

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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Newsletter
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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.

Falmouth Genealogical Society

THE PORTUGUESE IN FALMOUTH

Program presented by Lewis A. White on February 8, 2014

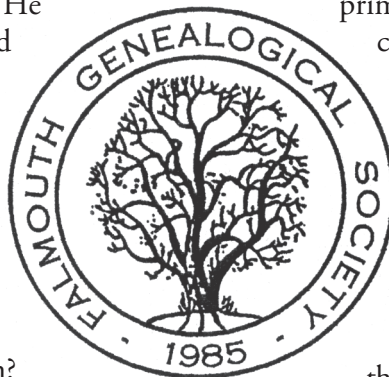
Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, C.G.

Curious Falmouth native and would-be genealogist, Lewis A. White told how he embarked on a multi-year study of the history of the Azores, home of his ancestors, and Falmouth, their more recent home. He visited the Azores in 2001. An engineer and mathematician by training and profession and an amateur historian, he also had to learn about genealogical methodology and resources to reach his goal.

During his research, he hoped to answer these questions: Why would anyone leave the Azores and why are there so few Portuguese in America and so many in Falmouth? Census records were very helpful in determining when Azoreans came to America and where they settled, although he found many problems having to do with accuracy, completeness, and inconsistency. There was little

immigration from the Azores, agricultural islands 850 miles west of Portugal, until the mid-nineteenth century.

The small first wave of immigrants, ca. 1840-1870, was primarily male: comprising whalers who were recruited as crew members for whaling vessels that stopped there during voyages to the Pacific Ocean. Whalers often settled in the New Bedford area at the end of those voyages. Second wave immigrants, ca. 1870-1920, were often recruited as families of unskilled laborers to work in factories and mills in southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It was members of the more numerous third wave of more skilled immigrants, ca. 1950's to 1980's, who settled in Falmouth. The Azores are volcanic islands, and frequent seismic events during those years led to increased immigration to America.



Calendar of Meetings for 2014

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

May 10 - Paul Bunnell: *Loyalist Migrations*

June 14 - Annual Meeting, Round Table Discussion, and Election of Officers

July 12 - TBA

August 9 - Ralph Wadleigh: *Writing a Genealogical Sketch*

September 13 - Beginners' Workshop

October 11 - Donna Walcovy: *How to Plan a Family Reunion*

November 8 - Joint Meeting with CCGS: Rhonda McClure of NEHGS: *Immigration Research*

December 13 - Annual Holiday Food Fest



Lewis White (left) with state representative David Viera

Lewis White discovered that the first Azoreans in Falmouth settled in Waquoit. In 1870 there were three families there, all from Faial. By 1900, forty-three families from the Azores were scattered throughout Falmouth. By 1930, Portuguese comprised 31.5% of the population of Falmouth.

At that time in the Azores, there was almost no possibility to own land. Here, the Portuguese worked and saved to buy land and a house. The majority were self-sufficient farmers who also worked part-time. After World War II, the expansion of the economy brought more opportunities for work and moving from blue collar to white collar jobs. One of the traditions the Azoreans brought to Falmouth was the formation of a Holy Ghost Association with a parade and feast at Pentecost. They also formed the Falmouth Portuguese-American Association in 1979.

Many Portuguese first names and surnames were changed during and after immigration, making genealogical research difficult. With much humor, Lewis White explained the many changes in his names and why they are no longer Portuguese. Indices on Ancestry.com require using any or all name and spelling possibilities. In addition to U.S. census records, Portuguese parish records are available on microfilm. Lewis White also suggested using the web site www.georgepacheco.com and going to the New Bedford Public Library Genealogy Room, Paul Cyr, Director, and the New Bedford Whaling Museum, James Russell, Director.

Lewis A. White is the author of the article "The Portuguese in Falmouth," published in the Winter-2013 edition of Spritsail, publication of the Woods Hole Historical Society. The standing room only audience enjoyed and appreciated his fascinating lecture.

WHAT'S NEW on the INTERNET

Falmouth Genealogical Society Program,

January 11, 2014

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Several members and guests of FGS discussed their favorite genealogy web sites, with enthusiastic comments and questions from the audience. Web sites discussed included:

- www.genealogyintime.com opens to the Genealogy in Time Magazine. This web site, founded in 2008, is free and very large. It lists new data sets coming onto the web each week. Anyone can sign up for their free weekly newsletter, as well as for queries.
- www.gengathering.com opens to a menu and explanation of this site, dedicated to genealogists who are willing to share genealogical information or help others with their research. A great deal of information has been posted on this web site.
- www.olivetreegenealogy.com, another free web site, specializes in ships' passenger lists for ships leaving U. S. ports, as well as those arriving; obituaries; records from many national and ethnic groups; and much more.
- www.familysearch.org has been redesigned (again), has much new information, and should be checked out again.
- www.scotlandpeople.gov.uk is the largest online source for basic Scottish genealogical information.
- www.ancientfaces.com features memories, photos, and obituaries from the past.
- www.deadfred.com has photos, vital records, genealogical records from Scotland and more.
- www.sturgislibrary.org is the web site for the Sturgis Library in Barnstable Village with its large library and archives dedicated to Cape Cod history and genealogy.
- www.nnyln.com focuses on northern New York newspapers, but has much general and international

genealogical information, as well.

- www.findagrave.com should always be checked for deaths and grave stone inscriptions.
- And don't forget the old standby www.cyndislist.com with links to most major genealogical websites, worldwide.

SOURCES of INFORMATION

Joyce S. Pendery, C.G.

With traditional genealogical research, as well as with increasing dependence on tracing our lineages on genealogy web sites, it is important to know how to evaluate and prove the information found, especially if it is undocumented or conflicting information.

Sources are the principal means through which we find, evaluate, and document genealogical information. You have probably heard the advice to find original sources to document all the facts in your lineage. Alas, much online genealogical information has little or no source documentation

Genealogists and historians use the terms primary sources and secondary sources. Sometimes genealogists also refer to original or derivative information. Information from a primary source or original information is the most sought after and reliable, although on occasion, it can be incorrect.

PRIMARY SOURCE: Information that was provided by the subject or a witness to the event, at the time the event occurred or later. It can be written or oral.

- Birth: vital record of birth; church christening or baptismal record.
- Guardianship or orphan record; court adoption or name change.
- Marriage: vital record of marriage; church record of marriage; marriage bond or license
- Death: vital record of death is both primary and secondary, as the subject of the record did not provide all the information. What occurred at the time of death is primary information about the subject (told or recorded

by someone else). Information about the decedent, such as date and place of birth and parents, is considered secondary information, since the subject of the record did not provide that information.

- Bible records, if information was entered when events occurred or later by a participant or observer of the event.
- Deeds and land records
- Probate records and administration papers
- Censuses that show family relationships, although information may have been provided by someone other than the subject and might be incorrect.
- Tax assessments and exemptions
- Military and pension records
- Contemporary correspondence; diaries
- Ship passenger lists

SECONDARY SOURCE: Information not provided by a participant or witness of the event.

- Birth: newspaper accounts
- Marriage: newspaper accounts
- Death record (see above); obituaries; tombstone inscriptions and cemetery records
- Samplers
- Censuses that don't show family relationships
- Abstracts or transcripts of official records; court records
- City directories. telephone directories
- Family histories and undocumented genealogies
- Online genealogy databases

One other possibility is to assemble several pieces of indirect and/or circumstantial evidence that do not directly answer the question but do relate to the question and do provide a reasonable answer. I used this method to prove one generation for my Mayflower Society applica-

tion. Only after moving to Cape Cod, did I learn from a distant cousin, whom I met online, that I had Crosby ancestors from Cape Cod, who descended from Mayflower passengers. My new cousin sent me photocopies of family correspondence from the mid and late 1880's with references therein to several Crosby family members and their spouses, information I knew to be correct. I could document births for every Mayflower ancestor but one, my ancestor Sabray Crosby, whose family had moved from the Cape to the Catskills in the early 19th century. The births of all her siblings were recorded in church records there, but hers was not. In one of the old letters, that one of Sabray's brothers wrote, he referred to Sabray Crosby's husband, Abraham Ridlen, as "Brother" Ridlen, indicating that he was married to one of his sisters. Another bit of circumstantial evidence strengthened the argument and led to a reasonable and acceptable proof of the relationship. My ancestor's somewhat uncommon first name of Sabray was also the first name of her granddaughter, who was my grandmother.

Be persistent and continue your search, until you are reasonably sure that you have adequate and correct documentation!



From the President

Ralph Wadleigh

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What's going on? From where I sit, our organization continues to roll along. Regular board meetings have improved communication. The website committee has been revived and is beginning the exciting task of refreshing our current site. The many chores that keep FGS alive and relevant are being better shared. This is especially true with respect to program, membership and NERGC planning. For all this I am grateful.

As I look ahead to the rest of 2014, this seems to be a reunion year. In October, Donna Walcovy will be speaking on Organizing a Family Reunion. Many of you are probably having reunions this year as well. These are wonderful opportunities for you to share your research with your cousins. For myself, I attended one family reunion last month and in June will be attending another. For the June reunion I have devoted a great deal of time

and energy into compiling a family photo book as well as writing eight individual personal sketches on a great great grandfather, a great grandfather, a grandfather and his five siblings. I am also learning how a web site can be used to pull the family together. I plan to share the sketch writing experience with the membership in one of our monthly meetings. Maybe you will find this a good way to share your family knowledge.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of FGS through your energy and enthusiasm.

NEXT NERGC – NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

It is not too soon to start thinking about attending the next NERGC to be held at the Convention Center in downtown Providence, R.I., from April 15 – 19, 2015. The conference theme is "Navigating the Past: Sailing Into the Future." Providence is accessible for a one day attendance, while connecting hotels make a longer stay convenient. The 2000 NERGC in Providence was a rousing success. Let's make it a tradition!

FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

The FGS Newsletter is a quarterly publication, published the last month of each quarter: In October, January, April, and July of each year. The Newsletter is available to members online or by mail. Each member is requested to select their preference – or to choose both means of delivery. Contributions are very welcome.

To put together our quarterly Newsletter, we need to have a variety of articles to interest our readers. That is to say, more than reports on presentations at meetings that usually provide interesting and useful genealogical information.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

You do not have to be an experienced writer! Just be you! We can edit it for you.

You could write about:

1. A BRICK WALL you solved or cannot solve
2. A RESEARCH TRIP – NEAR OR FAR AWAY
3. AN AMUSING ANECDOTE about your research

4. YOUR FAVORITE BOOK OR WEB SITE AND WHY.

5. References to other helpful publications.

You could submit GENEALOGICAL JOKES, TRIVIA OR CARTOONS for filler we sometimes need.

August-September-October issue: Deadline is October 1st

November-December-January issue: Deadline is January 2

February-March-April issue: Deadline is April 1

May-June-July issue: Deadline is July 1



RESEARCHING YOUR IRISH ROOTS

Program Presented by Mary Ellen Grogan
Falmouth Genealogical Society
on March 8, 2014

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

MARY Ellen Grogan presented a lecture on the basics for Irish research. She pointed out that for Irish researchers, the destruction of the Public Record Office in Dublin during the Civil War in 1922 created a major problem. She then discussed many other possible sources of information about Irish ancestors. To receive a copy of Mary Ellen Grogan's handout with more detailed information, send an email marked "Falmouth Lecture" to megrogan@ix.netcom.com.

Tips for success include searching every record source available in the U.S. before going to Ireland; looking for information about every member of the family, as any one may have left valuable clues; being flexible in spelling of surnames and places; and learning about both civil and religious administrative districts.

Mary Ellen discussed available vital records and church records and showed examples of the information on each type of record. Most records begin in the mid-19th century, and most of the indexes through 1958 are available

on www.familysearch.org. Microfilms of the records can be obtained through LDS libraries. Our nearest is in Cataumet. Griffith's evaluation tax records (ca. 1840's – 1860's), provide information about property rentals, while census records are available only for 1901 and 1911.

A list of the types of records available when you visit both Ireland and Northern Ireland was presented. Going there should only follow in depth research in this country.

SELECTED IRISH RESEARCH REFERENCE LIST

Falley, Margaret Dickson, *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research: A Guide to the Genealogical Records, Methods and Sources on Ireland*, 2 vol. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988).

Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 4th edition. (Dublin: Bill & Macmillan Ltd., 2012).

MacLysaght, Edward. *The Surnames of Ireland*, 6th edition. (Dublin: Academic Press, 1991).

Mitchel, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, 2nd edition. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002).

Mitchel, Brian. *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc., 1988).

Ryan, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family & Local History*, 2nd ed. (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 2000).

PRINCIPAL WEBSITES FOR IRISH GENEALOGY RESEARCH

www.ancestry.com. Indexes to Griffith's Valuation and to the Tithe Applotment Books for Ireland.

www.familysearch.org. Birth records, indexes to civil records; microfilms rented through LDS libraries.

www.findmypast.ie. Detailed information on many registers, records, directories, marriages, wills, etc.

www.irish-roots.ie. Catholic church records primarily.

www.irishgenealogy.ie. Church records for parishes in Carlow, Cork, Dublin, and Kerry.

www.irishorigins.com. Definitive version of Griffith's Primary Valuation records and maps; Irish Will Index (1484-1858); 1851 Dublin City Census, and more.

www.nationalarchives.ie; 1901 and 1911 census records, tithe applotment maps.

www.pronic.gov.uk. Public Record Office of No. Ireland with information on collections and databases.



BOOK REVIEW

Janice Zlatev, Library Chair

I recently read *Advanced Genealogy Research Techniques* by George C. Morgan and Drew Smith. In addition to their other genealogical credentials, they are the co-producers of "The Genealogy Guys Podcast." I read about this book in an online review and borrowed it through the library's CLAMS network.

This book is about ways to get through brick walls in your genealogical research. Once beyond the early research of your ancestral lines, most genealogists encounter one or more brick walls. The authors offer a broad range of options for finding a breakthrough in those walls. They emphasize accurate record keeping of your searches and sources, as it may be that through reviewing your sources you might see something you missed previously. New data is constantly coming online. Also, it can help you not to go down a dead end again.

It is important when reviewing records to check that they are original sources. Often errors occur in transcription of records and abstracts or excerpts may leave out information that is important to your research. In using family trees posted online, you should check the citations for each entry and read them yourself. Some trees are very well documented, but others may be copies of earlier misinformation.

Research FANS--family, associates, neighbors of your ancestor. Sometimes their footprints can lead you to your ancestor. The authors also suggest discussing your research with others. This is one of the benefits of society membershi. Other members may be researching in the same geographic area or ethnic group, and you may learn about new resources.

DNA testing and other new technologies are discussed and

ideas presented on how to take advantage of them. Authors suggest electronic message boards, social networks, and specialized genealogical software. They include ideas on how to most effectively post information on electronic message boards and social media. Specialized software mentioned includes GenSmarts, Clooz, and Evidentia.

If all your hard work does not lead to success, it may be time for professional help, and the authors discuss how to find the best option for you.

I found this a very interesting book with a wealth of information.

OPPORTUNITY

My name is Lexie Fleege and I'm contacting you from EF High School Exchange Year. I was referred your way by Julie Madden and wanted to get in touch with you to see if there is a way to let members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society know about a flexible, part-time employment opportunity? EF High School Exchange Year is a non-profit high school foreign exchange program and we're currently hiring exchange coordinators throughout the U.S. to bring this program to their local communities. We find involved community members thrive in this role, as our International Exchange Coordinators work locally with schools, networking, and student supervision during the school year. This is something that can be done while working full time, and taken on as more of a side project, since the coordinator decides their level of involvement.

It's a great program and we would love any help in getting the word out. Please let me know if this is something we can notify members about through methods such as email, bulletin board or newsletter. I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon! *Lexie.Fleege@EF.com*

FGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership dues for fiscal year FY15 (June 2014 through May 2015) of \$20.00 per year is due on June 1, 2014. Kindly remit your check made payable to Falmouth Genealogical Society P.O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA. 02536-2107 or bring your check to the next monthly meeting.