

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

## 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.*

## Program Notes From Meetings

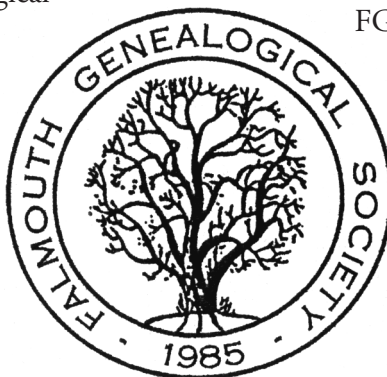
### *Joint Meeting of FGS and CCGS – November 10, 2007*

**at West Parish Meeting House, West Barnstable**

*by Joyce S. Pendery, CG*

About forty members of Falmouth Genealogical Society and Cape Cod Genealogical Society met for a joint genealogical workshop from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The turnout was about equally divided between members of each society.

CCGS Co-President David Martin and FGS President Joyce Pendery co-chaired the meeting. After welcoming remarks, participants selected from four roundtable discussions from 10:15 to 11: French-Canadian Genealogy with leader John Peri of FGS, British-Colonial Genealogy with leader Phyllis Kosco of CCGS, Irish Genealogy with leader Pat Concannon of CCGS, and Computers in Genealogy with leader Nancy Daniels of CCGS.



The second session, from 11:00-11:45, included DNA Research for Genealogy with leader Bob Rice of FGS, Preparing Lineage Society Applications with leader Joyce Pendery of FGS, Planning a Genealogy Research Trip with leader Ralph Wadleigh of FGS, and Writing Your Family History with leader David Martin of CCGS.

Participants unanimously agreed that the meeting was very successful and that another joint meeting should be planned for next year. Possible topics and venues were then discussed. The morning concluded with a self-guided tour of the remarkable West Barnstable Meeting House, built in 1717.

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Meetings for 2008

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

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 9  | FGS Members – 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             |
| June 14 | Annual Meeting  |

**\*\*\*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.

## *Spinsters and Widows – Gender Loyalty Within Families – December 8*

Presented by Laura Prescott

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Laura began her talk with a review of several background aspects of 19<sup>th</sup> century American social history that influenced the roles and perception of women, and in particular women who were not married: spinsters and widows. She discussed the effects on women's lives of migration with increasing responsibilities at home; improved educational opportunities; new opportunities for social activities outside the home; "intellectual women" who might serve as role models; new work opportunities in factories that also resulted in the development of social communities of women; and the continuing effect of legal restrictions on women's property rights.

The definition of "spinster" changed over time from an occupational description, "a woman who spins," to more social versions. A woman who never married because she was doughty or not attractive was sometimes called an "old maid" or "spinster." However, "old maids" or "spinsters" could also be unmarried, educated, genteel ladies who chose not to marry. The term "spinster" was used in 19<sup>th</sup>-century legal documents to refer to a widow who had her own rights and was legally responsible for herself. Hence, the term could be used legally to describe a woman who had been married, had children, but was widowed and managed her own affairs.

Wills and other legal documents of such women sometimes provide comprehensive lists of family members, both living and dead, to whom bequests were given. Often, there is a difference in the way men and women give away their property. Women tend to be more personal, to describe each bequest, and to name family

members individually rather than saying "to my nieces and nephews," for example.

Laura discussed the will of her great great grandmother's "spinster" sister who gave bequests to all of her siblings, nieces, and nephews, among others, yielding 23 new family names for research. Eventually, Laura was also able to trace the family back another generation or two because of information in this will.

Other sources of information about the families of spinsters and widows may be found in:

**Prenuptial agreements** that 19<sup>th</sup> century spinsters who eventually married often drew up to designate eventual disposition of their personal and real property.

**Deeds** of spinsters that sometimes list all their children and their spouses.

**Civil War Widow's Pension files** that often include legal documents and letters that list family members.

**Diaries and correspondence** that also reveal family relationships.

In conclusion, Laura suggested that genealogists identify, within their family lines, women (usually spinsters or widows) who had personal and/or real property, but no spouse to whom they could leave their property. These people usually left their property to sisters, brothers, nieces, and nephews. The documents they left behind also reveal information about the social status and life-style of the deceased.

## *Using Your Computer in Genealogical Research – January 12*

Presented by Nancy Daniels

by Janet B. Chalmers

Cape Cod Genealogical Society member Nancy Daniels talked to our Falmouth group about using the computer in genealogical research, emphasizing that the computer is not just for email anymore. She introduced the mnemonic **OREOS** to outline her presentation – **O**rganization, **R**esearch, **E**ducation, **O**riginal

Documents, **S**haring with Others, then shared many tips including websites that have helped her.

Under **ORGANIZATION** she suggested forms to use including family group records, ancestor charts and research logs; software programs including Legacy, Family Tree Maker, PAF and the Master Genealogist; saving

*Continued on page 3*

## Using Your Computer in Genealogical Research

*Continued from page 2*

original document information with Clooz, and helpful sites for confirming information including Gen Smarts and AniMap.

Under **RESEARCH** she suggested places on the Internet to start looking for relatives including the card catalog on Ancestry.com, GenealogyBand.com, WorldVitalRecords.com and FindaGrave.com. She said that many states and countries, volunteer organizations and individuals have research sites worth checking out including ProGenealogists.com, USGenWeb.com and WorldGenWeb.com plus the Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness site. Nancy said not to overlook using Google and Cyndi's List.

Under **EDUCATION** she said that there are loads of places including FamilySearch.org to help teach people how to research better, find information and solve problems. Places to learn where to begin are Dear Myrtle, the learning center on Genealogy.com and message boards on RootsWeb.com.

Nancy said that every day there are more and more **ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS** coming online. She spoke about passports on Ancestry.com, and Georgia death records and Missouri birth and death records being recently available.

Nancy finished by talking about **SHARING WITH OTHERS**, saying that although a solitary endeavor, genealogy is much more fun when shared the people who care about the same ancestors. She suggested printing out reports and either printing and mailing or attaching an email to share with others. She also talked about the benefit of message boards on Rootsweb and Ancestry.

### Useful Websites:

- AniMap  
<http://www.goldbug.com/AniMap.html>
- Free Genealogy Stuff online:  
<http://www.researchguides.net/free.htm>
- Clooz  
<http://www.clooz.com/>
- GenSmarts  
<http://www.gensmarts.com/>
- \* Ancestry  
<http://www.ancestry.com/>

- GenealogyBank  
<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/keyword.html>
- WorldVitalRecords  
[www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)
- US Gen Web  
[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com)
- World Gen Web  
<http://www.worldgenweb.org/>
- Cyndi's List  
<http://www.cyndislist.com/>
- Family Search  
<http://www.familysearch.org/>
- Find A Grave  
[www.findagrave.com/](http://www.findagrave.com/)
- Rootsweb  
[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)
- Genealogy.com  
[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)
- Georgia's Virtual Vault  
<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>
- Missouri Birth & Death Records Database, Pre 1910  
<http://sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/>
- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness



*From the Editor: I received this note with tip from long-time FGS member and newsletter editor Marge Gibson .*

I ran across a link today that you might like to add to the Newsletter. As you know, Anjou falsified a great many genealogies for profit – over 300 – and made up ancestors and places. Unfortunately they are in many libraries and have been used in writing family histories, some of which I'm sure do not "credit" him with the source of the information.

I thought you might like to include the website that lists them so no one will be fooled into using his material. Some of these genealogies may not credit him, so those using them should be careful! Take a look at the website below.

I really miss coming to the meetings as I'm now living too far away. FGS is a great group.

Marjorie Gibson

<http://personal.linkline.com/xymox/fraud/anjousbu.htm>

## *From the President*

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

### *Why Genealogy Is Good For You*

Genealogists know that our special interest in, hobby of, or passion for genealogy has multiple aspects, challenges, and rewards. Because genealogy is a personal quest, we learn more about ourselves, our ancestors and our backgrounds. Because genealogy is social, it brings us into contact with other family historians with whom we can share information and develop friendships, in person and on line. Because genealogy is an intellectual activity, during our research we may pursue our interests in history, geography, economics, religion, migration patterns, and genetics, to mention a few areas of special interest. Because the majority of our ancestors moved around we can plan travel adventures to visit ancestral homes if we are so inclined. Because many other skills can be incorporated, we may expand our computer know how and use our photography skills to record ancestral homes, graves, schools. Because sharing our family history, in bits and pieces or in toto, is an acknowledgment of our knowledge of our family history, we can use our writing skills to record the history of one person, one line, or our entire lineage. We can also volunteer our services to non-profit genealogical societies, whether local, state, regional, or national.

And now according to an article in the December 2, 2007 *New York Times*, titled "Hobbies Are Rich in Psychic Rewards," we learn that activities that make us feel good stimulate an area of the brain that regulates how we feel about life. The heightened focus and concentration of working on a hobby increase levels of important neurotransmitters. Hobbies enhance creativity, stimulate clear thinking, sharpen focus, improve problem-solving ability, develop new ways of thinking, and enhance self esteem and self confidence.

Who could ask for anything more?



### *Newsnotes*

The Connecticut Society of Genealogists has announced that in Summer 2008 they will launch a new publica-

tion, *The CSG News Magazine*. The short, lively articles and features of this publication will feature news and information of immediate focus. CSG will continue to publish scholarly genealogical articles with a Connecticut focus in *The Connecticut Nutmegger*.

On another note: FGS has sent their donation of \$500 to the Falmouth Public Library Foundation to be used for the genealogical section of the library. A FGS Board member has also donated \$100 for a brick to be inscribed: "Falmouth Genealogical Society."



### *Falmouth Vital Records Online*

Falmouth Vital Records to 1850, compiled by Col. Oliver Brown are now available online at [www.newenglandancestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org), the web site of New England Historic Genealogical Society. As members know, access to this web site is available free of charge, courtesy of FGS, at the Falmouth Public Library and the LDS Family History Library in Cataumet. The online version will be of great help to researchers who live outside Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Vital Records from 1850-1910 are also available on the same web site, making it possible for researchers to trace and document their Falmouth ancestry online from the late 1600s through 1910.



## **New Members**

We welcome the following new FGS members:

Members 362: Brian and Mary Nickerson of Falmouth. They are in the Nickerson Family Association and are also researching Winn in New Hampshire, Maine and Massachusetts.

Member 363: C. David Burt, new resident of Teaticket. He is researching Burt in Connecticut, Mahady in Boston, and Francis in Connecticut. David is Janet Burt Chalmers' brother.



## Gene Genealogy Surprise

by Edward I. Shibata

When I traced my Japanese ancestry, I found out that my surname, SHIBATA, was the result of the adoption of my great grandfather Yokichi by Mankichi SHIBATA. As second eldest son of Ichizo MIZUKAMI, Yokichi was not in line to inherit the Mizukami family property and responsibilities. However, Mankichi SHIBATA had at least two daughters, but no sons. In order to preserve the SHIBATA line, Mankichi SHIBATA adopted Yokichi by arranging his marriage to his eldest daughter, Sayo SHIBATA. Thus, my great grandfather became Yokichi Shibata. As I read more about Japanese customs, I realized that it was likely that several adoptions, and hence surname changes, have occurred in my ancestry. Thus, I realized that it would be difficult to trace my blood line.

During the past few years I became aware that DNA tests could establish the paths of my paternal and maternal blood lines. I expected to see migrations from Africa, where Homo Sapiens originated about 50,000 years ago, to China about 20,000 years ago and then to Japan. However, the analysis of my Y-DNA by the IBM-

National Geographic Genographic Project surprised me. It indicated that it was unlikely that I have Chinese ancestry in my paternal line. Instead, my paternal ancestors were of the Coastal Clan that skirted the shorelines of Southeast Asia and eventually made it to Japan. They emerged from Ethiopia/Kenya/Tanzania to go to Yemen, Oman, the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka, Sumatra, Singapore, the Phillipines, and then to Japan. Some of this group did go to China from Japan about 20,000 years ago, but it is doubtful that their offspring came back to Japan.

Later I sent my mitochondrial-DNA for analysis and found that my maternal bloodline did indicate a Chinese ancestry. The indicated path from Africa was to Saudi Arabia, to Iran, through the Russian Empire, into China, and then to Japan.

I am one of the two Shibatas in FamilyTreeDNA; however, I know that I am not a Shibata by blood since my great grandfather was adopted by Shibata to carry on the Shibata family name.

## Tidbits from Ralph Wadleigh

Alice Morse Earle (1851 – 1911)

Folks researching family ties in Colonial America will find reading some of Alice Morse Earle's books enjoyable and informative. These works, some now over a century old, provide excellent descriptions of life in Colonial times. Using diaries and letters, they tell us, among other things, what our ancestors ate, what their medicines were, how they celebrated marriage and what a Colonial funeral involved. A review of Colonial wills provided a long list of furnishings and tools listed using unfamiliar terms. Likewise, lengthy descriptions of Colonial dress include many unfamiliar words now out of use. That word you haven't been able to decipher in a letter or will could be explained in one of these titles.

Here's a list of some of Alice Morse Earle's publications:

*Customs and Fashions in Old New England* (1894)

*Child Life in Colonial Days* (c1927)

*Curious Punishments of Bygone Days* (1896)

*Home and Child Life in Colonial Days* (1969)

*Home Life in Colonial Days* (1898)

*The Sabbath in Puritan New England* (1891)

*Stage Coach and Tavern Days* (1900)

Many of these are available at the Falmouth Public Library. Others can be easily reserved through CLAMS.

**A humorous note:** At a recent performance of *The Mikado*, I heard the following exchange between Nanki Poo and Pooh-Bah:

Nanki Poo: But how good for you (for I see you are a nobleman of the highest rank) to condescend to tell all this to me, a mere strolling minstrel!

Pooh-Bah: Don't mention it. I am, in point of fact, a particularly haughty and exclusive person, of pre Adamite ancestral descent. You will understand this when I tell you that I can trace my ancestry back to a protoplasmal primordial atomic globule. Consequently, my family pride is something inconceivable. I can't help it. I was born sneering.

One never knows when genealogy will come up!!!

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



There have been some recent additions to the collection at the Falmouth Public Library that may be of interest to our members. The first of these is the 3rd edition of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: the complete guide* written by John Grenham

and published in 2006 by Genealogical Publishing Co. The library has both a reference copy and a circulating copy at 929.1072 GRE.

On order for the library is the 2nd edition of *Ancestral Trails: the complete guide to British genealogy and family history* written by Mark D. Herber and also published in 2006 by Genealogical Publishing Co.

For entertainment, I read *The Genetic Strand: exploring a family history through DNA* written by Edward Ball and found at 929.2 Ball. Edward Ball is a writer who in 2000 returned to Charleston, SC, the home of his father's family for generations. He bought a home and also purchased some family furniture from a relative

who no longer wanted it. One of the pieces was an old desk (more like a secretary and bookcase) with a secret drawer. In this drawer Edward found a collection of folded papers each containing human hair. Each packet was labeled with a name and date for the contents, starting in 1824.

Edward Ball decided to have the DNA of the hair samples tested and the book is the story of what he learned about his ancestors and also about DNA testing as a science. He sent samples to several different labs and also submitted cheek swabs from himself and a female cousin. He had several different results on the same sample from the various labs. Sometimes the technical aspects of the testing are a little too detailed, but overall the book is an interesting read.

The temporary library on Carlson Lane will be closing on February 6th to move the materials back into the renovated Main Library. The branches at East Falmouth and North Falmouth will have extended hours at this time. The grand tour for the public is scheduled for March 16, 2008 with the library opening for business on the 17th of March.

December 20, 2007

Dear Ms. Pendery and members of the  
Falmouth Genealogical Society,

On behalf of the Trustees of the Falmouth  
Public Library, I would like to thank you for your  
generous gift of \$500. Your donation will enable  
us to provide the community with a truly state-of-  
the-art library, which we could not do without  
the support of people like you.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely, Lysbeth Abrams

Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees

Our president Joyce Pendery passed on this thank you note and letter on the next page expressing appreciation for the Falmouth Genealogical Society's gift of \$500 to be used in the genealogical section of the new library.



## **Falmouth Public Library Foundation, Inc.**

### **Capital Campaign 2006-2007**

***"Opening the Door to the Future"***

December 17, 2007

Falmouth Genealogical Society  
C/o Joyce Pendery  
PO Box 2107  
Teaticket, MA 02536

Dear Joyce,

On behalf of the Falmouth Public Library Trustees and the many thousands of children, adults and families served by the Library, we would like to express our appreciation for the recent gift of \$500.00, from the Falmouth Genealogical Society, to the Falmouth Public Library Capital Campaign.

We have noted that you wish to earmark these funds for the furnishing of the Genealogical area in the Falmouth Public Library. We hope that you all will enjoy this new space when the Library opens in mid-March 2008!

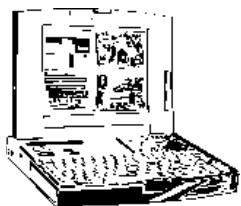
Thanks to concerned and generous community members like you, the Falmouth Public Library can continue to move forward with the furnishing and equipping of its facilities to meet the needs of Falmouth's citizens.

This tax deductible gift specifically, and the overall support of people like you, are what make it possible for us to expand our Library and enrich the services we provide. Again, thanks for your contribution to help us continue this important work and we hope that you will enjoy visiting our newly renovated Library when it opens in mid-March 2008!

Sincerely,

Joan Bates  
Capital Campaign Co-Chair

Peter Clark  
Capital Campaign Co-Chair



## Online Tips/FYI



*From the Editor: Donna Walcovy suggested I include the following information about a genealogy cruise she is considering taking. It sounds wonderful!*

### *Irish Genealogy Conference at Sea*

Dates: January 10 – 18, 2009

Ship: Royal Caribbean, Independence of the Seas

Itinerary: Eight night Eastern Caribbean route; cruise begins and ends in Fort Lauderdale with day visits to San Juan, Puerto Rico; Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas; Philipsburg, St. Maarten; and Royal Caribbean's private beach at Labadee, Haiti

This trip is being organized by TIARA (The Irish Ancestral Research Association). You do not have to be a member to join the cruise at the special rate or to attend the genealogy conference. For more information, visit Tiara's website: <http://www.tiara.ie> and click on "Trips." Any questions? Contact Mary Ellen Grogan at [megrogan@ix.netcom.com](mailto:megrogan@ix.netcom.com).

A minimum of eight genealogy lectures and workshops will be held during each day at sea (3 days). The principal focus will be on Irish genealogy. The first 30 registrants will be given a one-hour private consultation with one of the professional genealogists on the program.

#### Speakers:

Valerie Adams, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast

Mary Ellen Grogan, TIARA, Boston

George Handran, Boston (expert on Griffith's Valuation)

Michael Leclerc, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston

Gregory O'Connor, National Archives of Ireland, Dublin

Eileen and Sean O'Duill, Dublin

[John Grenham sends his regrets. He has already committed to a conference in Australia.]

During the "At Sea" days, the professional genealogists will host breakfast and luncheon tables in the dining room.

The genealogy lectures and workshops will be held in the Conference Center on Deck 2. The Conference is scheduled for the three "At Sea" days. It will not conflict with opportunities to visit the ports.

All speakers and workshop leaders have presented at national genealogical conferences and are recognized as knowledgeable in their fields. There will be two tracks. Track 1 will have lectures on basic resources and techniques for Irish research. Track 2 will focus on more advanced topics and is intended for those with experience in using Irish records; however, anyone can go to any session. There are no restrictions.

All registrants will be given a book that will have background information on each topic (up to four pages per lectures). Everyone gets the information on every lecture. If you don't go to that presentation, you will still have the handout. Make sure that you bring pen and paper for notes.



*Matt Coombs of Lewisville, NC asked me to include this:*

I have written a genealogy software program called "Surname Suggestion List" to make it easier to search the internet for a particular surname and other surnames which sound like that surname. The web page for the software is located at <http://home.triad.rr.com/combsfamily/sslmain.html> I would appreciate it if you could let your society members know about the program, so they could download it and give it a try. If you do try out the program, be sure to use the additional search terms and the wider search option for better results. Please let me know how it works for you.

[mattcombs@triad.rr.com](mailto:mattcombs@triad.rr.com)