

SINCE 1985

Celebrating 30 Years!

FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER FOR SUMMER 2015

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 3

30th Anniversary Celebration Held June 13, 2015

Forty-two members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society attended the June 13, 2015, brunch and annual meeting at the Coonamessett Inn, Falmouth, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Society.

Among early members present were Eleanor Baldic, who was the first president of FGS, Chief Paul Bunnell, who now lives in Weare, New Hampshire, Marge Riley, who now lives in Ridgefield, Connecticut, and Judy Fenner of Hyannis. Marge talked about how the Society was founded and her long-time relationship with the Society. Eleanor said she was happy to see friends from many years



PRESIDENT MARY BARRY, KICKS OFF THE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT THE COONAMESSETT INN IN FALMOUTH

back, and she emphasized that when everyone gives a little, things happen. After the event she wrote, "There have been many people, some whom are not with us now, who have volunteered of their time these past thirty years. Without them and people

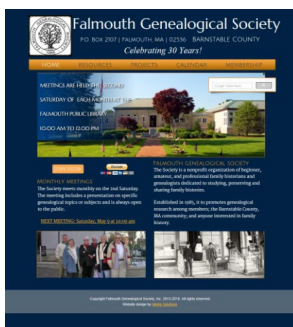
attending, our society would not be." Chief Paul Bunnell, expert on Loyalists, helped the Society financially with sales of his publications.

The Society successfully accomplished its goals for the past year. Members thanked for their long term contributions included other past presidents John Caspole, Judy Fenner, Joyce Pendery,

Ralph Wadleigh, and Donna Walcovy. The importance of partnerships was emphasized by cemetery project chairman Donna Walcovy and by Leslie Morrissey, Director of Falmouth Public Library, whose letter was read

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Check Out Our Newly Designed Website!



www.falgen.org

Our aging website, created years ago, has been replaced. The new site offers visitors ease in finding info and takes advantage of recent changes in technol-

ogy, making maintenance easier. So our webmaster will be able to update events in a more timely manner.

Website Committee members spent many months, numerous meetings and much hard work on screen formats, content and the addition of new technological features. Credit goes to Mary Barry, Ray Howe, Jerry Luby, Dottie Priestley, Marianne Shaffer and Ralph Wadleigh. A big thank you to them all.

Some new features include: under "Membership/Join or Renew," the ability to make donations and membership renewals by credit card or PayPal accounts; under "Membership/Newsletters," 34 past quarterly newsletters can be found.

Jennifer Edwards from Media Solutions, a Falmouth website design company, was engaged to develop and implement

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING Saturday, September 12

"Exploring the Sturgis Library Collection" Located in a 1644 house in Barnstable Village, the library now hosts the only Family History Library on the Cape where LDS microfilm from Salt Lake City can be ordered and viewed. Learn what's in their archives including family genealogies, periodicals, land deeds, maritime and archeology collections.

With Antonia Stephens

**10 am Downstairs
At the Falmouth Library**

Saturday, October 10

"Conserving our Personal Collection"

With Shelle Morehead

**10 am Downstairs
At the Falmouth Library**

Saturday, November 14

"Effective Use of Archives: Federal, Regional & Local" & "Breaking Through Brick Walls" & Q & A

With John Colletta

(Cosponsored with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society)

10:30 am—1:00 pm followed by Lobster Roll Lunch at St. Peter's Church, Osterville

Saturday, December 12

"Annual Holiday Food Fest"

With Members Bringing

Old Holiday Recipes/

Cookbooks/Christmas Cards

**10 am Downstairs
At the Falmouth Library**

30th Anniversary Celebration

(cont'd. from p. 1)



CURRENT & PAST PRESIDENTS FROM LEFT:—MARY BARRY, RALPH WADLEIGH, JUDY FENNER, DONNA WALCOVY, JOYCE PENDERY, MARGE RILEY, ELEANOR BALDIC & JOHN CASPOLE

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*ELEANOR BALDIC,
FOUNDING MEMBER*

about the relationship between the society and the library. Members of the society spent a total of 239 hours of their time assisting those seeking help searching for ancestors on Tuesdays at the library. The Society also pays a portion of library subscriptions to *Ancestry* and *Heritage Quest*. Another important partner is the Cape Cod Genealogical Society,

whose President David Martin brought best wishes from that Society and introduced their incoming president, Joan Frederici.

Falmouth Program Chair, Ralph Wadleigh, discussed the Society's participation in the April 2015 NERGC Conference at Providence, including donating more than 20 hours of time

Current officers will continue to serve during the 2015-2016 year. The Treasurer reported that the current balance in the Society's accounts is \$13,293.12. Next year's budget of \$1,300 will include funds to further update and improve the new website.

Article provided by Joyce Pendery



HAPPY FOUNDING MEMBERS FROM LEFT: ELEANOR BALDIC, CHIEF PAUL BUNNELL AND MARGE RILEY



A TABLE OF MEMBERS ENJOYING THE FESTIVITIES

NERGC Regional Conference a Huge Success

As a result of the large attendance at the 2015 New England Regional Genealogical Consortium conference held April 15-18, Falmouth Genealogical Society, a participating society, received a refund from the Conference of \$1,492.06. This was

because any proceeds from registrations that are not needed to pay conference expenses are refunded to the sponsoring societies.

FGS will again be a participating society in the next NERGC

conference, to be held at Springfield, Mass., on April 26-29, 2017. Plan ahead to attend this conference!! For more info see: <http://nergc.org/about-nergc.html>

Article provided by Joyce Pendery

Check Out Our Newly Designed Website!

(cont'd. from p. 1)

the new site. On May 4, 2015, the web committee and Board of Directors met and approved moving the new website into production. It can be accessed through the previous address, www.falgen.org.

The home page proudly displays a picture of the Falmouth Public Library where our society was founded in 1985 and continues to hold the majority of its monthly meetings.

The "Home" section tells about us, our mission, our board members and how to contact us.

The "Resources" section lists those at Falmouth Public Library as well as other facilities and provides links to websites and

genealogical societies.

There are three sections under "Projects." The "Obituary" tab provides an index of surnames of obituaries published in the *Falmouth Enterprise* from January 1, 1960, through December 31, 2011.

Under the "Cemetery Transcription" tab, 20 Falmouth cemeteries are detailed with a brief history, picture of the location, and an alpha search index providing name, YOB, YOD, and lot number in the cemetery.

"Vital Records" provides easy access to two online websites where vital records are maintained: The New England Historic Genealogical Society in

Boston and the Falmouth Public Library's access to Falmouth Town records.

In addition to the ability to pay online, the "Membership" sections will, when completed, offer members only a facility to post research questions, receive responses from fellow members, provide a safe and secure area to publish your family histories, and read the four most recent newsletter editions.

Bylaws and the past newsletters are found there also.

I encourage everyone to spend some time and become familiar with the new website.

Article provided by Gerard Luby

"I ENCOURAGE

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GERARD LUBY

Newsletter Has New Style and Editor

This is the first issue of our society newsletter to be edited and designed by Dottie Priestley, who also serves as Secretary. Please let us know what you think about it by contacting her at rpriest1567@comcast.net.

If you receive the printed version but would prefer to read/store it on your computer, phone or tablet, contact Ray Howe to change to the emailed version - irayhowe@aol.com.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Joyce Pendery, former editor, and David Burt, former publisher, for their years of hard work and dedication on previous newsletters.



Navigating through Ancestry.com & A Genealogical Roundtable

On July 11 past president Ralph Wadleigh spoke on finding research assistance on www.Ancestry.com using its Learning Center under the Help tab. You'll find secrets of census searches and free state research guides. On the same page you'll find Ancestry's Family History Wiki with guidebooks, sources and content. Those without Ancestry.com subscriptions can go to Falmouth Library and use its subscription on its computers or through its Wi-Fi on their



own laptops.

Webinars are very helpful and Ralph suggested watching them instead of TV—using earphones if your spouse is watching a ball game!

Microfilm records from Salt Lake City can now be ordered at the Sturgis Library in Barnstable.

Part 2 of the program consisted

of questions and suggestions from audience members such as using the free online National Library of Ireland's newly digitized parish records on "Catholic Parish Registers at the NLI"—important for research prior to the 1901 census. Start dates are between 1740 and 1850 depending on the parish. The Worcester Public Library has a huge general and local genealogy collection and will even look up three records for no charge.

SINCE 1985

Falmouth Genealogical Society

PO Box 2107
Teaticket, MA 02536
Website: www.falgen.org

COMMITTED TO
PRESERVING PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE RECORDS
AND ENCOURAGING
OTHERS IN THE
PERFORMANCE OF
GENEALOGICAL
RESEARCH

Officers

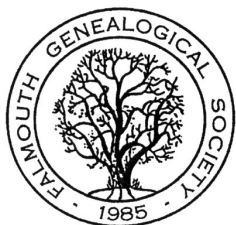
President
Mary Barry

First Vice President
Richard Harbison

Treasurer
Jerry Luby

Secretary
Dottie Priestley

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.



Tales of Our Ancestors Presented



MEMBERS JERRY LUBY, LEFT, AND BOB CHASE ENTERTAINED US WITH TALES OF ANCESTORS

August 8th was a fun morning for those attending this session. Bob Chase started it off with his hilarious recounting of *Kounraden's Vart*, or *Kounrad's Travels* in English. The fully illustrated book of verse describes the adventures of a dandy who sails from England in 1908 to the US and exotic locales, getting into scrapes but always managing to find tempting women along the way. The handmade book, which was given to him by an uncle, was translated by Bob's wife from Bavarian German to English. He then recreated the book and printed copies for family. The old and new versions are shown in the upper photo.



Then Jerry Luby told us how he traced his wife Irene's Corbett family utilizing online resources as a start. He expressed his excitement and disbelief in what he found, eventually linking her family to historic events and even royalty in Great Britain. That's Irene on the right wearing a fun tiara to signify her royal descendency. Jerry's go-to research sites were Scotland's People and the Canadian Genealogical Center. His discoveries lead to Scotland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Massachusetts, and eventually back to Hugh Corbett who was with William the Conqueror in the Battle of Hastings. Robert Corbett was a key player in the first ever census, the Domesday Book in 1086. Irene's relative, Sybil Corbett, the illegitimate daughter of Henry I, married King Alexander of Scotland.



Cosponsored Event on Immigration and Civil War Drew a Crowd



The Cape Cod Genealogical Society and Falmouth Genealogical Society cosponsored Washington-State genealogist Jill Morelli

on July 1 at the Sturgis Library, Barnstable Village. The well-attended event included Ms. Morelli's presentation, "The Push and the Pull: Migration and 19th Century Decision-Making," which posed questions about the nuances of why our ancestors really left their homelands and why they chose to settle where they did. She included possible intervening obstacles and personal factors, such as upcoming conscription, caste systems, taxes, recruiting from new countries, etc. She gave examples from her

own German and Swedish ancestors who went to Illinois. She had the great fortune of receiving a copy of a fascinating 37-page letter a relative sent to his brother about his journey from Germany!

In her second presentation, "Soldiers, Spies and Farm Wives: The Changing Roles for Women During the Civil War," Jill explained how women's lives changed during this war and some of the roles they took in the absence of so many men. These included farming, nursing, spying, etc., thus opening up new occupations for women from then on.



Ms. Morelli showed us these photos of Frances Clayton,

a woman who served as soldier Jack Williams. She was not alone. Between 250 and 1,000 women served as men in this war although the Government did not acknowledge any except a few who received pensions.

There were two documented women who dressed as soldiers and gave birth while serving. The fact that soldiers wore many layers of clothing, in which they also slept, helped disguise these women.

Ms. Morelli recommended two books, *The Legacy of the Civil War* by Robert Penn Warren and *This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War* by Drew Faust.