Under Newspapers, you will find America's Historical Newspapers 1690-1922, The *Boston Globe* from 1872-1923, and the *New York Times* from 1851-2003. Not bad!

At some point, you will have to enter your library card number, which will be remembered for you. Then you will get into more detailed lists of available databases. For example in "Early American Imprints, I series, 1639-1800," you will find listed eight early genealogies, as well as 155 "Captivity Narratives." Walter Hickey spoke about entering a search for names that within the U.S. Congressional Serial Set, an important source of information concerning Congressional actions. There are thousands of additional possibilities in the bpl database that will keep you up half the night.

New Databases

Continued from page 5

included the Boston neighborhoods of South Boston and Hyde Park, and the present towns of Milton, Wrentham, Stoughton, Dedham, Sharon, Foxboro, and Canton. The population of Dorchester was 1,550 in 1776; 1,722 in 1790; and 7,968 in 1850.

From the introduction to the first volume:
"This volume, being the Twenty-first Report of the Record Commissioners, contains, it is hoped, every entry of birth, marriage, and death recorded as happening in the town of Dorchester before the end of the year 1825, and now found in the office of the City Registrar of Boston. Of the earliest entries (pages 1-4, and 20), the original record no longer exists, and they are only known in a copy. The rest of the book is printed directly from the original records in three volumes of manuscript. The first contains births 1642-83, marriages 1663-83, deaths 1657-83; the second contains the years 1684-1744, and the third 1745-1825."

From introduction to the second volume:
"The following records of Births, Marriages and Deaths,

include all entries found in the books of record of the Town of Dorchester from 1826 to 1849, inclusive, and all records previous to 1826 not found in volume 21 of the Record Commissioners' Reports. In the records of deaths at the beginning of 1841 the following note appears: 'Buried the day set down to each person,' but in some cases two dates are given, presumably date of death and burial, and in such cases both dates are given. In 1844 the word 'died' appears before the date, which would indicate that the date of death was recorded."

The data from these two books are being added to our existing Massachusetts VR to 1850 database. Images of the original pages from these books may be viewed from the search results page of that database. These page images may also be browsed via the "Browse" function of that database.

This database addition contains the records of 10,282 births, 6,837 marriages, and 5,970 deaths. The original volumes are available in our Boston research library, call numbers F73.1/B74 V.21 and F73.1/B74 V.36.

Anthony's Kin in Canada

by Janice P. Dorchester

After living forty years on Martha's Vineyard, my husband and I are now residents of Bourne. I became interested in genealogy many years ago and my first genealogical book, done in the early nineties, was on my mother's family. When I found that my husband and I shared grandparents back in the 1600s and early 1700s I wrote my second book, *Lovers, Cousins and Others*. The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, of which I am a member, gave me First Prize in Family History in 1997 at their Literary Awards Contest. My biggest undertaking, *Anthony Dorchester and His Descendants* (325 pages), was published in 1998. At that time I used the Internet to find Dorchesters throughout the United States. The genealogy could not be inclusive because it was virtually impossible to reach every Dorchester in the country and some families chose not to be included in the Dorchester history. The book went to many libraries around the country and to the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Who was this Anthony Dorchester? He arrived in Hingham, Massachusetts in 1634 but he soon made his way west to the Dorchester settlement in what is now Windsor, Connecticut, to join the others from Dorchester, Dorset, England. Anthony married and his children were all born in Windsor. Later the family traveled up the Connecticut River to what is now Springfield (Chicopee), Massachusetts. His grandson didn't stay in Springfield but farmed in North Bolton, Connecticut. Anthony's great grandson went a little farther east and ended up in the town of Vernon, Connecticut. From different places in Connecticut, the Dorchester family spread out into New York state and my research led to Dorchesters in Iowa, Pennsylvania, Texas, Oklahoma, Wisconsin and California. My husband finally realized that the Dorchesters weren't just a small New England family.

Now comes the surprise! In the winter of 2003, I received an e-mail from a woman in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. She was doing research for an elderly lady who was told her ancestor, Halsey Dorchester, had been born in Vernon, Connecticut. Doing research the old-fashioned way, I wrote to the Town Clerk in Vernon and received a somewhat favorable reply. Halsey had married

in Vernon and the town clerk gave me information on his wife's family but nothing on Halsey's birth. Halsey then disappeared from the town records. The Canadian woman wanted this information, but I had to indicate that I couldn't find any record of Halsey's birth in Vernon or nearby towns.

Then last winter a young lawyer from California e-mailed me and wondered if I would like to do a supplement to my Dorchester book. His ancestor, Caroline Dorchester, had married a man named Stimson and the lawyer had a copy of The Stimson Family Manuscript, written in 1898 by an E.P. Stimson. The manuscript indicated that his ancestor was indeed born in Vernon, Connecticut, along with her brother, Halsey. They were the children of David Dorchester III and his wife, Hannah Merrifield. These children were born in the same year; we now surmise that Caroline and Halsey were twins and the young parents never registered these children at the Town Hall. They registered a child born in 1808, which is recorded on page 33 of my book, and I had used notes from three sources for that particular entry.

Now the old-fashioned genealogist had to use the Internet. I remembered that the Canadian woman had said the Dorchesters were cattlemen and some of them were champion rodeo "stars" in chuckwagon racing. Soon we had photos of Quinn, Troy, and Rick – all Dorchesters. I had lost the Canadian woman's e-mail address but I did remember the elderly woman's name – Caroline Rose Dorchester Shantz. A friend helped me find the phone number in Canada and we made contact with Mrs. Shantz, the matriarch of the Dorchester clan. She was just getting ready to celebrate her 97th birthday and couldn't wait to tell her daughter what had happened. She had talked with relatives in New England and to the woman who had tried to help her find her roots three years before.

I am now working on the Supplement to the 1998 genealogy and it will include all of the new-found relatives in California and Canada. It is interesting to note that after Halsey's marriage, the family went West and he

Continued on page 11

Websites 1 through 36 were presented at the 10 February 2007 Falmouth Genealogical Society meeting. Since then, the address of websites 20 (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness: *raogk*, not *ragok*) and 28 (German Genealogy Network: *genealogienetz*, not *genealogienethz*) have been corrected. In addition, members have submitted websites 37 through 41.

Some Favorite Websites of the Falmouth Genealogical Society

#	Site	Universal Resource Locator (URL)	Comments
1	Google	www.google.com	Free <i>de facto</i> standard search engine. Typing in genealogy +++ will give you many genealogy sites. Enclosing in “ ” often gives surprising results.
2	Falmouth Genealogical Society	www.falgen.org	Our Society’s website.
3	Falmouth Public Library (FPL)	www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org	In-library access to ancestry.com, NEHGS, and HeritageQuest Online; remote access to HeritageQuest Online if you are a Falmouth resident.
4	Ancestry.com	www.ancestry.com	Increasingly a dominant source of genealogical info, but for \leq \$35/month. Available free at FPL.
5	NE Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)	www.newenglandancestors.org	\$75/year, but free at FPL.
6	HeritageQuest Online	www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org Then (1) click on “Library Databases”, (2) click on “HeritageQuest Online” on the left, (3) enter your name, Library Card Number, and PIN.	Falmouth residents only can get free remote access via FPL to U.S. Censuses, books, PERiodical Source Index (PERSI).
7	FamilySearch	www.familysearch.org	Free Latter-Day Saints site; watch out for errors in some submitted postings. Good for homework in ordering microfilms at the Family History Center.
8	Genealogy.com	www.genealogy.com/ index_r.html	Oriented toward Family Tree Maker; \$70–\$200/year.

#	Site	Universal Resource Locator (URL)	Comments
9	Godfrey Memorial Library	godfrey.org	\$35/year; lots of online files.
10	Cyndi's List	www.cyndislist.com	Free; lots of stuff, but easy to get overwhelmed; "Browse Cyndi's List" on left sidebar helps site navigation.
11	Allen County Public Library (ACPL)	www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html	Free; ACPL will be the site of FGS 2007, August 15–18.
12	USGenWeb Project	usgenweb.org	Free volunteer genealogy worldwide.
13	RootsWeb.com	rootsweb.com	"oldest and largest FREE genealogy site, supported by Ancestry.com."
14	NARA—Access to Archival Databases	aad.archives.gov/aad	Growing set of National Archives and Records Administration electronic databases.
15	Massachusetts Archives	www.sec.state.ma.us/arc	1841–1915 MA vital records, Boston passenger manifests (1848–1891), archives collection (1629–1799). Since state policy dictates accuracy, progress on adding vital records is slow.
16	Castle Garden	www.castlegarden.org	Free; immigration records for ~ 10M immigrants from 1830–1892.
17	Ellis Island	www.ellisland.org/search/passearch.asp	Free; immigration records for > 20M immigrants from 1892–1924.
18	Family Tree DNA	www.familytreedna.com	Info about the IBM-National Geographic Society Geneographic Project, in which you can discover the path taken by your ancestors 20 to 50 thousand years ago.
19	Everton Publishers	www.everton.com/fgc	Free genealogy center.
20	Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness	www.raogk.org	Volunteers look up data for expense reimbursement, but provide free labor.
21	Genealogylinks.net	www.genealogylinks.net	> 50,000 free genealogy links for the US, Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

#	Site	Universal Resource Locator (URL)	Comments
23	GENUKI	www.genuki.org.uk	United Kingdom genealogical info.
24	Find My Past	www.findmypast.com	UK records; 50 units for £5; used to be 1837online.
25	Origins Network	www.originsnetwork.com	British and Irish databases @ £7.50 for 72 hours or £10.50 for a month; Scottish databases free.
26	ScotlandsPeople	www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk	Official government source; £6 for 30 page credits for 90 days.
27	Genlias	www.genlias.nl/en/page0jsp	Dutch genealogy.
28	German Genealogy Network	www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html	German genealogy.
29	Germany GenWeb	www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman	Neighboring countries included.
30	American-French Genealogical Society (AFGS)	www.afgs.org	AF Research Librarian Patty Locke talked at our November meeting; see the February–April 2007 newsletter for a summary.
31	Canadian Genealogical Centre	www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy	The databases are not indexed.
32	Programme de Recherche en Démographie Historique (PRDH)	www.genealogie.umontreal.ca	150 hits for 21.95 \$ CA; mostly French.
33	Date Duration Calculator	www.timeanddate.com/date/duration.html	Free utility to calculate number of years, days, etc., between two dates.
34	Day of Week Calculator	www.urquhart.org/clanurquhartge/birthday_calculator.htm	Free utility to give the day of the week for a given date.
35	ePodunk	www.epodunk.com	Info about almost any U.S. town.
36	ePodunk Canada	ca.epodudunk.com	Info about almost any Canadian town.

Websites 1 through 36 were compiled from website bookmarks used by Falmouth Genealogical Society members John Caspole, John Peri, Bob Rice, Ed Shibata, and Ralph Wadleigh.

Some Additional Favorites of the Falmouth Genealogical Society			
#	Site	Universal Resource Locator (URL)	Comments
37	Linkpendium	www.linkpendium.com	Definitive directory to genealogical resources on the web.
38	Demographical Database for Southern Sweden	ddss.nu/english/default.aspx	Janice Zlatev has found this free site to be very useful.
39	JewishGen	www.jewishgen.org	Source for Jewish genealogy with 150 info files, searchable databases, and links to other Jewish resources.
40	German genealogy resources	home.att.net/~weemonster	Research information for Americans of German descent
41	Polska	www.polska.pl	Official website; in Polish.



Descendants of Anthony Dorchester

Continued from page 7

died in Illinois. His son, David, moved on and died in Idaho. David's son was a cattleman and soon ended up with over 500 head of cattle on land in Alberta, Canada. Halsey's sister, Caroline, didn't stay in Connecticut, but moved to Ontario, Canada. One of her three sons came back into the United States and settled in Michigan. His granddaughter settled in California and that woman's grandson was the young lawyer who had contacted me via the Internet last winter.

It was a good feeling to find the answer for the elderly lady in Canada. It all became possible through the young Dorchester lawyer in California, who had the proof in a manuscript written in 1898 that these two families did indeed go back to the progenitor, Anthony Dorchester. The lawyer and I have never met but we have had some good conversations by telephone and e-mails. They provide me with biographical data, inter-

esting family descriptions and photographs. I am now working on the last, the twelfth, generation.

The most fascinating thing for our family in this discovery was to find that these Canadian Dorchesters in Alberta are renowned for their prowess in chuckwagon racing, a sport unfamiliar to most of us. In the Tenth Generation Thomas (Tommie) Dorchester was a legendary chuckwagon driver and four-time World Champion and two-time Calgary Stampede Champion. His sons, Dallas and Garry, were also World and Calgary Stampede champions. The next generation, the twelfth, has the three chuckwagon racers described above. Elderly Aunt Caroline, who went trail riding on her 95th birthday, has sent posters and a video to my husband showing these cowboys in action.

Anyone who says that genealogy is boring certainly doesn't have a clue. Through genealogy we find a new identity for ourselves. It is exciting and demanding, and the results are so fulfilling!

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

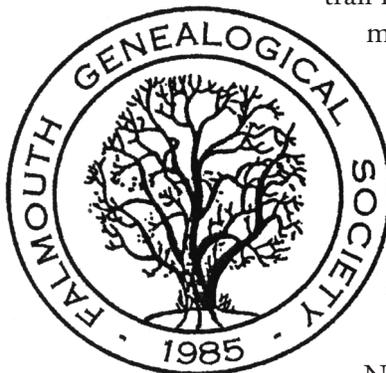
Program Notes From Meetings

May 12, 2007 – American Loyalists

Presented by Paul Bunnell

by John M. Caspole

Long-time member of FGS, Paul Bunnell became member #3 in 1985. He has been a well known expert and researcher on American Loyalists for over 25 years with a library holding some 500 sources on French and Canadian topics. A Loyalist was a resident in America who, at the time of the American Revolution, chose to remain loyal to the king. Loyalists considered going against the king was equal to going against God. The decision tore families apart and there was much fear of the consequences if they stayed in this new country. Loyalists' property was



subject to expropriation and sometimes worse. The split is sometimes referred to as America's first Civil War as it split so many families and friends and neighbors. Many Loyalists went directly to Canada, but for many the trail is hard to follow. Some went via the Bahamas, some to Sierra Leon in Africa (where some died) then on to Canada. Thousands went to New York City which was full of refugees. There was an abundance of counterfeit money as each state then issued its own money. Having counterfeit money was punishable by death. The goal of those issuing counterfeit money was to upset the economy of the fledging nation. New Jersey refugees placed ads in the newspapers announcing Loyalist meeting places to get info and news of families. Listings of ships was started in 1782.

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Meetings for 2007 – 2008

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Senior Center, Dillingham Avenue*

- Aug. 11 Janis Duffy. Research Specialist, Massachusetts Archives
- Sept. 8 Kay Sheldon, Researching Scandinavian Ancestors
- Oct. 13 Ralph Wadleigh, A Research trip to the Orkneys
- Nov. 10 Joint Meeting with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society –
Workshop Roundtables
- Dec. 8 Laura Prescott, Spinsters in your Family
- Jan. 12 Nancy Daniels – Using Your Computer in Genealogical Research

****Meeting Place Change****

While the Renovation of the Falmouth Public Library is underway our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road from 2 to 4 p.m.

Program Notes

Continued from page 1

In Canada, the king granted land based on rank with 100 acres as minimum lot size. However, the government owned the trees for their lumber which went into shipbuilding. Many descendants of Loyalists went into some aspect of shipping. Copies of land grants may be seen at the Fredericton, MD Archives.

Loyalists had to file claims for their losses with the king or the provincial governor. Ninety percent of Loyalists didn't put in claims for losses. Many Loyalists eventually returned to the United States due to the harsh winters in Canada and many of these returnees settled in towns on the US side of the border. These towns may be a good source for Loyalist records.

Many different records exist as memoirs, petitions to the king for bequests, wills of Loyalists, land transactions and death notices. If searching death notices, then follow up on subsequent issues of papers for probate records on debts.

The 1851 Canadian Census does identify people as Loyalists. As Loyalists immigrated to Canada they often carried their town name with them, thus Kingston, NY became Kingston, Ontario.

Paul, thanks for coming and giving us such an informative talk on America in that troubled time.

June 9, 2007 – Ellis Island Experience **Presented by Midge Frazel**

by John M. Caspole

Midge Frazel is a member of the Plymouth Genealogical Society and has mixed her teaching experience with technology and applied it to genealogy. She opened her talk showing us a short video that she wrote and produced on genealogical research. She explained that the Jamestown, VA colonists came there for commercial gain whereas the Plymouth colonists came for religious reasons. Jamestown failed, and Plymouth almost failed.

Immigrants through the ages brought all they owned, in most cases very little. The Ellis Island Museum's purpose is to remind us of the hardships. It's not about coming to America; it's about being an American. Not everyone

came through Ellis Island. Some came by way of Boston and transferred into smaller boats to get to New York.

Midge stated that in researching Ellis Island records you should know the ancestor's full original name, approximate age on arrival and approximate date of arrival. A big help, in 1910, 1920 and 1930 the US Census lists the year of immigration and whether people were naturalized or alien. Note that Ellis Island began operating in January 1892. Before that, from 1624 through July 1855, there was no immigrant receiving station. In August 1855 Castle Garden station opened through April 1890 and from then until July 1892 immigrants came through a "barge" station. From June 1897 through December 1900 Ellis Island was closed and they reverted to a "barge station until Ellis Island reopened in December 1900. Ellis Island website is www.ellisland.org. Midge also strongly suggested going to Steve Morse's site, www.stevemorse.org. Steve has developed a fast track search of passenger lists.

July 14, 2007 – Internet Sites: Applications Software Providers and Footnote.com

by Joyce Pendery, CG

John Caspole first spoke on "Application Software Providers." His presentation focused on "Application Software Providers" (ASP), also known as "Website Providers." To quote John's handout: "We are experienced in buying a software program, loading it onto our computer, and then entering data, saving it, and printing reports. ASPs provide the software on their website where we can access it, enter data, save it online, and print reports (without loading it onto our computers). They maintain and update the software frequently. Some are free and some you have to pay for."

Each of the following websites has a software program that you can access and load your collection of genealogical data onto. You can then share it interactively online with designated family and friends. Currently, some of the following sites are free; others require payment:

Continued on page 3

Program Notes

Continued from page 2

www.geni.com

Invite family and friends to join by entering their email addresses. Only the people you invite can see your family tree. You can hide any information you choose to hide from all viewers. This site appeals to younger, computer-savvy generations. Viewers can add their personal comments, but you can select who can edit your profile. You can block users you don't want to have access to the site. It notifies you when life events are about to occur, i.e.: birthdays, etc. There are no privacy issues, so far. Criticism: lacks ability to cite source of information posted on the website.

www.findmypast.com

Formerly called 1837 online (date of earliest records), Family Tree Builder helps access English records; similar to www.pedigree.com. Printouts of original records are available for a fee.

www.ancestry.com

Ancestry World Tree is free. Interactive collaboration is free. There is little or no documentation of posted information, so far.

www.worldvitalrecords.com

Associated with Evertons, it includes their databases. Subscription is needed; there is little or no documentation.

www.onegreatfamily.com

Collaborative family tree with 130,000,000 submissions. There is a fee, but also special offers.

Ralph Wadleigh next spoke on www.footnote.com. This important new website is connected to the U.S. National Archives and other repositories of original documents. Called "History for the People," footnote.com is actually a business that digitizes images; for example, the National Archives has 9 billion pages of documents that it would like to make public. Footnote buys micro-

films of the images from the National Archives, which it then digitizes and places online.

Currently, three categories of documents are available free of charge: U.S. Milestone Documents, Project Blue Book (about UFOs), and Pennsylvania Archives, including documents from 1664-1880. A list of the 55 titles currently available is posted on the website, including Revolutionary and Civil War records, naturalization records, and historic photographs. Revolutionary War documents include war rolls, service records, and pension and land bounty applications.

After five years, footnote.com images will be available free of charge at NARA Resource Centers (such as Waltham) and at Family History Libraries. After five years, other images will be also be free on footnote.com. In the meantime, the annual membership fee is \$99.95; the one month fee is \$7.95, and the cost to print the copy of one document is \$1.95.



Falmouth Genealogical Society Minutes of Annual Meeting June 10, 2007

There being a quorum of members present, President John Caspole called the meeting to order. In addition to the presentation of the monthly program speaker election of officers was on the agenda.

Nominations:

- President: Joyce Pendery, C.G. for 2 year term ending in 2009
- Second Vice Chair, Jan Zlatev, filling the unfilled term for one year ending in 2008
- Secretary, Two Year term ending in 2009: No Nominees.

A motion made by Janet Chalmers to accept the slate as presented and seconded by John Peri carried unanimously.

Continued on page 6

From the President

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

As your newly-elected President I can report that at the beginning of the year 2007-2008 the Falmouth Genealogical Society is in excellent health thanks to the dedication of officers and board members, excellent programs and activities (including the Cemetery Transcription Project) and your continued support.

Although genealogy continues to be one of the most popular leisure-time activities in the United States, changing times bring new challenges. Tried and true organizational approaches do not always work today when online resources seem to overwhelm traditional approaches to research and anonymity replaces face-to-face contact at group gatherings. We are fortunate to have a group of loyal members who attend our meetings.

Special recognition for our continued success goes to:

- **Past President John Caspole** for his dedicated leadership of the Society during the last four years. As President John put so much effort into leading our Society and overseeing its activities. Our membership has held steady at the 120-140 member level, in contrast to many genealogical organizations today where membership is steadily declining. So many of the newer genealogists now use the Internet both for research and for contacts with others researching the same surnames; yet we know that there is no substitute for the development of traditional genealogical skills and the knowledge and contacts that result from personal contact and live programs presented by experts in their fields.
- **Treasurer Ed Shibata**, who expertly manages our finances as well as membership records. We are fortunate that as a grass-roots, community-based organization with few fixed monthly expenses we can easily manage within our income.
- **First Vice President Ralph Wadleigh**, who plans the wide variety of stimulating programs on top-

ics of current interest to our members and is our representative to NERGC.

- **Newsletter Editor Janet Chalmers**, who publishes our popular quarterly. Janet is always in need of contributions from readers and members. Articles need not be long or “professional” in content or appearance. Helpful tips, short accounts of research experiences, tales of trips to seek information about ancestors, or websites with useful information are all possible topics for articles.
- **Donna Walcovy**, whose Cemetery Transcription Project has involved many members who work in cemeteries or transcribe records at home. Much work remains to be done and we do need your help to reach our goal of posting all of Falmouth’s 18th, 19th, and early 20th century cemetery transcriptions on our website, with supporting data. Donna is also the web master for www.falgen.org where you find timely news about the Society and its members as well as data from the cemetery transcription project.
- **Publicity Chair Dara Bowin**, who has worked diligently behind the scenes for many years to distribute publicity about our monthly meetings to area media to ensure that anyone in the area who might be interested will be aware of our activities and meetings.

I will do my best to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors to sustain the good health of our vibrant organization. I know that with your continued interest and support we will remain a valuable and valued organization. Bring a friend to our meetings, offer to give a few hours of your time to one of our committees or projects, and take advantage of all that we offer. Most of all, please continue to support the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

Continued on page 5

From the President

Continued from page 4

The following short articles are examples of what and how YOU could write about one of your research experiences or interests for the Newsletter!

What's in a Name?

by Joyce Pendery, CG

Naming patterns are always a consideration when attempting to establish an ancestry when there are no significant documents that provide proof of the lineage. This technique helped me find the maiden surname of my paternal great grandmother. My paternal grandmother's maiden name was Sabray Ellen Mollenkopf. Sabray was not a common given name, so I kept looking for Sabrays, as I knew she was not named for her mother (my great grandmother), Rebecca Jane, who was born in Indiana in 1837. From the 1850 census, I learned that Rebecca Jane's father was born in Ohio and her mother in New York. Years passed, and nowhere could I find Rebecca Jane's maiden surname: not on deeds, not on her death certificate, not on her tombstone, not in her obituary, and certainly not in the census. She was always "Mrs. Rebecca Jane" or "Mrs. George Mollenkopf."

Around 2000, when the Society purchased CD Roms with indexes to many census records, I decided to check the 1870 census index for Rebecca Jane and George Mollenkopf. I knew they had lived in Ohio in 1860 and in Oregon in 1880, but I could never locate their 1870 census record. The 1870 index indicated that they were living in Iowa, so I drove to Waltham to look at the 1870 Iowa census (those were the days). Everything matched, and there was even a second daughter in the family about whom I knew nothing. Content with my find, I printed the census page and continued with other research.

Later that day at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, I pulled out the Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa census printout I had made in the morning to study. In the household next door to Rebecca Jane and George Mollenkopf and their daughters, "S.E." and

"M.A." lived a woman named SABRAY, born in New York, and her husband Abraham Ridlen, born in Ohio. They were the appropriate ages to be the parents of Rebecca Jane.

I immediately checked the NEHGS stacks for a history of Marion County, Iowa. And there was one – with an index that included the surname Ridlen. In this typical late 19th-century "Mug Book," Abraham Ridlen had almost a full page of biographical information (that he probably wrote), ending with a list of his children, the oldest of whom was Rebecca Jane Ridlen, born 6 August 1837 in Shelby County, Indiana, and married to George Mollenkopf. Eureka! Problem solved. (I later found their 1857 Iowa marriage certificate.) And then I found two Ridlen genealogies in the NEHGS stacks that took me back to the immigrant ancestor and forward to most of the immigrant Magnus Ridlen's descendants in America.

Barnstable County Deeds are Online

by Joyce Pendery, C.G.

The Barnstable County Registry of Deeds has placed deeds and other documents from 1704 to the present online at www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us.

Use Internet Explorer to go to their website, then:

- Click on "Search Public Records"
- Under "Public Access," click on "Free Access"
- You may need to install a special image viewer to view the documents. Follow the online instructions for downloading and installing the viewer.
- Click on "Cape View"
- Click on the type of inquiry you wish to perform
- If you click on "Land Records List by Name," you can choose to view an abstract or the actual document; however, you can not print the documents. Instructions for ordering non-certified copies by mail are listed on the website.

Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



The “teaser” on the front cover of the July 2007 issue of *Smithsonian* magazine is “Why Genealogy Is Bunk.” The article entitled The Family Tree, Pruned is written by Richard Conniff.

He writes that until recently hardly anyone kept

close track of their ancestry as they were too busy with survival. Detailed record keeping did not exist in most places and the use of family names or surnames only began in the 15th to 20th century depending on where you lived. People were only aware of the five generations immediately around them (grandparents, parents, siblings, children and grandchildren).

Today genealogy is a \$1 billion dollar industry in this country according to Elizabeth Shown Mills, former president of the American Society of Genealogists. It is a hobby that has been fueled by the Internet and DNA. Genealogy gained popular interest after “Roots” in the 1970s, which like many genealogies turned out to be fictionalized. Americans’ interest in genealogy may be attributed to the fact that we are a mobile society and we are cut off from family so making a family tree and putting ourselves on it, gives us a connection. Genealogy used to be the province of the rich and famous who used it to boost their own power and in some cases invented links to desirable ancestors. Today many well known people have publicized their connection to a famous ancestor such as Hugh Hefner’s claim to be an 11th generation descendent of a Mayflower Pilgrim.

How accurate is genealogy? Social scientists conservatively estimate that in 10% of all human births there is “misassigned” paternity. That suggests that going back ten generations in almost any family tree, someone unacknowledged has entered the tree. The author also notes that DNA may not prove or disprove a connection to an ancestor as it is subdivided each generation

and it’s the luck of the draw what passes to the next generation. Also because of intermarriage, going back many generations the same ancestors appear over and over in a family tree. The royal and wealthy families intermarried to keep their power and assets and other families intermarried with people within walking distance. Conniff says that almost anyone reading his article has Julius Caesar as a common ancestor as well as “every sniveling peasant who ever managed to replicate in ancient times.”

The author mentions www.genii.com which his daughter uses to find relatives and which was a topic at the July 2007 meeting. Both he and his children have contacted relatives through this site. Conniff concludes with the thought that what makes us interesting is not the 99.9% of what we share, but the little extra that makes us different and that comes from within ourselves and from our current families. It is an interesting article and entertainingly written.



Minutes from Annual Meeting

Continued from page 3

Memo for the record:

The Second Vice Chair was elected in 2006 for a 2 year term ending in 2008.

The Treasurer was elected in 2007 for a two year term ending in 2009.

The meeting adjourned to the regular monthly program.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Caspole
Acting Secretary

Visit to The Massachusetts State Archives

by Shirley Dunkle

On Thursday May 17th, Eleanor Baldic, Janet Chalmers and I joined the Cape Cod Genealogical Society on a bus trip to Boston. We were delighted that CCGS decided not to cancel even though only about sixteen people had signed up. We all agreed that this is definitely the way to go, with pick-up at Sagamore, a hassle-free ride up and back and plenty of time for research. Six of us went to Mass Archives and the rest, about eight to ten, went to the Boston Public Library. Some might have planned to go to NEHGS but it was not available this time.

Since all of my grandparents and my husband's grandparents lived, died and are buried in Massachusetts, Mass Archives has been the most useful place for genealogical research of our families. Many of our great-grandparents were also married and died in Massachusetts but they were not born in this country. Now my question is, "How and when did they come here?"

Passenger lists of arrivals in Boston that are located at Mass Archives have provided answers for us before. On this day I was researching Eliza Freckelton Russell, born in Ireland, and her husband (I assume, still haven't found a marriage) Charles Edward Bown, born in Nova Scotia. Alas, the passenger records for the R's were not there that day because they were "out, being digitized." So, I turned to military records to look for Charles Bown. The very helpful staff suggested looking at the 1890 Mass Veterans Census Index. There I found Charles and a wealth of information including his rank, company, name of regiment, date of enlistment, date of discharge, length of service and current (1890) address.

My only regrets after a successful day are that I didn't get to check out the 1865 State Census and I forgot to pay for the four copies that I made. Next time!

July 31, 2007

*Falmouth Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 2107
Teaticket, MA 02536*

*To: FGS Board
Attn: Joyce Pendry*

I am in receipt of your letter informing me of the Society's board members to vote me as a LIFE MEMBER. Needless to say I am honored and very grateful.

When I moved here from CT in 1983, I was lonely and needed to make friends so went down to the Falmouth Library to browse. Finding a note there posted by Eleanor Baldic asking if anyone was interested in starting a genealogy group, I decided that would be the way for me; and so we did just that in 1985. We struggled to get more than 10 attendees for a long while, but I guess perseverance paid off for LOOK AT US NOW!

I have made wonderful friends and am very proud of all the dedicated members, New and Old the society has built up over the years. I have been rewarded many times over in my own research findings thru the help of others and hopefully have given help when and where I can in return. Again, thanks to you all.

"Marge" Riley

Who Are You Going to Pass Your Genealogical Research On To?

by Janet Burt Chalmers

Do you worry that nobody will ever get as excited about your family's genealogy as you are? Do your family members have a clue why you're obsessed by dead people, why you rattle on about people with such wonderful names as Rosetta Small, Tamsin Lombard, Lucy Halsey and Mary Rose Francis? Is anyone under age 60 remotely interested in what fascinates you? Do you worry that all the work you have done to document your ancestry will be lost to your descendants? Do you fret that the technology you are using now will be outdated by the time anyone may catch your genealogy bug?

I worry about all of the above and hope that I'll someday be able to hook my grandchildren if not my chil-

dren. When I was a child my parents both had large rolls of paper which they spread out on the living room rug to show my brothers and me our family trees. My father told stories about various special people he'd been told about by his parents, and my mother bemoaned the fact that so many members of her family tree were lost at sea or died in infancy. The seed was sown for me.

In looking for something to fill the last page of this newsletter I found the Kids Corner on the New England Historical Genealogical Society website. It made me excited and motivated to make a new effort to pass on what I know about my extended family. I hope you feel the same way.

from NEHGS Kids Corner at newenglandancestors.org

A trip to NEHGS is a fascinating journey into the past for your entire family! As you begin to do your research, your children can learn the fascinating stories that are told only through your own family history. Our wonderful building on Boston's beautiful Newbury Street contains a host of resources that can help your children unlock the key to their family's past, as well as give them a passion for learning that can last a lifetime!

Some Family Genealogical Projects from Our Online Genealogist, David Lambert:

- Show your children your old family photographs. Explain who are in the photographs and when they were taken.
- Using copies made from your old photos, letters, and family documents, create a family scrap book.
- Make a list of questions, and have your children conduct a genealogical interview about you and your childhood.
- Make a family history website together.
- Create a family chart on poster board using photos.
- Take them on a genealogical field trip to see where their ancestors used to live.
- At bedtime, tell them an "Ancestor Story" instead of their normal bed time story. Family stories can be handed down from generation to generation, and helps preserve a family's heritage.

Hear what our genealogists have to say:

Chris Child, reference librarian, visited NEHGS often as a child and is now working at 101 Newbury Street. His passion for genealogy started as a young child and continues today, specializing in Connecticut and general New England research.

Getting interested in genealogy at a young age has been great since I've had a chance to learn stories from the older generations of my family. Many get interested in genealogy at retirement and have to start with themselves. By interviewing my grandmother and great-aunts, I had living witnesses to the earlier data, which made my search much easier. I've also gotten some friends and their older relatives interested in their pasts as well.

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

November 2007 – January 2008

Vol 19 Number 4
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536
www.falgen.org

President: Joyce S. Pendery
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

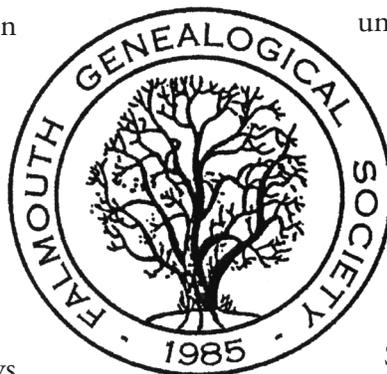
Program Notes From Meetings

Scandinavian Genealogy – Sept. 8

Presented by Kay Sheldon

President, Swedish Ancestry Research Association

In most of Scandinavia, until recent times, surnames were not fixed, but were based on the Patronymic Naming System. At birth, each person was given a first name, and the last name was derived from a physical description (such as short or tall), or more frequently from the name of the person's father. Thus Eric, son of John, was Eric John-son, or Erica, daughter of John, was Erica Johnsdotter. Under this system, although brothers and sisters had different last names, the name of the father was always known.



Class consciousness was very common in Scandinavia.

While farm families did not have fixed surnames until the late 1800s or early 1900s, urban upper classes did. Some male surnames were fixed during the 19th century with the advent of compulsory military service. There are lists of such assigned surnames.

For Scandinavian research, knowing the name of the parish of origin is essential, as is the case for most European research.

Since many people identified with their village or even farm name, not their parish name,

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Meetings for 2007 – 2008

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Senior Center, Dillingham Avenue*

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 10 | Joint Meeting with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society –
Workshop Roundtables at West Barnstable Congregational Church |
| Dec. 8 | Laura Prescott, Spinsters and Widows – Gender Loyalty Within Families |
| Jan. 12 | Nancy Daniels – Using Your Computer in Genealogical Research |
| Feb. 9 | What's New on the Web |
| Mar. 8 | Leslie Albrecht – Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research |
| Apr. 12 | Diane Rappaport – Tales from the Colonial Courthouse |
| May 10 | Tom Howard – New England World War I Research |

****Meeting Place Change****

While the Renovation of the Falmouth Public Library is underway our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road from 2 to 4 p.m.

Orkney Odyssey – October 13

Presented by Ralph Wadleigh, FGS

Ralph Wadleigh presented a talk on his recent genealogical research trip to Scotland's Orkney Islands. His original interest in the Orkneys stemmed from a Letter of Introduction found in his late mother's effects. This letter, signed by officials from Kirkwall's Church of Scotland, introduced a "Miss Bell Traill" who was on her way to Boston in 1760. Since Ralph had identified

the Isabella Traill who married William Tate in Boston in 1762 as definitely one of his ancestors, he wondered if Isabella was the "Miss Bell Traill" mentioned in the letter of introduction. This led him to two genealogical research projects: Identify "Miss Bell Traill" and determine her Orcadian ancestry. As a part of his research he decided to visit the Orkneys.

Continued on page 3



Scandinavian Genealogy

Continued from page 1

research can be difficult. Villages and farms in different areas even had the same names, further complicating matters.

Because Scandinavians also often changed the spelling of place and personal names, researchers have to be resourceful and always on the lookout for such changes.

Compulsory civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages came relatively late in Scandinavia. Earlier, the Lutheran Church was charged with keeping vital records for everyone, not just their church members.

Types of records for Swedish (and most Scandinavian) research:

- **Census records.** Norway's censuses of 1801, 1865, and 1900 are available free online at the Norwegian National Archives. 1800 Swedish Census is also available.
- **Lutheran Church Records.** An important responsibility for Lutheran churches was to maintain registers of persons who moved into and out of each parish. Kay explained that the Lutheran Church was the Town Clerk. For moving in, these records indicate where the person came from; for moving out, their destination. People moving out had to get a transfer letter from their parish church to give to the parish church office at their destination.
- Church parishes also maintained **Household Examination Roles** that included lists of residents

in each household with births (names of both parents, whether married or not) and baptisms, as well as death records.

- Church parishes kept **emigration records**, as well, and these might even include the names of persons from other countries who departed from Scandinavian ports.
- **Court records:** These records are more difficult to read and to locate, but do give information about individuals.
- **Immigration records:** Look at records for the Port of Boston.
- **The Family History Library** has microfilmed most Lutheran Church Records for Scandinavian Countries.
- **The Worcester Public Library** has good Swedish-American records to help determine the parish of origin, as well as Swedish-American newspapers and data bases.

Online resources for Scandinavian research:

- Go to google.com or cyndislist.com to get a list of country web sites and records.
- For Swedish church records online (for a fee): www.genline.com
- Contact Kay Sheldon: kaysheldon@yahoo.com for information from Swedish databases she has on her computer
- Email of SARA (Swedish Ancestry Research Association): www.sarassociation.org

Orkney Odyssey

Continued from page 2

Ralph emphasized the importance of planning to assure the highest chance for a successful research trip. He strongly recommended that anyone planning a trip should study the subject area closely by reading books, studying maps, and developing a detailed itinerary. He noted that a research plan is essential. This plan should identify what needs to be accomplished, what relationships need to be proved and where the necessary proofs might be found. Advance scouting of possible information repositories should be undertaken through web searches. Contact with local genealogical societies is always a good idea.

Before departure, as much research that can be achieved locally should be undertaken. In Ralph's case, the microfilmed Old Parish Registers obtained through the Cataumet Family History Library were instrumental. He found a christening record for a Sibella Traill born in Feb. 1738 and in the absence of any other significant records for a Bell, Isabella or Isobel, it seemed probable that the "Bell" Traill of the letter of introduction was Sibella. He also thought that she perhaps slightly changed her name to the more common Isabella upon her arrival in Boston. Based on these assumptions, Ralph developed a four generation chart of Sibella's ancestors. This task was made easier because Sibella's father and maternal grandfather were both ministers. Their brief biographies were available in Presbyterian Church Records at the New England Historical & Genealogical Library in Boston. Using this information and data collected while in the Orkney's, Ralph was able to identify seven of her eight great-grandparents.

Pre-trip planning took a fortunate turn when Ralph discovered on the web the Orkney Homecoming Tour 2007. Co-sponsored by the Orkney Family History Society, this tour proved most beneficial since it included access to Orkney's tourist sites, the Orkney Archives and the Orkney Family History Library. The members of the tour were all interested in genealogy. They were fun to travel with. Additionally, being on the tour provided knowledgeable local people who could help with local research, even an unexpected meeting with Ralph's tenth half cousin!!

All in all, the trip was a great success, both from a ge-

nealogical point of view since many of the research goals were achieved, and from a tourism point of view.

Here's a list of some of the websites that proved useful for planning and research:

www.familysearch.org
www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
www.cyndislist.com
www.orkneyfhs.co.uk
www.nas.gov.uk
www.scotsgenealogy.com
www.visitorkney.com
www.genuki.orhouk/big/sct/OKI/index.html
www.cursiter.com
www.scan.org.uk

To summarize, if you are contemplating a trip, plan in advance as much as you can. Research in advance as much as you can. Bring a smile, an open mind and you'll probably have good results.

Falmouth Genealogical Society Monthly Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 10th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Joint Meeting with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Members of both Societies will lead group discussions on various topics including lineage society applications, writing a family history, computers, DNA, Surname Projects and various ethnic research topics.

**We will car pool from the parking lot of the
Falmouth Senior Center
300 Dillingham Ave., Falmouth, MA at 9:00 a.m.
for the 10:00 a.m. Meeting at
West Parish Congregational Church, West Barnstable**

From Falmouth take Rte. 28 to Rte. 149. Church is just beyond exit 5 (from Rte. 6) on your left.

Everyone interested is invited to attend.

For information please call
508-548-3408 or 548-477-5958
or email John Caspole at jcaspole@comcast.net

From the President

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

Autumn is always a busy time, as activities resume, fall sports events take our time and attention, and outdoor activities continue until the first snow falls – and even thereafter, if one considers that final yard cleanup, when you'd rather be indoors working on genealogy.

Nonetheless, genealogists are currently at work! Members of your Board continue to help researchers at both the Family History Library at Cataumet and the Falmouth Public Library in its temporary location on Carlson Lane. We invite all members, as well as nonmembers, who need research assistance to drop in. We hope to continue to staff both facilities on Tuesday afternoons on a regular basis, even after the public library moves back into its renovated building. Please read Jan Zlatev's Bookends article in this newsletter on what to expect at that facility when it reopens next spring.

Ralph Wadleigh continues to plan outstanding programs. In November, we look forward to our joint



New Members

We welcome the following new FGS members:

Member #358: Patricia A. Thrasher of East Falmouth, researching Thrasher/Thresher in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine; Medeiros in Azores, Falmouth.

Member #359: Christine Bates of Renton, Washington, researching Weeks, Robinson, Hatch, Bonney, Shaw, Alden, Snow, Mullen, Sampson, Browne, Bates, Holden in the Eastern U.S. and U.K.

Member #360: Lorraine S. Young of Pocasset, researching Johnson and Osterman in Finland; Young in New Jersey and Scotland, Nydahl in Sweden; Sherry and Williams from Ireland; Ginski, Klimczyk, and Tune-wicz in Poland; Clement from Canada.

Member #361: Ursula M. Boyce of North Falmouth, researching Murdoch, Murdock, Brennan, Smith, Boyce, Roche in New York and New Jersey, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Canada, and New Zealand.

workshop with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society at West Barnstable. We hope this will be the first of many joint meetings. We will car pool from the Falmouth Senior Center, setting out at 9 a.m. and returning before 1 p.m. We have several volunteer drivers, so you won't have to drive, unless you want to.

Family histories, transcriptions of diaries, and copies of family letters and photographs are welcome holiday gifts for your children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, and cousins. There's still time to get your files organized and copied. The recent Ken Burns PBS series on World War II prompted me to take my uncle's letters written from 1941 through 1945 down from their perch on the top of a closet shelf and reread them. Because of many long-forgotten references to other family members (mostly deceased) and to his experiences in Patton's Army, I decided to make photocopies of all the letters for my cousins and to add several scanned photos. To place his experiences in historical context, I found considerable information about his division on the Internet, as well as a map that showed all the places they fought – most of which he eventually was able to mention in his letters. If, as some say, the process is what is important, this has been a rewarding experience for me.

I am delighted to report that Susan Hutchinson recently volunteered to serve as FGS Secretary.



Internet Resources

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

New York Times Archives Now Available Online

In his column of 10/10/07 Dick Eastman reported that since late September New York Times Archives from 1851 to 1922, as well as their archives from 1987 to present, are available free of charge on the Times website, www.nyt.org. For the years 1923-1986, some material is available without charge, while other information still requires paying a fee. Information from the International Herald Tribune is also available online.

Continued on page 7

Report on the Cemetery Transcription Project

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Donna E. Walcovy, Program Chair
falcem@hotmail.com • 508-477-1947



Now that the cemetery project is nearing the halfway point, FGS would like to present members with a report. Project Chair Donna Walcovy is due our thanks for her dedication to this project and her extremely generous contributions of time and effort to plan, organize, publicize, and implement its many aspects.

First, Donna, the Board, and members of FGS would like to thank those who have also made donations toward the project. These include both financial contributions and volunteer hours.

Many thanks to the following members for 2006-2007 monetary donations to the CTP:

Louise T. Adler	Sallie A. Giffen	Walter & Frances McLean
Marie Brady	Gary & Nancy Hayward	Joyce Pendery
Bebe Brock	Elizabeth A. Holland &	Deane & Barbara Robbins
Barbara Bunker	Daniel P. George	Marjorie A. Rugen
James E. Cardoza	Clem & Mary Hutchins	Frances E. Shepard
John M. Caspole	Jaqueline Johnson	Edward I. Shibata
Shirley & Wm. Dunkle	Betsy King	Denise Stahlheber
Gardner M. Edgerton	John F. MacDonald	Margaret E. Theochares
Falmouth WalMart		Ralph & Judy Wadleigh

And many thanks to those members who donated time and labor during 2006-2007:

Eleanor Baldic	Sallie A. Giffen	Joyce Pendery
Bebe Brock	Betsy King	Marge Riley
James E. Cardoza	Bill Long	Marjorie A. Rugen
Shirley & Wm. Dunkle	David Martin	Marianne Shafer
And any others who helped!		Ralph Wadleigh

At the present time, transcriptions from the following cemeteries are posted on our web site, www.falgen.org, under "Cemetery Project:" Methodist Society Burying Ground, Davisville Cemetery, Bay View Cemetery, and a link to the East Falmouth Burying Ground. In the near future, data from the East End Burying Ground, North Falmouth Cem-

Continued on page 6

FGS Cemetery Project

Continued from page 4

etry, and Friends Burying Ground will be posted on our web site, after volunteers complete numerous record-keeping and data entry aspects of the project.

Volunteers Are Still Needed

Volunteers are still needed to complete some vital record and data entry, as well as to proof read inscription listings for the cemeteries. Although the mission statement for the Cemetery Transcription Project (CTP) is straight forward and simple, the work to be done is complex, requiring volunteers with many different skills. Even though Donna has all the skills, she does not have time to use them all, all the time, and needs to continue to rely on volunteers for assistance.

To help clarify exactly what the different jobs are, Donna and Joyce put together the following chart, with the hope that you might find a volunteer job that fits your skills and time. We could use a Coordinator for each of the tasks, as well as workers. Please contact Donna at d.quenzel@comcast.net with questions, more detailed description of each task, and for volunteering to help out so we can complete the project in a timely manner, that is within two or three more years.

Plans to read, record, and photograph The Church of the Messiah Cemetery in Woods Hole are scheduled for 2008. Work will also begin on the Old Burying Ground on Mill Road.

TASK	LOCATION	WHEN	TIME REQUIRED
Photography Assistants	At each cemetery	During or after Inscription reading	Several hours at each cemetery
Photograph Processing for data entry	Probably at your home	At your convenience	As much as you care to give
Reading Coordinator for each cemetery	At each cemetery	At dates set for the cemetery	At least half a day for several weeks
Inscription reading and transcription	At each cemetery	At dates you set for the cemetery	Half a day for several weeks
Organizing reading forms for data entry and adding vital record information	At your home	At your convenience	As much time as you care to give
Creating EXCEL spread sheets from the data	At your home Must have, understand, and use EXCEL	At your convenience	As much time as you care to give
Data entry, using HTML	At your home. Must be computer savvy.	At your convenience	As much time as you care to give
Checking links, proof reading data	At your home	At your convenience	As much time as you care to give
Drawing or locating maps of cemeteries	At cemeteries, historical society, home	At your convenience	As much time as you care to give

Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



The “New” Library

Our President Joyce Pendery arranged a meeting with library director Leslie Morrissey for Monday, September 17th. Ralph Wadleigh and I attended with Joyce. Falmouth Genealogical Society was concerned about

space for genealogy in the new library as preliminary plans did not show this area.

Leslie was well prepared for our meeting with shelving plans that had been drawn up on August 31, 2007. These plans show the area for genealogy in the new addition on the side facing Katherine Lee Bates Road. Genealogy books will be shelved separately from the general reference collection and our Society will be allocated 12 feet of shelf space for our own materials. Joyce and Ralph who are more familiar with the collection felt that this would be adequate.

Joyce then asked about space for our Tuesday afternoon help sessions. There is an area behind the reference desk and separated from it by a bookshelf. The plans show a table and six chairs in this area. This could be reserved for the Society on Tuesday afternoons. We can also sign up for one of the tutorial cubicles where a door encloses the space, however here we would be in competition with the after school tutors. Our FGS computer would not have a designated space as it did in the old genealogy area. We could leave it hooked up in the area near the table and chairs, but patrons would probably use it when the library was busy. Leslie suggested that the Society consider purchasing a laptop with wireless capabilities for our programs. We can also sign up to use one (or maybe 2) of the library’s laptops. There are also 2 meeting rooms on the ground floor of the new addition and we could sign up for one for our monthly meetings. Terms of use have yet to be established by the library. The smaller of the rooms would probably be adequate for our group under most circumstances. Since our meeting with Leslie, Joyce has had a tour of the

interior and she said the designated area for genealogy appears bright with windows facing Katherine Lee Bates Road. We were all reassured about the space and considerations for Falmouth Genealogical Society at the new library.

On another point the library has a “wish list” for equipping various areas and there is \$30,000 noted for furnishing and equipping the genealogy area. This figure is for a single “naming” donation of that amount. Officers of the Falmouth Genealogical Society recently voted unanimously to make a \$500 donation to be used in the Genealogical section of the library. The Society will continue to contribute to the electronic databases and purchases of recommended books for the library. As a suggestion, if anyone is planning on a personal donation, they may want to note that their interest is in this area. Donations should be sent to Falmouth Public Library Foundation, P.O. Box 401, Falmouth, MA 02541. Further information is available from Sarah Pring whose email address is: openingthedoor@gmail.com.

We were told that the construction is going well and that the library plans to begin moving books back into the “new” library sometime in March. Re-opening is scheduled for late spring 2008.



Internet Resources

Continued from page 4

PAF Download

Just a reminder that the Family History Center’s Personal Ancestry File (PAF) one of the most popular desktop genealogical programs, is available to download without cost from www.familysearch.org.

Encyclopedia of Genealogy

Have you discovered the Encyclopedia of Genealogy, sponsored by Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter and online genealogy bookstores RootsBooks.com and RootsBooks.co.uk? The site has been around for several

Continued on page 9

Quebec Records Online

by John B. Peri

Genealogical research in Quebec has always been easy compared to that in most other parts of the world. Abundant useful records include the parish registers of the many Catholic parishes as well as some Protestant parishes, marriage contracts, census and notarial records plus many others. The names of the parents of the bride and groom are nearly always given on marriage records, or, if the bride is a widow, the name of her late husband so that her parents' names can be obtained from the record of her previous marriage. The mother's maiden name is, of course, also found on baptismal records. Nearly all these records have been well preserved with few losses from war or fire. Next to ice hockey, genealogy has apparently long been the most popular sport in Quebec, and the results of much previous research are also available. Two major genealogical dictionaries, Tanguay (1) and Jette, (2) have long greatly aided research, and the Drouin collection of marriage records which cover more recent records (1621-1967) than these two dictionaries are also invaluable. The University of Montreal has published a comprehensive collection of parish records (before 1800) through the Programme de Recherche en Demographie Historique (or PRDH). Microfilms of most parish and census records have also been available. Consulting these records has usually meant a trip to NEHGS in Boston, the American-French Genealogical Society (AFGS) in Woonsocket, an LDS Family History Center and/or other libraries.

Within the past few years, however, most of these records have become much more readily available thanks to the internet and the appearance of both free and commercial genealogical websites. Although Jette's Dictionnaire has been available in the Falmouth Public Library the seven volume Tanguay Dictionnaire has not been. Tanguay – although somewhat less reliable than Jette – does cover later events than Jette. Tanguay is now online (1) in a free website provided by the Library of the National Archives of Quebec. Tanguay gives birth, marriage and deaths from the earliest records to as late as 1871 in some cases. The site is easy to use although you must have a recent version of Adobe Acrobat (also free) to use it. The PRDH collection has also been available online (3) for several years now, providing comprehensive records of early births, marriages, deaths,

marriage contracts, etc. but these records are all before 1800. Use of this excellent website requires a modest payment – roughly \$20 for 150 hits which can be used with no expiration date. Much research can be done at very little cost on this site, and it is well worth the money.

Ancestry.com has now acquired rights to the Drouin Collection of microfilms and is apparently now in the process of indexing the very many microfilm images. At present, lacking indexing, this invaluable resource online is not very useful. Subscription is required, and this is not cheap. Eventually this may be very useful and may possibly be accessed free online at the Falmouth Library. Canadian census records for 1881, 1901, and 1911 are now also available online at no charge. The 1881 Canadian Census is available on the LDS site FamilySearch.org, and, of course, entering the desired names (in quotes) or other pertinent information on Google.com or other search engines can often yield amazing results. (Much previous research is available online.) For those seeking Quebec records after 1850, however, there has not been much else online other than very specialized databases. A small sample of notarial records used to be available online although this never covered more than a small fraction of the total, but even this small fraction has apparently nearly vanished. A few notarial record summaries relating to early settlers can be found online in the Colonial records of the National Archives of Canada. A CD (Database Parchemin) summarizing all notarial records of Quebec, from the beginning up to 1765 in all places and to 1775 in the Montreal area, can be purchased (at very considerable expense).

The recent appearance of the new website “Your Folks” (4) has made a truly major contribution to those who would rather do Quebec research at home than in some distant library. This site presently provides information on Quebec marriages up to 1965 and after finding a marriage also gives the marriages of all the children of this marriage that they can find on record. This is enormously useful for anyone starting research on fairly

Continued on page 9

Proving the Identity of Timothy Hatch

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

In October, Rev. Showalter of the Falmouth Congregational Church hoped to prove that a certain Timothy Hatch, who was involved in the founding of the Montpelier, Vermont, Congregational Church in 1808 was the same person as Timothy Hatch, son of Amos Hatch, born in Falmouth ca. 1755 and married there on 30 July 1780 to Lydia Bearse of Barnstable. The name Timothy Hatch disappears from Falmouth records about that time.

One reason Rev. Showalter thought the person was the same was that in 1808 the Timothy Hatch of Montpelier facilitated the gift of communion ware from the Falmouth Congregational Church to the new Montpelier Congregational Church.

Census records were not helpful until the 1820 census for Vermont indicated that a Timothy Hatch lived in

Montpelier. Massachusetts Revolutionary War records did include a Timothy Hatch from Falmouth who served in the Revolution.

The problem was solved by consulting Revolutionary War Pension Application Files, available on Heritage-Quest Online, through either the Boston Public Library or Falmouth Public Library web sites. The very interesting four-page long 11 March 1833 pension application that Timothy Hatch personally submitted provided a detailed account of his war service in a Falmouth unit and stated that he was born in Falmouth on May 22, 1755, was living in Falmouth when he voluntarily entered service in 1776, and that he moved to Montpelier, Vermont in 1794, where he had since lived. This was the information needed to prove that the Timothy Hatch of Falmouth was indeed the Timothy Hatch of Montpelier.



Quebec Records Online

Continued from page 8

recent Quebec ancestors. Your Folks does not presently provide a view of the original records, and the information transcribed is limited to the date and place of the event and the names of the bride and groom and the names of their parents. Witnesses and the priest are not named as they are in the PRDH records nor are the ages of bride and groom and other information occasionally found in the more complete PRDH transcriptions. Your Folks is also less flexible than PRDH as regards spelling variations of a surname. Your Folks, like PRDH, is a commercial site and requires modest payment, but, like PRDH, it is well worth the money. They have plans to expand the types of records they provide to include baptismal and burial records and should become an even more valuable site in the future.

There are also many other specialized online databases for Quebec records which can be found in Cyndislist.com or elsewhere (5).

1. Tanguay, Adrien, Dictionnaire Genealogique des Familles Canadiennes <http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/dicoGenealogie/>

2. Jette, Rene, Dictionnaire Généalogique des Familles du Québec
3. PRDH <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/>
4. Your Folks <http://mesaieux.com/an/default.htm> (or just YourFolks.com)
5. <http://globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/quebec/searchable-pq.htm>

See what's new at AOL.com and Make AOL Your Homepage.



Internet Resources

Continued from page 7

years, and is a free source of information about genealogical topics, tools, and techniques, but not lineages, and is something like Wikipedia. For example, you can search the site by topic, by location where records are kept, by how to do research in other countries, or for a list of genealogists in other countries. Here, you find a free, noncommercial genealogical reference manual, created by genealogists and for genealogists.

Continued on page 10

Internet Resources

Continued from page 9

Online Searchable Death Indexes

The web site www.deathindexes.com is an up-to-date directory of death indexes for all states that lists death records, death certificate indexes, death notices and registers, obituaries, probate indexes, and cemetery and burial records available at no charge or for a fee. There is also a link to the Social Security Death Index.

NUCMC Online

Remember the multi-volume series National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections that serves as a guide to manuscript collections in public, college and university, and special libraries not only in North America, but around the world? NUCMC is now available online at <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/oclcsearch.html>. Enter a place name, such as Falmouth, or a surname, such as your own, or a subject, and you will have a list of manuscripts. Detailed descriptions of their contents are available with another click.

Finding Living Persons in U.S. Public Records Index

Recently, a British woman wrote because she had tried, for years, to find the two daughters of her great aunt who were last heard of while unmarried and living in Rockville, CT in 1940. She did know that their parents had died in Florida in the mid 1970s, but she did not know the married names of their two daughters.

A Hartford Courant obituary provided the married name and residence of one daughter. More research showed that she died in Sarasota, Florida, in 2002. For a fee, through the Internet, it was possible to access her 2002 obituary in a Sarasota newspaper. The obit provided the names and residences of her two children.

It seemed like the solution was at hand! A simple search of the online White Pages should provide their phone numbers. Wrong! Neither was listed in the towns or environs of where they had resided in 2002 when their mother died.

My resourceful Connecticut research consultant then looked on the "Public Records" section of www.ancestry.com's "Historical Records." One of the two descendants we were looking for was listed there, with his new address in Florida and probably unlisted telephone

number, as well as his age and the name and age of his wife. A quick phone call confirmed that he was the second cousin of the woman in Britain, and the two are now happily exchanging family information and photos.

To get listings from the Public Records section of ancestry.com, be sure "Historical Records" is highlighted, and type in the name of the (living) person you are researching. When the first screen of results comes up, click on "Living People Finder" under "Record Type" on the left side of the screen. A list will then come up that may include city directory or phone directory listings, possibly information from land records, and more. If you enter your own name, you will probably find yourself, your kids, as well as other people by the same name! Try it! You might – or might not – like the results!



Rules of Mourning

FGS member Robert Chase sent the following Rules of Mourning from notes he took at a genealogical meeting in Essex County, MA in 1996.

- Men usually observed mourning for three months following the loss of a wife or family member
- Women were expected to mourn for two and a half years
- Deep mourning for women was for a year and a day
- Women were expected to remain at home
- If women had to go out they were expected to wear plain, black clothing, crepe and a long veil, no silks, fancy gloves or glossy materials
- Second mourning lasted through the second year
- Less crepe, less black and grey
- Half mourning lasted six months
- Could wear lavender clothing
- Could not go to weddings (bad luck)
- Plain hair, no silks
- Could wear "hair" jewelry (no gold, silver, precious metals)