

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter  
August – October 2007

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

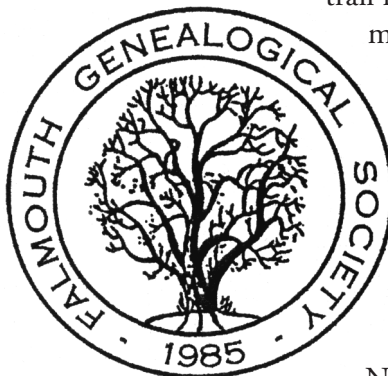
## Program Notes From Meetings

May 12, 2007 – American Loyalists

Presented by Paul Bunnell

by John M. Caspole

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



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

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### Calendar of Meetings for 2007 – 2008

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

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

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

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

## Program Notes

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

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

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

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

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

### June 9, 2007 – Ellis Island Experience

Presented by Midge Frazel

*by John M. Caspole*

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

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

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

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

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

*by Joyce Pendery, CG*

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

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

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## Program Notes

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[www.geni.com](http://www.geni.com)

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

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

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

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

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

[www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

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

[www.onegreatfamily.com](http://www.onegreatfamily.com)

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

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

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

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

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



### *Falmouth Genealogical Society Minutes of Annual Meeting June 10, 2007*

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

Nominations:

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

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

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## *From the President*

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

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

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

Special recognition for our continued success goes to:

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

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

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

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

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## From the President

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

### *What's in a Name?*

*by Joyce Pendery, CG*

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

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

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

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

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

### *Barnstable County Deeds are Online*

*by Joyce Pendery, C.G.*

The Barnstable County Registry of Deeds has placed deeds and other documents from 1704 to the present online at [www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us](http://www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us).

Use Internet Explorer to go to their website, then:

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

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



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

He writes that until recently hardly anyone kept

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

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

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

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

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



## Minutes from Annual Meeting

*Continued from page 3*

Memo for the record:

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

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

The meeting adjourned to the regular monthly program.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Caspole  
Acting Secretary

## Visit to The Massachusetts State Archives

by Shirley Dunkle

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

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

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

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

*July 31, 2007*

*Falmouth Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 2107  
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*To: FGS Board  
Attn: Joyce Pendry*

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

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

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

*"Marge" Riley*

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

by Janet Burt Chalmers

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

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

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

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

### *from NEHGS Kids Corner at [newenglandancestors.org](http://newenglandancestors.org)*

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

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

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

Hear what our genealogists have to say:

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

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