

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

November 2007 – January 2008

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.

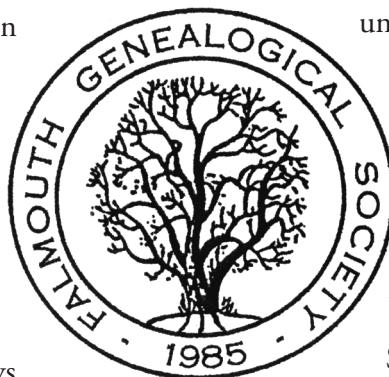
Program Notes From Meetings

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

Monthy 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

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.

❖ ❖ ❖ *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.

❖ ❖ ❖ *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. Edgarton	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

etery, 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: openingthedoort@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 HeritageQuest 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)