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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol 21 Number 1  
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
www.falgen.org

Newsletter  
February – April 2009

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.*

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## Program Notes From Meetings

Joint Meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies

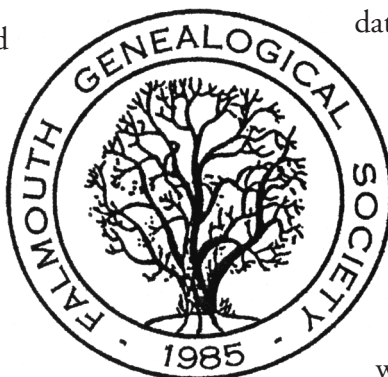
*Compiling the Genealogy of A House Using The Barnstable County*

*Registry of Deeds Website <http://www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us/> – November 8, 2008*

Presented by Marianne Lockwood Shafer, FGS

*by Marianne Lockwood Shafer*

As an introduction, Marianne Shafer opened with a surprising statement: “You cannot compile the genealogy of a house using this website,” <http://www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us/>. She then went on to explain that the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds website tells who previously owned the land, not the house that sits on the land. But, by initially determining the date your house first shows up on the land, you can use that as your target date,



and then trace your land back to that point. This date can be found online through each town's Assessor's Office or Property Evaluations page. Just enter your address and search to find "Year Built." However, she cautioned, especially with very old houses, sometimes the house was built earlier and then moved to its current location. All you can do in that case is search the deeds that will show up on the BCRD website, looking for words that might indicate that a house was on the land at a certain date.

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Meetings for 2009

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 14 | Artifacts Day  |
| Mar. 14 | Michael Brophy – Irish-American Catholic Genealogical Research                     |
| Apr. 11 | Mary Sicchio, Archivist – Genealogical Holdings of the Falmouth Historical Society |
| May 9   | Paul Cyr, Librarian – Genealogical Holdings of the New Bedford Free Public Library |
| June 13 | Tales of Our Ancestors   |
| July 11 | Leslie Huber – Family Search.org   |

### *We're Back At The Falmouth Public Library*

We are pleased to be back at the Falmouth Public Library for our meetings held on the second Saturday of each month; the downstairs meeting room now has shades. Our Tuesday help sessions are from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library in our new Genealogical Society area and by appointment at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road. Call Joyce at 508-540-2849 for an appointment.

## The Genealogy of a House

*Continued from page 1*

Beginning her presentation with a Microsoft Power-Point slide show of photos of historic Cape Cod houses, Marianne told a story for each house: about the original owner, the family of the original owner, or about another former occupant of the house. She related how the head of a wild boar, teeth and all, was found during one renovation of the c.1780 Charles Weeks house in Falmouth. Studying the Osterville Daniel Crosby house, c.1790, revealed through a poem that a water mill was built by “the Crosby boys.” Another Crosby, Enoch, was reported to be the title role model for James Fenimore Cooper’s Revolutionary War story, “The Spy.” Marianne showed a photo of the Hoxie House Museum in Sandwich and told the tale of one Hoxie, Joseph, who shot the last and meanest wolf in all of Sandwich, Falmouth and Barnstable, a wolf who had killed about 3,000 sheep.

Showing photos of engravings from an old book of Longfellow’s poems led to Marianne’s reading his little known poem, “Haunted Houses” in which he wrote that “All houses wherein men have lived and died are haunted houses.” Longfellow’s poem went on to describe these “harmless phantoms” gliding through houses “on silent feet.” Marianne used this poem to entice participants to find the harmless phantoms that once lived in their houses, and to use the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds website to do so.

After the slide presentation, she distributed a handout to participants which thoroughly described the website process and necessary computer requirements that will be helpful reference tools for using the website at home. Also included in the handout were pages of suggested examples of how to record the information once it is found.

Finally, Marianne demonstrated the use of the BCRD website through Internet Explorer to compile the “genealogy” of the c.1863 Andrew Jackson Handy house in Falmouth. This process discovered 13 previous owners from the time the house, built c. 1790, was first documented on its current lot.

Before the question and answer period, Marianne

distributed two more handouts. One, contributed by David Martin, was a “Tool Kit” page from *Family Tree Magazine*, listing websites, books and organizations helpful for tracing the history of a house. The other, compiled by Marianne, was a list of Suggested Readings on Cape Cod History, Town History, and House History. Participants were encouraged to investigate this added information after they found their previous owners, to try to come up with some good stories to enhance their “genealogy of a house.”

### *Suggested Readings on Cape Cod History:*

- Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, (1620-1890)*. New York: H.W. Blake & Co., 1890.
- Freeman, Frederick. *History of Cape Cod*. Boston, MA: Rand & Avery, 1862.

### *Suggested Readings on Town History:*

- [www.clamsnet.org](http://www.clamsnet.org) – Under “Search by” enter Subject, then enter the name of your town and state, (Falmouth, MA). You will find a long list of books, etc., dedicated to your specific town, and available through the CLAMS library system.

### *Suggested Readings on House History:*

- Green, Betsy. *Discovering the History of Your House*. Santa Monica, CA: Santa Monica Press, 2002.
- Howard, Hugh. *How Old is This House?* New York, NY: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1989.

### *Suggested Fiction: (not in the handout)*

- Hoffman, Alice. *Blackbird House*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2004. This story traces the lives of the different families who once occupied an old Cape Cod house.

Extra handouts and a complete list of Suggested Readings for historical research are available for those who missed the presentation by contacting Marianne Shafer at [maricafe@aol.com](mailto:maricafe@aol.com).

## Ancestral Holiday Food Fest – December 13, 2008

by Ralph Wadleigh

On December 13, 2008, the monthly meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society featured something new – the first Ancestral Food Fest. It was truly a holiday event featuring treats prepared by many of the attendees using recipes handed down in their families. As people arrived it became quite obvious that there would not be a shortage of food! Treats ranged from potato pancakes to rum balls, and from gingerbread men to springerle.

One of the most exotic treats was Maki Zushi, prepared by Ed Shibata. The history of this dish derives from Japanese immigrants to the American interior having to make their traditional foods without access to seafood. In this case, the roll was made with a seaweed (nori) skin, and a filling made with seasoned rice, scrambled egg strips, red pickled ginger, seasoned shitake mushroom, seasoned gourd, cucumber and snow peas. The ingredients were an odd number for good luck. Ed's maternal grandmother, Tokiwa Nakaoka, taught him the process.

Despite being in France, Joyce Pendery provided two German dessert favorites, pfeffernisse and springerle, prepared from her grandmother's recipes. It was interesting to see the special rolling pin used to impart a design on the springerle and it was nice to have a picture of her grandmother watching over the proceedings.

Ethel Whitford's mahagony (sic) cake was provided by Judy Wadleigh using a recipe passed down in her Whitford line. However, she had to admit that the identity of Ethel Whitford and her relationship to Judy remains a mystery. At any rate, the cake was delicious!

We also passed around an old handwritten cookbook. It was interesting to note that there were no oven temperatures given and the measurements for the ingredients were rather imprecise to our modern eyes.

Steve Hemberger told us about a family relish recipe, which we all wished he had made. One member promised to make it herself! Marianne Shafer's great grandmother's French apple cobbler was a real hit! My apologies to the others who participated that I did not mention.

Everyone joined in the fun either by giving a little talk about holiday food they remembered or by taking a plate and filling it with samples of the wonderful food prepared for our enjoyment. We will probably be repeating this program next December, so get those old cookbooks out and see what you might be able to prepare! Oh, if you don't want to cook you won't have to. Just come and join the fun!

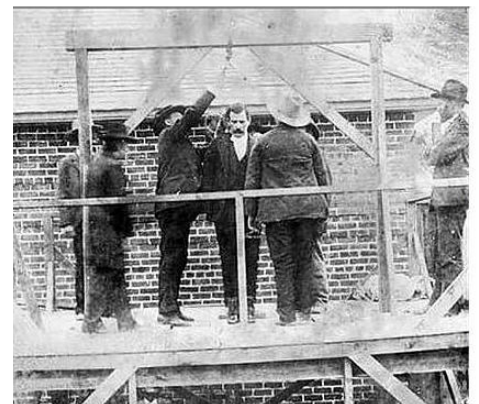


### Uncle Remus Was A Horse Thief and Train Robber

*This story was contributed by Ralph Wadleigh*

Judy Wallman, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Harry (senator (D) from Nevada ) Reid's great-great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Harry Reid share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:



'Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.' So Judy recently emailed Senator Harry Reid for infor-

*Continued on page 5*

## Family Research in Congregational Church Records – January 10, 2009

Presented by Rev. Dr. Douglas K. Showalter  
Senior Minister, First Congregational Church, Falmouth

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Rev. Showalter began his presentation with a quiz to determine how much participants knew about the religious history of the early English settlers in Massachusetts. He noted that many scholars view the Pilgrims as part of the Puritan movement. They speak of the Separatist Puritans of Plymouth Colony and the Non-Separatist Puritans of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Both groups were Calvinists and very critical of the Church of England. The Pilgrims went so far as to reject that church completely. Bay Colony settlers were more affluent and more numerous than those in Plymouth Colony. The Puritan movement in America came to be known as Congregationalism.

Early Congregationalists worshipped in meeting houses that were built by each town for use by the town church. Those meeting houses tended to be square buildings, a shape thought to provide better acoustics. They were not considered “sacred space.” Town meetings were also held in them. The only surviving 17th century Puritan meeting house is in Hingham. Later Congregationalists worshipped in church buildings, which usually were rectangular in shape, with the entry opposite the pulpit, on the shorter ends, providing longer, narrower sanctuaries.

Sucknesset was founded in 1660-1661 and incorporated in 1686; the name was changed to Falmouth in 1694. The town’s first lay preacher, who served from 1677 to about 1684, was Jonathan Dunham, who later moved to Martha’s Vineyard. Samuel Shiverick served as the second lay preacher from about 1687 through 1703. Harvard graduate Joseph Metcalf served as the first ordained minister of the town and church, arriving when the church was gathered in 1708 as the Church of Christ in Falmouth with at least twenty members.

Until 1790 the Falmouth church required a conversion experience for full membership, which permitted one to receive communion and baptism for one’s self and one’s children. However, some Congregational churches also initiated a “half way covenant” that granted limited

membership permitting baptism, but not communion, to those who lived Christian lives but had no conversion experience. Between 1790 and 1816 a conversion experience was no longer required for full membership in Falmouth. As a result of the early 1800’s religious revival known as “The Second Great Awakening,” the Falmouth church began in 1816 to require again a conversion experience for full membership. It was in this period that many Massachusetts Congregational congregations split, some became Unitarian, whereas many, like the Falmouth church, remained Trinitarian Congregational. In the 20th century, the Falmouth church no longer required a conversion experience for full membership.

The earliest religious records of the community are included in the Proprietors’ Records of Sucknesset, available at Town Hall. Records of the Falmouth church from its gathering in 1708 to 1731 are missing. Church records are complete thereafter and can be found at the church. (A transcription of the church’s records from 1731 –1833 can be found at Town Hall.) Included in church records are:

- lists of members in full communion
- indications of those who transferred into the church from other churches
- baptisms with no dates of birth included. Some families had several children baptized at the same time. Others were baptized as adults.
- records of church discipline procedures that describe nonconforming behavior of members and efforts of church leaders to convince wayward members to confess, repent, and seek forgiveness, so they could be accepted back into the fold.
- lists of funerals attended. Death dates were included in later records
- lists of marriages were included in later records

*Continued on page 5*

## Congregational Church Records

*Continued from page 4*

About 1777 the (First) Congregational Society in Falmouth was formed, on behalf of the town and in accordance with Massachusetts laws, to oversee the use of town tax dollars to support the town's church and manage such civil affairs as maintaining the meeting house, ministerial compensation, and pew sales. The society's records are mingled with Falmouth Town Records until the society began to keep its own separate ledger in 1804, now in the possession of the Falmouth Historical Society.

In Massachusetts, church and state were not separated until 1834. At that point the society could no longer use town tax dollars in its work. Later records of the society are found in the church. The society ended in 1836 when the Falmouth church was legally incorporated.

Rev. Showalter also distributed a "Select Time Line of American Congregation History," from the 1500s to the present. The Winter 2009 issue of *Spritsail*, a Journal of the History of Falmouth and Vicinity published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection, includes an article by Rev. Showalter entitled, "First Congregational Church and the 1812 Quissett Revival." *Spritsail* is available at the Falmouth and Woods Hole Historical societies as well as at local book stores.

### *Major Repositories for Congregational Materials*

- Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108; (617) 523-0470; [www.14beacon.org](http://www.14beacon.org). The library is in the process of putting their catalog of 225,000 books online.
- Franklin Trask Library, Andover-Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA, (617)-964-1100; [www.ants.edu/library/](http://www.ants.edu/library/)

### *Overview of American Congregationalism*

- von Rohr, John. *The Shaping of American Congregationalism, 1620-1957*. Cleveland Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 1992. This book is an overall source of information on Congregationalism.
- Young, J. William T. *The Congregationalists*. (Denominations in America, Number 4). New York:

Greenwood Press, 1990. This book includes thumbnail biographical sketches of noted Congregationalists.

### *New England Congregationalism*

- Taylor, Richard H. *The Churches of Christ of the Congregational Way in New England*. Organized by state and country, this book provides information on every Congregational Church that ever existed in New England.

### *Massachusetts Congregationalism*

- Worthley, Harold Field. *An Inventory of the Records of the Particular (Congregational) Churches of Massachusetts Gathered 1620-1805*. (Harvard Theological Studies XXV). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970. This book is a well-documented compilation of information on all Congregational Churches in Massachusetts up to 1805.
- Available on Google Books: Clark, Joseph W. *A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts from 1620 to 1858*. Boston: Congregational Board of Publication, 1858.



## Uncle Remus Was A Horse Thief

*Continued from page 3*

mation about their mutual great-great uncle. Believe it or not, Harry Reid's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

'Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.'

That's real POLITICAL SPIN! THAT is how it's done folks! .

## From the President

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

### R U MY CUZN?

Text messaging is a popular way for 21st century youth to communicate with one another and to develop interpersonal relationships. Members of older generations (like some of us!) are aware of another approach: comparing family trees and as a result, sometimes discovering that we are distant cousins of other genealogical society members, of friends, or even of our spouses.

This light bulb turned on for me once again at the 11/08/08 joint CCGS/FGS meeting at CCCC. (How's that for text messaging?) I realized I was surrounded by three distant cousins. All three are members of CCGS, and two are members of both CCGS and FGS. In two cases, we have common Cape Cod Mayo ancestors, and in the other case, common Cape Cod Crosby ancestors. And our member Bob Rice has found several Rice cousins among FGS members.

One of our members recently commented that she has frequently found that new acquaintances, toward whom she feels a special affinity, turn out to have ancestors in common with her.



### The Joy of Finding Cousins

by Janet B. Chalmers

As the result of an email I received last week from an unknown cousin I've had a wonderful time indulging my genealogical obsession. About two months ago I bit the bullet and posted a portion of my family tree on Ancestry.com, hoping to make a breakthrough in my Mahady family research. I have come a long way learning about my mother's Irish roots and learning about members of her extended family. I wish I had asked her questions about Uncle Tom and other relatives she occasionally mentioned, and what she knew about her grandparents who emigrated from Ireland, but when I was young I didn't realize that I would ever really care. A few years ago, when I feared it was too late to learn about my mother's relatives, I started looking anyway, and found some other folks who were trying to sort out the Mahady family too.

Many years ago, when I was just beginning my own research, a good friend and I discovered we have common Hoover ancestors from Maryland. More recently, my older son discovered that he and his wife are sixth cousins through that same Maryland Hoover (vacuum cleaner) family. This meant that my good friend, my daughter-in-law's mother and I are all fifth cousins! Although my late husband did not know it, he and I were twelfth cousins through a Salisbury, MA, Barnard line. The world is smaller than I thought.

Much to my dismay, not many FGS members have returned the Membership Survey included in the November Newsletter, but among those responding, several indicated an interest in helping to create an up-to-date listing of family names each FGS member is researching. We hope to get this project underway early in 2009 and to post the results on our FGS web site so we can begin to compare our family trees. Perhaps we will then all discover more CUZNS!

I'm excited to have found Andrea and Denise, both descended from my grandfather's sisters. We shared our knowledge and did more research on our downlines, and I filled them in on what I know of our common ancestry. For joy, it's not too late! Seek out your cousins.



From the Falmouth Enterprise

### Once Upon A Time ...

20 Years Ago

January 16, 18, 1989

The members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society have made it their hobby to get to the roots of their family trees.

"It's just like eating peanuts," member Dorothy E. Sandlin of Teaticket said at a workshop held on Saturday morning at the Falmouth Public Library. "Once you get started, you want to know more and more."

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



The Falmouth Public Library has recently added three new titles to its Reference Genealogy collection. They have added volumes 4 and 5 to *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635* which can be found at 929.274.

The other new title is *New Englanders in the 1600s: A Guide to Genealogical Research Published Between 1980 and 2005*. It was written by Martin E. Hollick and can be found at 929.4 Hol. Both are publications of NE-HGS, the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

I am also working on updating *A Guide to Genealogical Resources* at the Falmouth Public Library that Mary Hunt had compiled in 1998. I hope to put the new version online on our website as Mary Hunt's is now.



## Letter to the Editor

Recently while trying to resolve an apparent discrepancy in my family history I discovered your cemetery project.

The project was very helpful to me because it allowed me to view not only the grave-stones of specific people, but I was able to view a large sampling of the stones used in Falmouth to help me determine the possible age of the stones of interest to me.

The "family group" format seemed quite promising to me, especially if contributions based on high quality sources could be accepted. The possibility that otherwise unavailable resources such as bible records, family correspondence, and so forth could become available seems to me an exciting one.

I realize that an immense amount of volunteer effort goes into a project such as this, as well as a substantial amount of money.

I'd like to offer a modest donation in support of the cemetery project from which I've benefited. I only wish I could afford more.

I wish you the best of success as this project proceeds. It is a valuable gift to the genealogical community, and



Helen Erickson listens to Richard Harbison at a recent Tuesday afternoon help session at the Falmouth Public Library. FGS members are present from 2 to 4 p.m. in the genealogical section of the library to give help to visitors and members.

I hope and expect that it will be a magnet site for the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

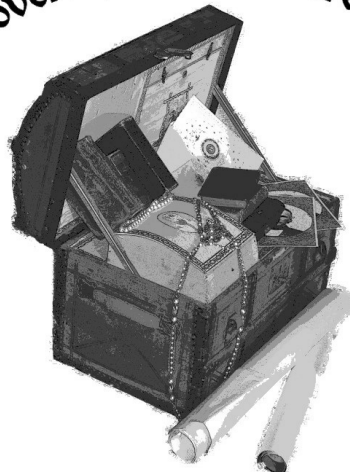
Sincerely,  
Harlow Chandler  
Keswick, VA

# New England Regional Genealogical Conference

22-26 April 2009

Manchester, New Hampshire  
Expo Center and adjoining Radisson Hotel

*Discovering family Treasures*



The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC), an umbrella organization for New England genealogical societies, will hold its tenth genealogical conference in Manchester, NH, this coming April. The conference website has the full program and allows online registration. The URL is:

<http://www.nergc.org/2009/>

NERGC 2009 will help bring together genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds. Whether you are just beginning the search for your family, are already an advanced researcher, or perhaps even a professional genealogist, the NERGC 2009 conference will provide you with an ideal opportunity to advance your knowledge and research skills.

The conference is being held at the Radisson Hotel Manchester and the adjoining Expo Center of New Hampshire, located at 700 Elm Street.

Telephone:	603-206-4109 or 800-333-3333
Rate:	\$127+ single/double/triple/quad
Hotel website:	<a href="http://www.radisson.com/manchesternh">www.radisson.com/manchesternh</a>
Group Code:	NERGC

When making reservations, be sure to give—online or by phone—the group code above to get the special NERGC rate.

**NOTE: EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 28 FEBRUARY 2009**



# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

May – July 2009

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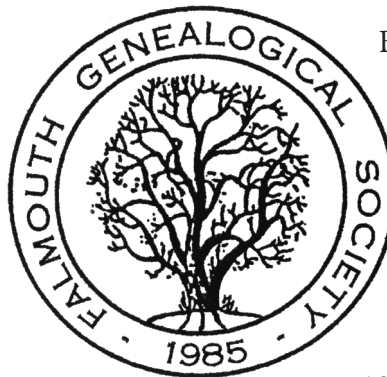
### Sharing Family Artifacts – February 14, 2009

by Joyce Pendery

On Valentine's Day, members of Falmouth Genealogical Society gathered to show and tell about treasured family artifacts. Fascinating, curious, amusing, educational are words that describe the audience's reaction to the explanations and the objects displayed. *Falmouth Bulletin* reporter and photographer Sarah Murphy wrote a feature article for the February 19, 2009 edition about this meeting.

Mary Hunt showed a silver (possibly plated) tray engraved with a message of gratitude that students had presented to her grandfather, who taught in Brooklyn in the 1870s. Mary was surprised to find the tray among her mother's

possessions, since her mother had never shown it to the family.



Bob Rice brandished a long, slim, old sword in its sheath. He began by talking about how kids who grew up during the Great Depression (of the 1930s, that is) had no money to buy toys and had to make do with whatever was around, and of course we all wondered if he played with the sword. He did, but only with the sheath in place! The sword was his grandfather's late 19th century Mason regalia sword, engraved with his grandfather's name and the name of his

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## Calendar of Meetings for 2009

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| May 9    | Paul Cyr, Librarian – Genealogical Holdings of the New Bedford Free Public Library     |
| June 13  | B. Grant Willis as Jonathan Hatch, and Annual Meeting                                  |
| July 11  | Leslie Huber – Family Search.org   |
| Aug. 8   | What's New on the Web?   |
| Sept. 12 | TBA  |
| Oct. 10  | Paul Bumpus, Historian General, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA |
| Nov. 14  | Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society                                       |

### *We're Back At The Falmouth Public Library*

We are pleased to be back at the Falmouth Public Library for our meetings held on the second Saturday of each month; the downstairs meeting room now has shades. Our Tuesday help sessions are from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library in our new Genealogical Society area and by appointment at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road. Call Joyce at 508-540-2849 for an appointment.

## Irish American Catholic Genealogical Research – March 14, 2009

Presented by Michael Brophy

by Ralph Wadleigh

On Saturday, March 14, 2009, Michael Brophy spoke to about 40 attendees regarding Irish-American Catholic Genealogy. His interesting and detailed presentation focused first on recognizing the limitations of what can be achieved and what sources should be consulted here in the US before attempting Irish-based research.

Several historical events have created challenges for researchers of Irish ancestry. The most important challenge was the destruction of the Irish Archives in Dublin on June 30, 1922 at the end of the Irish Civil War. Lost were the censuses of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851, early wills and testamentary records, over 50% of Anglican Parish Records post-1869, and many pre-1900 local and legal records. Furthermore, the sole copies of Irish censuses of 1861 to 1891 were destroyed during the First World War by bureaucratic error. Earlier historical challenges include records lost during long years of Catholic repression by England.

It is no wonder that researchers run into brick walls!

These obstacles are the reason that most Irish pedigrees begin about 1840; even someone as thoroughly researched as former President Kennedy can't be traced prior to this era.

When they get started, researchers should realize that Ireland has significantly different administrative divisions from those in America. Ireland is divided into both civil and religious districts. The civil districts are provinces, counties, baronies, parishes, electoral districts, Poor Law Unions and town lands. Religious districts include Dioceses, bishoprics and parishes. One needs to differentiate between the records kept by each respective administrative division.

Also at the start, several good research rules always apply. Start with a wide focus, cite all your sources, start with yourself and work backwards and learn to improve the odds of success with common Irish surnames using tools like Griffith's Valuation, a mid-19th century tax

*Continued on page 3*



### Sharing Family Artifacts

*Continued from page 1*

Masonic chapter. Bob came into possession of the sword when his sister, to whom the sword was originally given, didn't want it and gave it to him.

Bebe Brock showed an early 19th-century sampler, featuring extremely fine stitching, that commemorated a death in her family, and included family names and dates, Bible verses, and appropriate symbols of death.

Marianne Schafer showed an enormous patent Queen Victoria granted to her great great grandfather and his brother in 1869 for inventing a method of cutting (wood) veneer, complete with an attached thick wax seal, in a metal container. The size of a dinner plate, the seal featured bas reliefs of Queen Victoria.

John Peri told about visiting the Peri family home and village in Switzerland, where making wine was a local

industry in the past. The huge village wine press is now a tourist attraction. As their host and distant cousin was bidding John and Barbara farewell, he asked John what he would like as a souvenir of his visit, and seeing a board covered with many large, old keys, John suggested that a key or two would fine. The host reached up and gave John two huge keys, which John showed us. The host, guardian of the historic wine press, inadvertently gave John the keys to the wine press, resulting in an expensive trip to the village by an area locksmith to break open the lock. (See more complete story by John on page 8 of this newsletter.)

Other participants with equally unusual family artifacts included, among others, Barbara Bunker, Steve Hemberger, Shirely Dunkle, Ed Shibata and Ralph Wadleigh.

## Genealogical Holdings of the Falmouth Historical Society – April 11, 2009

or Dead Genealogists, Illegal Substances and Other Things I Have Found In the Vaults

Presented by Mary Sicchio, FHS Archivist

By David Martin, CCGS

The Falmouth Historical Society's archivist, Mary Sicchio, provided a highly informative presentation on April 11 about the varied holdings of the Society as they relate to those doing genealogical research. She distributed a handout listing categories and specific holdings.

Among the strengths of the FHS collection are original documents such as letters and manuscripts, town records (made available by the town in 1989), old photographs and portraits, vital records, and a number of published genealogies by surnames. The documents are filed in special archival boxes and are available on the shelves to peruse.

The works of three different genealogists over the years are also contained in the collection, which helps to put a number of the holdings into perspective. Included in this category are items such as reflections on life in Falmouth in the 19th century.

Other holdings include poor-house records, 33 whaling ship logs and account books, records of the Davis funeral parlor which are useful for those seeking death records, a postcard collection, stereo cards from the 1870s and 1880s, and material on Katharine Lee Bates. Some of the materials are kept in two special vaults, including maps and town documents.

Volunteers are needed to help record and transcribe different records such as the stereo cards and the collection of 1950s and 1960s photographs.

Mary is at the Society on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 1, but arrangements can also be made for people to use the collection at other times. The collection is in Conant House, at 65 Palmer Avenue, near the Village Green; the entry door is on the side of the building. Visit the Society web page at [www.falmouthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.falmouthhistoricalsociety.org) for more information. Telephone is 508-548-4857.



### Irish Catholic Research

*Continued from page 2*

listing of Irish households, and John Grenham's CD on Irish Surnames.

So before buying that plane ticket to Ireland, where else can one look right here? Fortunately there are many potential sources that might reveal vital records and that all important Irish place name. These include:

- Naturalization records
- Cemeteries
- Church Records – the Central Catholic Records Repository in Braintree for example. Also microfilm copies of Catholic newspapers like *The Pilot* and its "Search for Missing Friends" columns.
- US Censuses
- Military records such as pension applications, draft records and service records
- Passenger Lists

- Fraternal Organizations like the Catholic Order of Foresters
- Passport Applications
- Business Records
- The International Genealogical Index on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

Other important sources of information might be the Hayes Manuscript Index, a manuscript of Irish surname information found on microfilm at the Boston University and Boston College libraries and possibly the Boston Public Library. Also to be checked are the aforementioned Griffith's Valuation, which can be accessed for free at [askaboutireland.ie](http://askaboutireland.ie) and John Grenham's excellent book, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, available at the Falmouth Public Library and other CLAMS libraries.

Mr. Brophy concluded his informative talk with an active question and answer period.

## *From the President*

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

### From Small Beginnings – FGS to Celebrate Its 25th Anniversary Year

According to a page in the FGS President's book: "The 12th of June 1984, a meeting was held downstairs in Room #1 of the Falmouth Public Library in the hopes of starting a genealogical group whereby we can all learn from each other about tracing our roots." Life Members Eleanor Baldic and Marguerite Riley, plus Falmouth resident Virginia Dow who also attended that meeting, decided to call the group "Climbing the Family Tree." Several other informal organizational meetings were held during 1984. Current member Clifford Harding attended some of those meetings, along with 12 others who are no longer members. At the first formal meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 1985, the Society adopted the name "Falmouth Genealogical Society" and the seal, and instituted dues to help purchase genealogical books for the Library and to cover expenses. Volume 1 of the newsletter, originally called "The Tracer," was published in October 1985. Twenty-five years later, membership totals about 120.

Other current members who joined during the 1980s include Paul J. Bunnell, Falmouth Historical Society, Ted Karlson, Natalie Mather, Eleanor Mendoza, Virginia Nielsen and Dorothy Sandlin. Members for 15 or more years include Shirley Barnes, Dara Bowin, Robert and Hilde Chase, Ronald and Nancy Church, Edith de Lyon, Gardner Edgarton, Grace Fraser, Gary and Nancy Hayward, Barbara Hopewood, Mary Hunt, Jacqueline Johnson, Barbara Lassen, John MacDonald, Frances and Walter McLean, Joyce Pendery, John and Barbara Peri, Deane and Barbara Robbins, Priscilla Scudder, Robert Tilden, Gary and Lynn Webb, and Mary Louise Whitaker.

During 1995, two major projects marked the Society's 10th Anniversary year. First, FGS published member Marjorie Hubbell Gibson's *Historical & Genealogical Atlas & Guide to Barnstable County, Mass. (Cape Cod)* in 1995. Marjorie, who spent several years seeking information in all Cape Cod towns, donated proceeds from sales of her book to the Society. Sales of the highly praised book continue to the present time.

The second major event that year was the Society-organized Cape Cod Genealogical Conference, held at Sea Crest Resort in North Falmouth on May 6 & 7, 1995. Thirty-six lecturers presented 36 lectures to about 300 attendees during the very successful day-and-a-half-long conference that drew genealogists, including many with Cape Cod roots, from all over the country.

From late 1995 to early 1997 members John and Barbara Peri planned and filmed a series of more than 20 TV programs on genealogy for broadcast on local channel FCTV, starring FGS members who spoke on topics of special interest to them. For many years, these films were available on loan from Falmouth Public Library. About the same time, members planned and presented two lecture series on Beginning Genealogy, one through the Falmouth Public School's Adult Education Program and the other through Friends of Falmouth Public Library.

In 1998 Mary Hunt compiled "A Guide to Genealogical Resources at Falmouth Public Library," available in print and online at [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) under the "Falmouth Library" tab. Second Vice President Janice Zlatev is currently updating Mary's Guide to include books purchased during the last 10 years.

Under the direction of then-President Donna Walcovy, in the summer of 2001, the Falmouth Genealogical Society undertook a major project: to "read" the 16 cemeteries in the Town of Falmouth. Results are posted on [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) with searchable indexes for each cemetery completed. Many dedicated volunteers have donated thousands of hours to read and record transcriptions, photograph gravestones, search public records for vital information, enter data into computer programs, and proofread results. Donna hopes to complete the project within two years.

FGS, always an active member society in the New England Genealogical Conference (NERGC), hosted

*Continued on page 5*

## In Memoriam: Marjorie Gibson (1928-2009)

by Joyce Pendery, CG

Marjorie (Hubbell) Gibson, a FGS member since 1987, passed away in Worcester on March 30, 2009. An avid genealogist, historian, and writer, Marjorie was the editor of the FGS Newsletter from 1993 to 2003, and she presented several programs at Society meetings.

During the early 1990s, Marjorie visited every town on Cape Cod to gather information for the *Historical and Genealogical Atlas of Barnstable County, Mass. (Cape Cod)*. FGS published two editions of this "best seller" during 1995 and 1996, and Marjorie generously donated all proceeds to the Society. A few copies are still available.

In addition, Marjorie was the author of *H.M.S. Somerset 1746-1788: The Life and Times of an Eighteenth Century*

*British Man-O-War and Her Impact on North America*, published in 1993. She was the co-author of *Hubbell by Choice: The Ancestry of Some Early Connecticut Women* (2008), grand prize winner of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists' 2009 Literary Award Contest.

Several articles Marjorie wrote were published in *New England Ancestors*. She also volunteered at several historical, genealogical and lineage societies in Massachusetts.

Marjorie was buried among her ancestors at Mt. Vernon Cemetery at West Boylston, Mass. FGS has made a donation to the West Boylston Historical Society in her memory.



### From the President

*Continued from page 4*

NERGC's November 6-9, 2003 gathering at Sea Crest Resort in North Falmouth. Attendance exceeded their highest expectations! Over the years, several FGS members have presented lectures at NERGC Conferences.

During the past two years joint meetings with Cape Cod Genealogical Society have opened new ways to communicate with area genealogists. Member Bob Rice, our resident expert on DNA testing for genealogical reasons, has shared his knowledge of this new technique through articles and lectures, as well as with one-on-one discussions.

Vice President Ralph Wadleigh spends several hours each week preparing an index of obituaries published in *The Falmouth Enterprise*. The listing, by 10-year periods beginning with 2000-2009, will soon be available on our website and at the library.

True to its original goal, FGS has used donations, as well as proceeds from NERGC gatherings and book sales, to purchase well over \$2,000 worth of genealogical books for the Falmouth Public Library Genealogical collection. FGS also purchased microfiche containing the Family History Library's IGI records, before they

were available online. During the 1990s, when CD-ROMs with genealogical information were popular, the Society purchased nearly 90 CDs for use at the library on one of the two Society-purchased computers with a printer. Keeping up with the times, in recent years, the Society has donated nearly \$6,000 to the library for subscriptions to the Library Editions of the popular genealogical websites New England Ancestors, HeritageQuest and Ancestry. Both individual members and the Society contributed to the Falmouth Public Library Building Fund.

In addition, for many years members have been volunteering their time at Falmouth Public Library on Tuesdays from 2-4 p.m. to assist members and nonmembers with genealogical research.

Since FGS's founding, astounding changes in technology have transformed the how, when and where genealogical information is obtained, documented, transmitted and shared. Who can guess what changes the next 20 years will bring? Fortunately, the who, what and why have not changed. If you are interested in becoming a part of FGS's future endeavors, we would love to hear from you.

## *FGS Smiles From NERGC*

Photos by David Martin, CCGS



FGS vice president and program chair Ralph Wadleigh was a featured speaker at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference held April 22-26 in Manchester, NH. His talk was titled "Planning Your Genealogical Treasure Trip Without Spending Too Much." Donna Walcovy led a workshop on Cemetery Research.



FGS member Judy Wadleigh and president Joyce Penderyman the Falmouth Genealogical Society table at the New England Regional Genealogical Conference.

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



I recently read a new historical novel that was recommended to me and that I enjoyed. The book is *Until You Reach Home* by Lynn Austin. It is the story of three sisters who emigrated from Sweden in 1897.

Their parents have both died and an uncle and his young family have taken over the farm. Life on the farm becomes unbearable and the oldest sister writes to an uncle in Chicago. He sends tickets for all three of the girls to come to America. The story tells about their two weeks in steerage crossing the ocean, their arrival at Ellis Island speaking no English, and their further hardships. With all their difficulties, the sisters question their decision to come to America, but they still have faith and hope for the future. It is

a well-written story that may be of interest to others whose ancestors came across the ocean.

The other book I read is Bryan Sykes' book about the DNA of the British Isles titled *Saxons, Vikings, and Celts: The Genetic Roots of Britain and Ireland*. Bryan Sykes is also the author of *The Seven Daughters of Eve*. Much of his DNA sampling was done at blood drives at various locations in the British Isles. Later the swabs were used for collection of samples. He did mention that the swabs seem to "hold up better." Sykes sampled in specific areas where he expected certain results as from the Vikings. It was interesting that the sampling showed that the Vikings were not just raiders, but had women with them and settled in some areas. To me, as a lay person, his conclusions are not so obvious. I could not see great distinction between the areas he sampled. Also, now Sykes believes that there are eight daughters of Eve.



## Website and Cemetery News

by Donna Walcovy

Here's some feedback from the website.

*Thank you for this wonderful work. I am a descendant of the Nye family trying to gather information. Many of these people are listed in my family tree. Thank you for having this information available. I will have to visit someday.*

*Sincerely, Lea P. Wright*

*Thank you so much for your response and invitation. Your painstaking work as been such a benefit for me as I try to pin down my family tree. I got goose bumps at seeing the grave marker for Zenas Leonard Nye (B. 10/05/1850 and D. 9/16/*

*Also I'd like to know which members have Rev. War Vets in their family tree, buried in Falmouth.*

Work will begin soon on the outside work of the cemetery project. There's no use begging folks any more. I'm

taking a new avenue, I'll be writing emails to the Snow Birds, because I know they are free during the summer, and new members to see if I can get some new volunteers. Hope it works.



## Cape Cod Genealogical Society

### Sponsors Boston Trip May 19th

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society is sponsoring a bus trip to Boston on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Destination points are: Boston Public Library (Copley Square), New England Historic Genealogical Society (Newbury Street) and the Massachusetts Archives – JFK Library (Columbia Point).

Cost is \$35 for the round-trip. Bring brown-bag lunch if desired. Register by going online to [www.capecodgensoc.org](http://www.capecodgensoc.org), and to the link on Activities and then to the link on Research Trip; within the description is one more link for the registration form, OR call Ellen Geanacopoulos at 508-432-5469.

## The Key to An Ancient Industry

*From the Editor: John's story presented at the FGS meeting on February 14 was so interesting that many attendees asked him to tell the whole story about how he ended up with the keys to a village wine press in Switzerland.*

by John B. Peri

In our Falmouth home I keep two ancient black iron keys that were given me in 1960 by a grand-uncle then living in the large old stone house in Cavigliano, Switzerland, where my Peri ancestors lived for at least the past 400 years. Cavigliano is a village located about four miles from Locarno in Ticino, the Italian-speaking canton of Switzerland. (The village is now almost a Locarno suburb.) My father was born in California – as were his siblings – but my grandfather was born in Cavigliano.

During the California Gold Rush many Ticinese went to California, including some from Cavigliano and neighboring villages. Very few struck it rich as miners, but all were pleased with the climate and scenery of California. They soon found that they could do well with their traditional dairy farming and wine making as well as in other occupations. A few did fairly well, and a cousin, Alberto Peri, returned briefly to Cavigliano in 1889 to have a new 16-room villa constructed on a five-acre estate along with a stable, a winery, a hothouse and a picturesque “fort.” About this time, probably inspired by his example, my grandfather and two of his brothers left Cavigliano for California.

As I first remember my grandfather he was a dairy farmer. Somewhat later he also had a vineyard and was raising grapes and making wine as well as cheese. He made wine both during and after prohibition (200 gallons being legal for family use).

Contact had always been maintained between the Swiss and California families, and when my wife and I first visited Cavigliano in 1960 we were greeted enthusiastically by my 81-year-old grand-uncle, Michele, the youngest brother of my grandfather. He entertained us royally, introduced us to all the relatives, and showed us the local tourist attractions. Outstanding among these was an impressive old wine press, dating from 1609 or earlier, having a huge beam cut from a single tree trunk, about 40 feet long and up to three feet in diameter. (To

learn more about this wine press online just Google “Torchio di Cavigliano.”)

When it came time to leave he urged us to choose some things in the old house that we would like to take back as souvenirs. (He was a bachelor with no children.) We were flying back and could hardly take large items such as the old copper pots and kettles once used to cook in the fireplace. Seeing a rack on the wall in one room that held about a dozen large old iron keys I asked if these keys were still used. He said that they were not and gave us two which we took home. Several years later my uncle visited Cavigliano and learned that one of the keys we had taken had been the only key to the village wine press. It had been necessary to obtain an oxy-acetylene torch from Locarno and ruin the lock to get into the wine press. The wine press now has a new lock. My grand-uncle died about 1970; visitors wishing to see the wine press must now ask for the key from another relative, Albino Peri.

The Peri family home has since been sold to some Germans who renovated it for use as a summer vacation home. In recent years much of Ticino has also been taken over by Germans and others as tourism has become more important. New construction has also spoiled some of the charm of the old villa.



### Nominations for FGS Officers

At the April 11 meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society the Nominating Committee consisting of Janet B. Chalmers, chair; Ron Church and Betsy King submitted the following slate of officers to be elected at the FGS Annual Meeting on June 13, 2009:

President: Ralph Wadleigh

Secretary: Sue Hutchinson



### CCGS Plans Trip To Salt Lake City

Cape Cod Genealogical Society is putting together a trip to the Family History Library at Salt Lake City, UT running from Nov. 15 to Nov. 20, 2009. If anyone is interested in finding out more they should contact David Martin at davidchina\_2000@yahoo.com.



## FGS Welcomes New Members

by Ed Shibata, FGS Treasurer & Membership Chair.

We had a flood of new members since the last issue. Most of them have very definite research goals.

#371, Pamela and Wayne Vincent of North Falmouth. Wayne is researching Vincent of Perry Sound, Canada; Davis from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and England; Burke from Massachusetts & Vermont, and Bristol from Naugatuck, Connecticut and England. Pam is researching Davis also, from Massachusetts & New Brunswick, Maine; Swett from England, Newbury, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine; Foster and MacMillian from Massachusetts and Nova Scotia; Preeper/Prieper/Preper from Massachusetts, Nova Scotia, and possibly Germany; O'Mara/O'Meara, Shea, and Morrissey from Ireland and Nova Scotia; White from Bona, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Massachusetts, and Murray and Connell from Massachusetts.

#372, Harry and Carolyn Hodges of Brewster, Massachusetts.

#373, John Bourke of Falmouth, researching Burke and Bourke on the East Coast and Prince Edward Island.

#374, Kathleen M. Kirby of Hyannis, researching Corbeil/Kirby (a surname change occurred in going from Canada to the United States) in Quebec, Vermont, Massachusetts; Monette from Quebec, New York, Massachusetts; Tatro, Charpentier, and Brodeur in Quebec and Vermont; Landry, Despres, Surette in New Brunswick, Massachusetts; Eliassen in Hedmark County, Norway, and Massachusetts; Day, Haskell, Tibbetts, and Leeman in Maine and Massachusetts.

#375, Beverly A. Deignan of East Falmouth, researching Waters of Massachusetts, Everett of Massachusetts and Nova Scotia, Davis of Illinois, and Payette of Rhode Island.

#376, Patrick J. Mahoney of East Falmouth, researching Forester and Mahoney in Ireland.

#377, Mary Louise Klimm of Falmouth, researching Waldie, McKenna, McGuire, Bert (Burt), Beauparlant, Grace, Dowling in U.S., Ireland, Scotland.

#378, Charles Allen Davis, III, of Haverhill, Massachusetts, researching Davis and Hatch. An article in the Tuesday, April 12, 2009, *Falmouth Enterprise* describes his discovery that his great-great-great-great-grandfather, Francis Davis, served in the Revolutionary War for five months in 1776 and is buried in the Old Burying Ground. Charles grew up on Captains Lane, off Davisville Road, in East Falmouth.

#379, Leslie McDonald of Falmouth, researching Johnson of County Tyrone, Barrett of Mallow, McDonald of Calais, all of Ireland; Hewins of Falmouth.

#380, Joyce I. Keay of East Falmouth, is researching Bullin of Medfield and Sherborn; Carr of Sudbury; Henderson of Arlington; Holbrook (and alternate spellings) of Medfield; Layland, Leland, Lealand (all the same family) of Sherborn; Lovering of Holliston; Maynard of Sudbury; Noyes of Wayland; Richardson of Woburn; Robinson in Middlesex County; Smith of Sudbury; Wyman in Woburn.

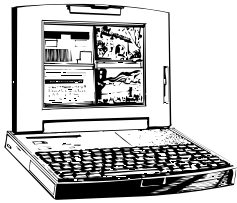


### Book Review:

#### *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell

by Ralph Wadleigh

Browsing through the West Falmouth Library recently, I came across a new work titled *The Wordy Shipmates* by Sarah Vowell. Since some little pilgrim figures were on the cover, I opened it and discovered a down-to-earth treatise on Great Migration ideologues John Winthrop, John Cotton, Roger Williams, Henry Vane and Anne Hutchinson and how their opinions percolated through 17th century New England. Vowell treats her subject in a conversational, matter-of-fact way and brings Puritan thought right to the modern day. Her comparisons of the political justifications for the Pequot War and the Iraq War were quite interesting. If you have ever been bogged down in a dry scholarly presentation of those times, and have always wondered what all the fuss about the antinomian controversy was, this book is for you! It is available at any CLAMS library.



## Online Tips/FYI



### *Research Hours Cut*

*from Joyce Pendery, CG*

The following was in a recent Dick Eastman column:

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has announced a drastic cut in the research hours available to genealogists and the public at large. The notice reads:

Due to budget restrictions and staffing reductions, the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics will be reducing research room hours effective February 23, 2009. New research hours will be:

Monday: 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon  
 Wednesday: No Research Hours  
 Thursday: 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

The cutback in hours represents a 16½ hour loss of research time from a previous weekly service level of 27½ hours. The reading room is not large enough to fit the current number of users in the new hours, so numerous researchers will be turned away.



### *Research Tip*

*from Ralph Wadleigh*

Here's a research tip: If you have persons under investigation who may have left a will in Middlesex County, MA you might want to use the services of the Mass Document Retrieval Services. If you know the date of death or the date probate was initiated, this service for a minimum fee of \$45 will obtain copies of the relevant documents. I did it for one Eva Wadleigh whose probate notice I found while perusing old newspapers on the web. With just the date of death and the date of the newspaper notice, this service provided me with copies of the will and valuation. It saved me a trip to either the Middlesex County Courthouse or NEHGS' microfilms.

I mailed my request on February 14 and received the information March 18. Check them out at [www.mass-doc.com](http://www.mass-doc.com). Note that not all MA counties are available for this service.



### *Ralph Wadleigh Plans Monthly Trips to NEHGS*

Ralph Wadleigh is planning his second monthly trip to New England Historic & Genealogical Society in Boston on Wednesday, May 6th. He plans to go on the first Wednesday of each month. Ed Shibata, Bob Rice and Janet Chalmers enjoyed their research trip with Ralph on April 1st. Anyone who would like to join him and share expenses can contact Ralph at [whplar@comcast](mailto:whplar@comcast).



### *Online Tutorials Helpful*

#### *For Searching On [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)*

*from Joyce Pendery, CG*

Ancestry.com frequently changes its format and often adds additional information, making it difficult to keep up with what information is available and how to search for it. Genealogist Barbara Renick has created two short video tutorials titled "Searching on Ancestry.com," parts 1 and 2. You can access these tutorials at: <http://www.zroots.com/tutorials1.htm>. Or you can also find these tutorials on the [www.zroots.com](http://www.zroots.com) home page. Just click on Notes, then click on NGS, and then on Tutorials. Lastly, click on the link that says "Click here to see a short video on Searching at Ancestry.com Parts 1 and 2."



### *Katharine Lee Bates Biography Released*

*Voice of the Tide* by Falmouth resident Leonard Miele has just been released. The biography of Katharine Lee Bates, author of "America the Beautiful," is richly illustrated with photographs from the Falmouth Historical Society archives. The book is available for sale at the Falmouth Historical Society, Eight Cousins, Inkwell and Booksmith.

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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Newsletter  
August – October 2009

President: Ralph Wadleigh  
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

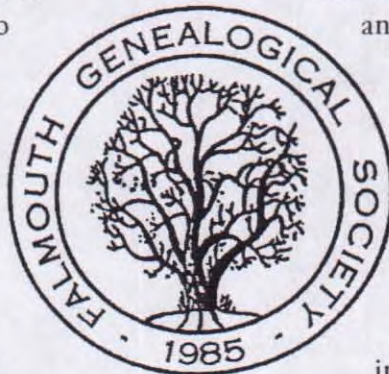
### *Genealogical Holdings of the New Bedford Free Public Library – May 9, 2009*

Presented by Paul Cyr, Librarian

by David S. Martin

At the regular program meeting of May 9, 2009 of FGS, the presenter was Mr. Paul Cyr, who is the head of the Genealogy and History collection and Curator of Special Collections at the New Bedford (MA) Public Library.

Paul described a number of the important genealogical resources that are available at the library, and mentioned that, unlike other parts of civic budgets and the rest of the library, the Genealogy section is actually enjoying an *increase* in hours and financial backing, which is good news for genealogists!



The Genealogy room subscribes to Ancestry.org and the NewEnglandAncestors.org websites.

The street addresses of censuses are indexed.

Paul advised researchers to examine data in the census, and if it appears to be suspect, to look at the name of the census-taker in the upper part of the page; if the census-taker's surname seems to be from a different nationality than the person who is being listed, misspellings may well have crept in from not being familiar with the accent or the language of the interviewee. A strategy is to match the census address with a city directory, to check for errors by the census-taker on addresses.

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Meetings for 2009

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- Aug. 8 What's New on the Web?
- Sept. 12 Donna Walcovy, Cemetery Symbolism
- Oct. 10 Paul Bumpus, Historian General, General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA
- Nov. 14 Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society
- Dec. 12 Annual Holiday Food Fest and Swap of members' genealogical stuff
- Jan. 12 Anastasia Welsh Perrino, Register, Barnstable County Probate and Family Court

### *We're Back At The Falmouth Public Library*

We are pleased to be back at the Falmouth Public Library for our meetings held on the second Saturday of each month; the downstairs meeting room now has shades. Our Tuesday help sessions are from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library in our new Genealogical Society area and by appointment at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road. Call Joyce at 508-540-2849 for an appointment.

## New Bedford Free Public Library

*Continued from page 1*

Paul is currently indexing newspapers, starting with the first issue in New Bedford of November 27, 1792; in the period 1792-1820, New Bedford newspapers were the only ones published in southeastern Massachusetts. Papers are now indexed through March of 1868; 110,000 articles are indexed, using keywords and surnames. The data will eventually be available on the web.

He is also collecting Civil War materials in preparation for the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in April 2011.

A valuable and under-used resource is the Schooling Certificate, of which there are about 25,000 in New Bedford. Between 1888 and 1913, young people had to prove that they were 14 years of age or older in order to be permitted to work full-time in the textile mills. To gather these data, records were made which tell about the child's family, the school being attended, the mill where he/she worked, and in some cases the birthplace.

Whaling records are another valuable resource at the New Bedford Library. Crew lists are partially on-line now, and others are in a card file. 141,000 men served in whaling crews in the New Bedford Custom District – which covered the area from Westport eastward through Wareham, including New Bedford. For example, in 1852, 8000 men were at sea. Data indicate that in that period, a man had a 50-50 chance of dying at sea – a real problem for genealogists because no death record was made in such cases. The library also has the records of the New London (CT) Custom District for whaling crews.

Many people in the New Bedford area are of Portuguese ancestry, although relatively few came from mainland Portugal. The majority came from Madeira and the Azores (which are part of Portugal) and the Cape Verde Islands (a former Portuguese colony).

The Library is in the process of obtaining the Cape Verde Island records now; church records of people from Madeira and the Azores are at the Family History Center in Dartmouth. In Portuguese genealogy, baptism records list parents and grandparents, but surnames are often changed to nicknames in order to protect the child from the "fairies" who sometimes snatch babies;



Paul Cyr speaks at the May 9th FGS meeting.

when the child reached maturity he/she then took a surname which could have been based on any of several family names, rather than of the father.

Immigration from Portugal occurred in steamships until 1907, and then began again in the time of 1920-1924; in 1924, Congress passed immigration quotas which severely limited the number of immigrants allowed from these areas since they were considered "newer" and "bad" immigrants, as opposed to the "older" and "better" immigrants from Northern Europe. After 1924, Portuguese immigrants tended to arrive in New Bedford on schooners. This policy was not reversed until the 1960s. The Ku Klux Klan was active in New Bedford in the 1920s. It is important to remember that from 1920-1924, the port of entry into the U.S.A. was actually Ellis Island, even though immigrants then took another ship to New Bedford. So the immigration record would not necessarily state New Bedford as the port of actual entry.

The French Canadians began to come to New Bedford in the period after the Civil War.

Log books of Gold Rush vessels are at the library; and newspapers from 1849 to 1852 would have Gold Rush information, too.

*Continued on page 3*

## Jonathan Hatch Appears at FGS Annual Meeting – June 13, 2009

Presented by B. Grant Willis and Joyce Pendery

by Susan Hutchinson

President Joyce Pendery, CG, called the Annual Meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society to order at 10:00 a.m., June 13. Special guest Jonathan Hatch, aka Falmouth attorney B. Grant Willis, co-founder of Falmouth who was wearing his best 17<sup>th</sup>-century clothing, stopped by to greet us on his way to another gathering. His very entertaining presentation included information about his life, about Falmouth during its early years, and what life, in general, was like in the mid to late 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were read and approved, and the Treasurer presented the proposed budget for the year 2009-2010, which was accepted.



Prior to the Falmouth Genealogical Society's Annual Meeting Jonathan Hatch, aka B. Grant Willis, entertained members with memories of his life and times when he and Isaac Robinson came to Suckanasset and founded our town. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

Reports were presented by President Joyce Pendery, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Ralph Wadleigh, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Janice Zlatev, and Cemetery Project Chair Donna Walcovy.

Nominating Committee Chair Janet Chalmers presented the report of the Nominating Committee for officers to be elected for two-year terms:

President: Ralph Wadleigh  
Secretary: Susan Hutchinson

Since no other nominations were made from the floor, the above-named nominees were elected by voice vote, followed by an appeal for committee members. Joyce thanked the officers, board members, and committee members for their contributions during the past two years.

Following the business meeting, outgoing President Joyce Pendery introduced "Founding Mothers" Eleanor Baldic and Marge Riley who reminisced about the founding of the Society 25 years ago; then she presented a history of the Society's first 25 years, reprinted next.

*Continued on page 4*



### New Bedford Free Public Library

*Continued from page 2*

Paul's current projects include the indexing of New Bedford-built "cottages" in Cottage City, in Oak Bluffs, on Martha's Vineyard.

The New Bedford Public Library is located on North Sixth Street – take the Downtown exit from Interstate 195 and turn south. Parking is free two blocks from the library, and a large parking garage is across the street from the library. The Genealogy Room is open Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

All in all, the New Bedford Library is a valuable potential resource for Cape genealogists who are interested in information about southeastern Massachusetts and its related families.

## The First 25 Years: FGS's 25th Anniversary

June 12, 1904 – June 13, 2009

Presented by Joyce Pendery, CG

During this year, we celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of FGS.

On June 12, 1984, Eleanor Baldic and Marguerite Riley organized the first meeting of a local group interested in genealogy, which they called "Climbing the Family Tree." That meeting was held in the library meeting room at 7 p.m. Several other monthly meetings were held during 1984. At the first formal organizational

meeting, on Tuesday evening, January 22, 1985, with 14 potential members present, the name was changed to "Falmouth Genealogical Society," dues of \$10 were instituted or cover expenses and to buy books for the library, the seal was adopted, and the preparation of bylaws began. Meetings were held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month except December and January, at 7 p.m. in the library. By February

1986, there were 35 members. In 1990 membership had increased to 70, to 86 in 1993, and to 152 in 1998, a number that has remained fairly constant for the last 10 years. Average attendance at monthly meetings has also remained amazingly constant at 30 to 40.

Eleanor Baldic was elected as the first president and Marge Riley as first treasurer. Eleanor also wrote the newsletters, called "The Tracer," for the first few years. When Ted Karlson took over as President in 1990, Paul Bunnell became Newsletter Editor. Paul included reviews of speaker's lectures, queries, and upcoming genealogical events. Marge Gibson was then Vice Presi-

dent and Program Chair, Dot Sandlin, Secretary, and Lorraine Fox, Treasurer. In 1993, Judy Fenner became President and Marge Gibson editor of the Newsletter, a position she held for 10 years. Marge added many features to the Newsletter such as highlighting national and international genealogical organizations, events, and resources, book reviews, and new internet sites. She enjoyed writing feature articles on a wide variety of topics

of interest to genealogists. John Peri served as president from 1995 to 1999. He was followed by Donna Walcovy from 1999 to 2003, and John Caspole from 2003-2007.

One goal of the Society has remained constant throughout the years: to purchase books for the library's reference collection on genealogy and local history. To date the Society has donated more than \$2,000 for this purpose.

Tuesday afternoon help sessions at the library, instituted in the early 1990s, serve an average of two clients per week. In the early '90s the Society donated four microfiche readers for use in the library – primarily to access the IGI, which FGS purchased, as well as other genealogical records available as microfiche. By the mid 1990s, as Computer Users' Groups were becoming popular, the Society purchased two computers and a printer for accessing records available on CD-Roms and for demonstrating genealogy software programs such as PAF, Roots, and Family Tree Maker. The Society purchased 90 CD-Roms for use at the library. Always

*Continued on page 5*



Falmouth Genealogical Society's founding mothers, Marguerite Riley and Eleanor Baldic reminisced about the early days of FGS. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

## The First 25 Years

Continued from page 4



The original FGS logo. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

keeping up with changes in technology, by the mid 2000s FGS was paying up to half the cost of subscribing to library editions of such websites as Ancestry.com, HeritageQuest, and NewEnglandAncestors.org. We now have a Society laptop for use at the library to access websites, in addition to the computers the library provides.

While John Peri was President, John and Barbara Peri planned and directed the production of 24 TV programs on genealogy, which were broadcast locally on channel FCTV and as video tapes, made available for loan at the library. Many members participated in the programs, and Barbara Peri videotaped some of our monthly lectures. During John's Presidency, the Society presented two multi-session courses on beginning genealogy, one at Falmouth Night School and one for the Friends of Falmouth Public Library.

In 1998 Mary Hunt compiled "A Guide to Genealogical Resources in the Falmouth Public Library," available in print and on [falgen.org](http://falgen.org). Vice President Janice Zlatev is currently updating Mary's guide, soon to be available online. It was in 1999 that our then new member Donna Walcovy volunteered to create a web site, called

[falgen.org](http://falgen.org). She has dedicated hundreds of hours to maintaining and updating our web site, for which we extend our most grateful appreciation.

Although the idea of a cemetery project was proposed in 1997, after Robert Carlson talked about his Cape Cod cemetery research and photography, it was not until 2001, under the leadership of then-President Donna Walcovy that the Cemetery Project began to roll with the goal of reading and photographing inscriptions in Falmouth's 16 cemeteries and publishing the results online at [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), with searchable indexes for each cemetery. That work is now more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  completed, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.

John Caspole succeeded Donna as President in 2003, serving for four years. Janet Chalmers became Editor of the Newsletter in January 2004; she is already completing more than five years in that role. While John was President, the Society had to remove all its materials from the library before renovations began. (They were stored in my basement!) There was little space available at the temporary site, so FGS arranged to hold Tuesday afternoon help sessions at the LDS Family History Library in Cataumet and monthly meetings at the Falmouth Senior Center. The Society also made a generous donation to the library building renovation fund.

Continued on page 6



Former FGS president John Peri accepts accolades and a certificate of appreciation from outgoing president Joyce Pendery. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

## The First 25 Years

*Continued from page 5*

Throughout the years, FGS has invited leading genealogists to speak at meetings. For the first 20 years or so, some speakers came from NEHGS, including David Dearborn, Jerry Anderson, Andy Peirce, Scott Andrew Bartley and Marcia Melnik. Maureen Taylor and David Mishkin talked about old photos and Jim Gould about Quakers. Paul Cyr spoke here several times, as well as Dick Eastman and several regional archivists and librarians. Many members of the Society have also provided programs on topics of special interest to them. Among the most popular was John Peri's 1993 talk on Irish Genealogy with 58 attendees. For our 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration held at the Congregational Church, Dr. George Redmonds from Yorkshire, England, presented a lecture on "The Origins of English Surnames." Bob Rice has kept us up-to-date on DNA testing for genealogical purposes.

Special activities of the Society include the publication of Marge Gibson's "Cape Cod Genealogical and Historical Guide and Atlas in 1994" (now almost sold out) and the very successful day and a half Cape Cod Genealogical Conference held May 6 and 7, 1995, at Sea Crest, to celebrate the Society's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Nearly 300 genealogists attended. In 2007 and 2008 FGS and CCGS held their first joint meetings, and they hope to make this gathering of the clans an annual event.



Former FGS president and current web master and cemetery project head, Donna Walcovy shares laughs and smiles with Joyce Pendery as she holds her certificate of appreciation. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

FGS has been a member of NERGC – New England Regional Genealogical Consortium – since its founding ca. 1992. We have worked on conference planning, provided a speaker for each conference, and hosted the November 2003 gathering at Sea Crest. These very successful biannual gatherings of genealogists from around the country have also been financially rewarding, since participating organizations share any profits – sometimes mounting to \$1,000 per society. We have used these funds to support genealogical websites for our library.



Newly elected president Ralph Wadleigh takes over as the leader of Falmouth Genealogical Society. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

That from little acorns big (family) trees can grow is certainly true in our case. When all is said and done, I hope you will agree with me that our record of service and achievement is impressive! We thank all of you for your interest, loyalty, and outstanding contributions to the Society over the years and hope you will continue your support for the next 25 years – or for as long you can!

And now, I would like to present Certificates of Award to:

Founding Mothers: Eleanor Baldic (also 1<sup>st</sup> President) and Marguerite Riley

Past Presidents: Ted Karlson

Judy Fenner

John Peri

Donna Walcovy

John Caspole: who can not be here today, but sends greetings

Newsletter Editor: Janet Chalmers



## FamilySearch.org – July 11, 2009

Presented by Leslie Huber

by David Martin

Leslie Albrecht Huber provided a well-organized and thorough presentation on the FamilySearch.org site and its related services for genealogists. She began by giving the background of the FamilySearch site, which began as an umbrella computer program in 1998. Since that time, the site has had more than 150 million visitors. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) sponsors the program, and the Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed records since 1938. The Church founded the Library in Salt Lake City – the world's largest genealogical library; branches, known as Family History Centers, are found throughout the world connected to local LDS churches. The site is free to users.

The components of the site include: compiled databases, the Family History Catalog, Research Guides, Personal Ancestral File, original records, and FamilySearch indexing. Leslie provided elaboration on each of these components.

The databases include first Ancestral File and Pedigree Resource File. It was recommended that in using Ancestral File, users select "Advanced Search" in order to get a list of sources used for records. Ancestral File searches family trees that have been submitted by LDS members. It was replaced by Pedigree Resource File, which has 80 million names, not all of which are LDS members. Pedigree Resource File includes the submitter's research notes, but the notes are not available on-line and one would have to purchase the CD that contains them or get them at a local Family History Center. Leslie emphasized that this resource is a *secondary* source, and information always needs to be verified through seeking original records, but it is a valuable starting point (about 80% of the records in this data base have some kind of error). For tips, she suggested not trying to use exact spelling, being flexible about alternatives, looking for women under their maiden names, not looking for living people (they are not there), and expecting errors.

The second database included is the International

Genealogical Index (IGI), which contains 700 million names, but names can occur multiple times under different submissions or different spellings. It, too, is only a secondary source, does not connect living people across generations because it contains only individual entries with parents and children and no further generational link, contains no living persons, and has some errors. The records which contain extracted information give the microfilm number, and the films are usually accurate. (See below for procedure for obtaining the microfilms). Leslie recommended searching for children by entering only the geographic region, and entering as little information as possible in order to raise the probability of matches (unless the name being sought is a very common surname).

Other databases include the U.S. Census of 1880 and both 1881 British and Canadian censuses, the Social Security Death Index which is mostly men at first and is useful for persons who have died since 1965, Mexican vital records, and Scandinavian vital records. In the future, immigration data may become an LDS database, but they are not in the database at the moment.

The Family History Library Catalog is another important component. The Family History Library has 2.5 million microfilms and 742,000 microfiches, as well as books. Two hundred cameras are currently filming records in 45 countries. Films can be ordered through a local Family History Center for about \$5.50 a film, and kept for a reviewing period, and then renewed. Two renewals result in the film becoming part of the permanent collection of the local Family History Center. The Family History Catalog is used for searching by topics or places, but books do not circulate. The Catalog is online.

Research Guidance is also available for all U.S. states and a number of other countries. Included in this category are: forms such as census worksheets and pedigree charts, guides for letter-writing for information including phrases for eight different languages, maps,

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## From the President

Ralph Wadleigh

whplar@comcast.net

Greetings from your new President! No not Barack, but Ralph!

As a start, I thought it would be good to state FGS's objectives (contained in bylaws):

1. To promote an interest in genealogy and family history.
2. To encourage and instruct members in the performance of genealogical research and promote the maintenance of quality genealogical standards and documentation.
3. To promote adherence to accepted standards for the use and care of genealogical records.
4. To help preserve public and private records and artifacts, and work to ensure their accessibility for historical and genealogical purposes.
5. To contribute records as appropriate to libraries, historical societies and genealogical societies.
6. To publish genealogical and historical information in a regularly issued newsletter and in other publications as directed by the membership.

As I look around I see lots of activity within FGS fulfilling these objectives. Donna and her volunteers are very busy reading gravestones in Oak Grove Cemetery. If you are on one of her teams, thank you because for each stone read, we are that much closer to the finish line. The Tuesday afternoon library team is also busy this summer. Last week they had seven "clients" filling up the table and both computer terminals. That's wonderful. Hopefully some of the guests will become members. The first Wednesday trips continue. In July we visited the New England Historical and Genealogical Library in Boston, and in August we went to the American-

French Genealogical Society Library in Woonsocket, RI. Future trips being considered are to the National Archives in Waltham and the Massachusetts Archives in Boston. If you are interested in these trips, please let me know. They are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month.

However, all this activity means that some folks are simply getting too busy. Here's where FGS needs help from you:



FGS members Shirley Dunkle and Eleanor Baldic among others outside the American-French Genealogical Society Library in Woonsocket, RI. Photo by Ralph Wadleigh.

Cemetery Transcription Project – people to record inscription information and photograph gravestones.

Membership – someone to welcome new members and follow up with folks who come to the Tuesday PM library sessions.

Programming – someone to schedule speakers for our monthly meetings. This has been done for 2010, so it would be easy to pick it up.

Obituary lookup – people to search microfilms of *Falmouth*

*Enterprise* for obits of persons where Donna is looking for the place of burial. This activity ties into cemetery transcription project.

Obituary Index – people to record names of deceased found in *Falmouth Enterprise* Obituaries 1990 – 1997.

NERGC – someone to represent FGS at quarterly meetings of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. This will greatly increase your network of genealogical friends.

Many hands make light work!! Take advantage of these volunteer opportunities. Make living friends!! If you'd like to help, please let me or a board member know.

## The Joys of Genealogy

By Janice P. Dorchester

In the Newsletter of May-July 2007, I wrote of finding "Anthony's Kin in Canada." I also told of the identity of Anthony Dorchester and his arrival in this country in 1634 and of the steps I had taken to write "Anthony Dorchester and His Descendants" in 1998. The article also described my receiving an email from a genealogist in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, who was doing research for an elderly woman friend in Wetaskiwin, Alberta, Canada. She was almost positive her ancestor, Halsey Dorchester, was born in Vernon, Connecticut. Although I wasn't able to send her a birth record, the town clerk was able to give me a marriage record for Halsey and his wife, Elva Luce Dorchester, and information on Elva's family.

A young lawyer in California (also a Dorchester descendant), emailed me in 2006, telling me he had a family reference, called the E. P. Stimson Manuscript, which gave proof that a brother and sister, Halsey and Caroline Dorchester, were indeed born in Vernon, Connecticut, about 1800. Apparently they were never registered in the Vernon Town Hall. I remembered the name of the elderly woman, Caroline Dorchester Shantz, and called

her. Caroline was so elated that she told her friends that she had just spoken to a relative in Massachusetts! She gave me her daughter Bonnie's phone number, and we have been in contact ever since. I am grateful to Donna Walcovy for giving me some needed information and the courage to talk to someone I had never met before.

The new book, "Supplement to Anthony Dorchester and His Descendants," was published in September 2008, and for continuity I included the first five generations from the original 1998 Dorchester Genealogy. Then the Supplement covers the sixth through twelfth generations of the Dorchester families in Canada and the lawyer's Stimson family (Caroline Dorchester had married a Stimson). Both books have an Allied Families section, an Album of family photographs and an Index of many pages.

My contact with the busy young lawyer in California was pleasant but not close. With the Canadian Dorchesters, we began talking on the telephone often, and Bonnie, Caroline Dorchester Shantz's daughter, became my resource person. In late February 2009, three

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### FamilySearch.org

*Continued from page 7*

historical backgrounds of states and countries, research outlines, and word lists for different languages.

Personal Ancestral File (PAF) is the free software computer program for recording and organizing one's genealogical data. No further updates of PAF are expected to be produced now. The program can be downloaded to one's own computer; other software programs are, of course, available for a fee – these sometimes have a few more options than PAF, but PAF remains widely used.

Original Records comprise another component. In the Spring of 2006, the Church began to digitize and publish online the film collection – a large and long project. The Record Access Program is a partnership with Footnote, the Godfrey Memorial Library,

WorldVitalRecords, the National Archives, and Heritage Quest. These partners' websites are available free at local Family History Center libraries. Ancestry.com is not currently one of the partners.

The final component is a future plan – New FamilySearch. It is only available now to LDS members, and requires a user name and a password. Eventually it will be a world family tree for all the sources listed above, together; and the information can be changed online interactively. The goal is to eliminate as many errors as possible from the databases. The date for general availability is not clear at the moment. The website is [www.new.familysearch.org](http://www.new.familysearch.org).

Leslie's presentation was warmly appreciated by all.

## The Joys of Genealogy

*Continued from page 9*

of the Dorchester cousins wanted to know if they could come for a visit. They know how old we are and that we have had health problems, and they assured us they would gladly stay in a motel. The visit was planned for April 8–15, 2009. The woman who had done the first email to me in 2003, Kaye Steward, also joined them, coming as an “adopted Dorchester”.

They started to plan their trip from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and we began thinking of all the places we would take them here on Cape Cod. They particularly wanted to see the Cape Cod Canal, Plymouth, a cranberry bog, lighthouses, the Vineyard and the Atlantic Ocean. The 1998 Dorchester Genealogy was written on Martha’s Vineyard.

My husband, Doug, was hospitalized with heart problems in early March and I thought we should cancel the Canadian cousins’ visit, but he would not hear of it. For him this was a unique moment in our family history, when the American and Canadian Dorchesters met each other for the first time ever! This joyous family reunion was the direct result of my latest genealogy, verifying that all of them go back to the same Progenitor, Anthony Dorchester, who arrived in Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1634.

We live in Bourne and have a daughter and her husband, Dee and Hollis, in Falmouth and a son and daughter-in-law, Don and Tina, in West Yarmouth. We found good accommodations for our Canadian family nearby – right next to the Canal, and my husband sent a limo to Logan to pick up the “girls”! We decided to have Sharon Dorchester Wulff, who was Dee’s age, drive our older car while here. Her sister, Joyce Dorchester Muller, felt at ease with Sharon driving.

We did a local tour the first day, going along the west coast of Buzzards Bay down to West Falmouth. We showed them the Massachusetts Maritime Academy at the end of the Canal and it seemed very appropriate, as the news at that time told of the rescue of Captain Phillips from the Somali pirates. They also saw several cranberry bogs.

On Good Friday we were in Plymouth and our visitors toured the “Mayflower,” saw Plymouth Rock and

we enjoyed a superb meal in a restaurant overlooking the harbor. Our daughter, Ellen, from Schoharie, New York, arrived that afternoon to meet the cousins and take charge of the Easter dinner with her brother-in-law, Hollis. Hollis and Dee entertained all of us at their home on Saturday with a fine meal and then the six “girls” went sight-seeing in Falmouth. Their trip looked out on Nantucket and Vineyard Sounds, and included Nobska Light. This also was a time for shopping.

The Canadian cousins attended church with my husband. After dinner, we spent the afternoon sharing stories and gifts. The Canadian cousins are very proud of their brothers, nephews, and cousins, all champions in chuck wagon racing in Canada. Tom Dorchester, now deceased, was the father of Sharon and Joyce, and he is the one who began this type of riding and driving in the rodeo world.

My husband and Dee took our guests to Martha’s Vineyard, and our son, Don, took the cousins and me to Chatham Light, where the breach in Monomoy was explained to them and they saw the wide beach and the Atlantic. In the afternoon Don took them into Hyannis and they saw the Kennedy Museum and Compound. They left at noontime the next day after we had had an early brunch together. Hollis and Don helped with their luggage and we saw them off on the Logan bus. They really got to know our family well as we spent so much time together – all because of my genealogy!

We all had such a good time and the phone calls and emails continue to go both ways, and we are happy that at least three of our five children made their acquaintance. We can’t travel any more, but I am certain that some of the family will be heading to Alberta – perhaps taking in the Calgary Stampede to see their cowboy cousins, chuck wagon racers, and visiting again with their Dorchester relatives.



### *Please Help Read Cemeteries*

Please contact Donna Walcovy if you would like to volunteer in reading the gravestones at the last three Falmouth cemeteries to be posted on FalGen.org. Call her at 508-477-1947 or email her at [d.quenzel@comcast.net](mailto:d.quenzel@comcast.net)

## Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair

### Bibliotheca Alexandrina

In May we visited Egypt for two weeks. One of the options we chose was to visit the new library in Alexandria. Alexandria is the second largest city and the main port of Egypt. We travelled by train from Cairo and returned by bus (about 3 hours each way). Alexandria was founded in 331 BC by Alexander the Great and it became one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. It was the center of great learning and its library was the most famous in ancient times. The Royal Library at Alexandria attracted scholars from all over the ancient world. The library was destroyed in a fire sometime between 100 BC and 1 BC; the vast collection of scrolls was lost. Many writers blame Julius Caesar when he was fighting there in 48 BC and set fire to his opponent's fleet.

The idea of reviving the old library began in 1974 when a committee from Alexandria University selected land between the campus and the Mediterranean Sea, close to where the original stood, as the site for the new building. UNESCO adopted the idea of a cultural center as well as a library and in 1988 ran an architectural design competition. Snohetta, a Norwegian firm, won the competition. In 1990 the first pledges for funding were made, led by the Arab nations. Construction began in 1995 and the new library opened in 2002.

Approaching the entrance to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, we faced a gray granite wall carved with characters from 120 different scripts. The main reading was built on eleven cascading levels and our tour overlooked the huge area on about the fourth level. We later had time to descend to the main level. We watched a short film and visited two of the museum exhibits. There are no scrolls now, but many computer terminals.



The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has space for eight million volumes, but it opened in 2002 with only about 500,000 volumes. Collections at the library have been donated from many countries around the world. For example, France donated documents dealing with the building of the Suez Canal under Ferdinand de Lesseps (a Frenchman). The new library also has the only "mirror" of the Internet Archive, an archive of the World Wide Web, maintained in California. The Bibliotheca Alexandrina has six specialized libraries, seven research centers, a room for the visually impaired, a children's library and an area for young adults. There are also three museums, a planetarium, and a conference center on the site. It was a remarkable achievement for Egypt and the world.



### *Sign Up To Play a Spirit at Oak Grove Cemetery*

*by Mary Sicchio, FHS Archivist*

I am looking for a few good men to play characters in Falmouth Historical Society's October 24 Spirits presentations at Oak Grove Cemetery

I can promise them a biographical script, and a lovely monument to tell their story from. Roles up for grabs include:

Dr. Aaron Cornish, physician and inoculator  
Captain Silas Jones, hero of the Awashonks

George Washington Swift, Civil War Prisoner of War

Elijah Swift, eye patch wearing shipbuilder and entrepreneur

Benjamin Franklin Jones, sea captain

George Washington Jones, Postmaster

Rev. William Bates

Arthur Bates, brother of Katharine who bankrolled her education.

## Letters/Online Tips/FYI



To Donna Walcovy from Charlet

Re: cemetery readings

Through the Falmouth Genealogical Society I've found a wonderful website! If you have a relative or ancestor who died in Joliet, Illinois (or wherever!) and there is a volunteer who will look up obituaries for that city/town it is either cheap or free! Some volunteers look up obituaries, take pictures of cemetery headstones, look up death certificates, etc. The website is called Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness: <http://www.raogk.org/faq-requesters.htm>. I know some of Falmouth's cemeteries are available online due to your amazing work and I've directed a few people to search the website.



*from the Editor*

*I received the following two emails from Joyce Keay in June about an interesting web page about early passenger lists that she had found. At first Joyce was very excited about her find; after checking it out she recommended that I include a warning about the sources listed.*

From Joyce Keay, June 11, 2009

Re: Interesting web page re early passenger lists

Hi, I found this page that lists early ships and passengers. The great thing is that you can search by the first letter of a surname and it will list all entries across all ships in the database or you can search by ship name. I'd want to confirm the information by checking other sources, but it looks like a great place to start. At the bottom of the page she lists other "good general ship list pages."

<http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.htm>

From Joyce Keay, June 15, 2009

Re: Interesting web page re early passenger lists

I just checked out the web sites that the "ships list" listed as sources. The ones listed part way down on the



Winthrop page are absolutely no good. The winthropsocty.org page seems to have been taken over by an outfit that does ads for company names that would come up in a search for "Mayflower" for example. Although there is some genealogy-type info there, it is \*definitely\* not what you would expect. Other sites are no longer in existence.

A very few of the sources listed at the bottom of the page that lists the ships names are OK. Others are totally useless. The following may be helpful:

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/savage/>

I am going to write to the owner of the "ships list" site that I recommended and tell her about these outdated and useless sources.



*from the Editor*

I know that many people interested in genealogy shun Ancestry.com for one reason or another. It is expensive and it keeps popping up when people do searches. I just want to say that I belong to Ancestry.com and am delighted with the contacts I have made through it.

A few months ago I bit the bullet and put a tree up on Ancestry to try to help myself and others researching their Mahady Irish roots. Several people had contributed information to a web page called the Mahady One Name Study, but nobody, it seemed, had tried to combine that information into a tree that contained Mahadys beyond their own known ancestors and immediate families. I set out to do that by working on a tree called Janet's Mahady/Mahedy Clan. This has opened a new world of cousins to me.

Bolstered by my Mahady success, I submitted Janet's Burt-Chalmers Big Tree to Ancestry. In addition to related lines, this tree includes my ancestry as well as that of my husband and my children's spouses and other in-laws. I have been rewarded by queries from many people who I now consider kinfolk. Ancestry has put me in a position to learn a lot and help others a lot.

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol. 21 Number 4  
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www.falgen.org

Newsletter  
November 2009 – January 2010

President: Ralph Wadleigh  
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

### What's New On The Web – August 8, 2009

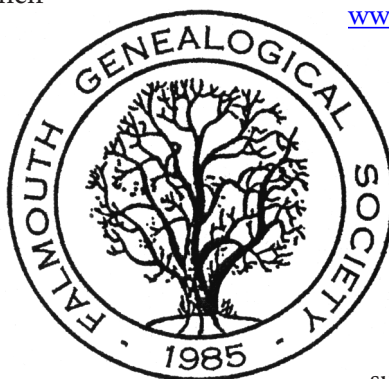
*by Joyce S. Pendery, CG*

At the August FGS meeting, several members spoke about websites – some new and others not-so-new – that they have found to be very helpful for their genealogical research.

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

*presented by Lockwood Rianhard*

Volunteers submit the information posted on this website that can be searched by surname, location, cemetery name, etc. Included are 35 million entries, with complete listings from some cemeteries and only a name or two from others. While some entries include only a name with dates of birth and death, others also include photos of gravestones, portraits or photos of the deceased person, obituaries, and even biographies.



Lockwood pointed out that for Cape Cod research, [www.capecodgravestones.org](http://www.capecodgravestones.org) is much more comprehensive, and that for Falmouth research, gravestone information found on the Cemetery Project tab at [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) is the very best.

[www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.com](http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.com)

*presented by Joyce Keay*

This website presents information on Pilgrim ships sailing to America during the early to mid 1600s – long before Castle Garden or Ellis Island. Search can be done by date of sailing, ship name, surname of captain, or surname of passenger. Results often also give the date of arrival in North America. [www.packrat-pro.com/links/link-stree.htm](http://www.packrat-pro.com/links/link-stree.htm) provides links to other websites of potential interest.

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Meetings for 2009 – 2010

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 14 | Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society – West Barnstable Community Center, Rte. 149, West Barnstable, Michael LeClerc of NEHGS: Research Techniques for Genealogists and Breaking Through Brick Walls |
| Dec. 12 | Annul Holiday Food Fest and Swap of members' genealogical stuff   |
| Jan. 9  | Anastasia Welsh Perrino, Register, Barnstable County Probate – A Probate Primer   |
| Feb. 13 | Mary Lou Botelho – A Genealogical Research Trip to the Azores   |
| Mar. 14 | To be determined  |
| Apr. 10 | Scott Andrew Bartley – Cape Cod Migration Patterns  |

## What's New On The Web

*Continued from page 1*

[www.familysearchlabs.org](http://www.familysearchlabs.org)

*presented by John Peri*

To discover what's new on familysearch.org go to the above website for listings of projects recently placed online. Going to the regular website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and clicking on the tab "search records" and then on "records search pilot" will bring up other new information on this website.

[www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk)

*presented by John Peri*

This variation on [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) covers information placed on this website in 2009.

[www.lva.virginia.gov](http://www.lva.virginia.gov)

*presented by Lockwood Rianhard*

The Henley index of newspaper marriage and obituary notices from 1736-1982, available on this site, includes the name of the newspaper, date, page, and

column numbers. Images are also available online. Early land grant and other land transactions, as well as images, are also available on this website. The state catalog can be searched by name or location.

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

*presented by Ralph Wadleigh*

President Wadleigh's daily genealogy newspaper is the above website, wherein long-time blogger Dick Eastman (who has spoken at FGS) relates the genealogical news of the day through several feature articles.

[www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)

*presented by Stephen Hemberger*

Available on this website are government land patents, primarily in Midwestern and western states, and other related documents. Click on "Visit us" and then on "land records." Detailed instructions guide users through the process of locating records.



### *Falmouth Genealogical Society URLs for Internet Genealogy*

Below is a list of URLs for Internet Genealogy compiled by Bob Rice and John Peri. \*available free at FPL.

<http://www.familysearch.org/>, free Mormon (LDS) very large.

<http://www.findmypast.com/>, UK records pay as you go, from \$11/mo.

[http://www.genealogy.com/index\\_a.html](http://www.genealogy.com/index_a.html), FamilyTree Maker oriented \$70 TO \$200/YEAR

<http://www.ancestry.com/>, \*A commercial megabusness \$300+/year 30+/mo.

<http://newenglandancestors.org/about/4974.asp> NEHGS library in Boston-\$75/yr. Includes access to 150,000 volumes and over million manuscripts and microfilms in Boston. Plus online database-MA b,m,d

<http://www.usgenweb.com/> free volunteer genealogy world wide

<http://www.google.com/> free search engine, just type genealogy +

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/>, free surname genealogy postings

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/genealogy>, add surname – free

<http://www.cyndislist.com/>, very large list free.

<http://www.originsnetwork.com>, Gate to English, Scottish and Irish origins starts 1847 \$16/72 hrs

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>. Scottish records ca. \$11 for 30 pages/90 days.

<http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk>, records not online but information.

<http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>, \$13.50/50 pages, mostly French

<http://www.ellisland.org> free

<http://www.castlegarden.org> 1820 to 1910 immigration before Ellis Island, free.

<http://www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org>, ancestry.com, heritagequest.com. and newenglandancestors.org are free in the library. Heritagequest is free at home to Falmouth residents only. Heritagequest does Not cover 1830, 1840, 1850, 1880 census indexes. Only partial 1930. But has Images for all 1790 to 1930.

<http://www.raogk.org/>, volunteers who will look up genealogical data.



## *Cemetery Symbolism On Gravestones*

*From the 17th Century to the Present – September 12, 2009*

Presented by Donna Walcovy

*Summarized by Ralph Wadleigh*

At our September 12, 2009 monthly meeting Donna Walcovy presented a well-researched, illustrated talk titled *Cemetery Symbolism on Gravestones from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century to the Present*.

In the 1600s, the earliest settlers were mainly concerned with finding adequate food and shelter. Their dead were buried close to the center of town, usually in the area of the town common. Graves were marked with plain fieldstone markers. If carved, their inscriptions were simple and usually carved by a member of the family.

With the advent of the Puritans in 1630 and later, grave markers began to reflect their predominant religious belief in a vengeful God and predetermination. Burial grounds were arranged facing east to greet the rising sun and the dead were laid to rest in graves containing both headstones and footstones (a bed). The soul was expected to rise to judgment and most of the deceased were believed to be already doomed. Gravestones were marked with grim skulls and crossed bones, hour glasses, shovels and scythes.

Later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, stones were adorned with Medusa-like heads, winged angels, with important persons having graves marked with table stones. Epitaphs became more common. One frequently seen reads: "Remember folks as you walk by, as you are now so once was I. As I am now, so you will be, so prepare for death and follow me."

The first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the emergence of a business class, social extravagance, enjoyment of nature, an appreciation of classical art and freer expression of sentiment. This social change was reflected in the way deaths were commemorated. Because burying grounds in the town centers were filling up and getting hemmed in by urban development and because open land at the edge of town was available for development, the rural cemetery movement began. In 1831, Cambridge's Mount Auburn Cemetery became the forerunner of this

movement. It was the first burying ground to be called a cemetery.

Throughout the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, cemeteries reflected the richer social order. Gravestones were elaborately carved with angels, sunbursts, willows and urns, flowers, and animals. Plots of wealthy families were marked with obelisks bearing tablets marking the names of various family members.

After the Civil War, governments began to establish separate veterans' cemeteries or veterans' plots within existing cemeteries. Gravestones in these areas usually have a uniform design and a standardized inscription.

Late in the 19<sup>th</sup> and into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, zinc or white bronze markers became popular. Family inscriptions were stamped into them to be affixed to the larger carved memorial stone. They have survived very well. There is usually a hollow cavity behind them. Donna reported that during Prohibition, bootleggers used the cavities to hide their wares.

The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought additional changes to cemetery markers. The sobering influence of two world wars elicited more straightforward and businesslike designs. Simple stones with just names and dates predominated. Some cemeteries began to insist that all markers be made flat with the ground to simplify mowing.

Today, in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, we are witnessing a return to more decorative stones. Using advances in stone carving techniques like lasers, it is now economically feasible to produce grave markers with elaborate and realistic decoration. These can include pictures of the deceased, scenes of nature, and images of items cherished by the deceased.

At the conclusion of her talk, Donna noted that the Baker Monument Company has a book full of grave symbols, especially those of fraternal orders. She also noted that the most durable stone for grave markers is granite.

## Society of Mayflower Descendants – October 10, 2009

Presented by Paul S. Bumpus

by Janet Burt Chalmers

Paul Bumpus, Historian General of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, Massachusetts, spoke to members and guests at the Oct. 10th meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society, illustrating his talk with photographs he has taken of the Mayflower Society house, gardens and historical points of interest. He told us how he lucked into his ideal job, first hired as a verifier, then librarian and now Historian General. “Everybody comes to genealogy in their own time,” he said, noting that he has discovered he has multiple Mayflower lines he never knew about.

To qualify for membership to the Society of Mayflower Descendants applicants have to prove their lineage from a Plymouth pilgrim. A complete list of qualifying pilgrims and how to join the society are on the Mayflower website <http://www.themayflowersociety.com/> which is richly illustrated with Paul’s pictures. Members may document descent from as many pilgrims as they have, each with a separate application and fee. Applicants may join whatever state societies they choose, not just the Massachusetts one. Paul noted that the fee structure is different for each state society.

Paul told us that the five generation Silver books are the main contribution the Mayflower Society has made to genealogy. He said that the society is making continual advancements including now documenting six generations of some Mayflower families, and allowing descendants to join through a woman passenger, not just the male pilgrims. The Silver books are an ongoing project

and have not been completed for all the pilgrims.

Talking about documenting lineage, Paul said that preliminary papers can be sent to the society to be checked for matching lines for \$10. He said that the society will inform applicants of the extent of a proposed line that has already been approved. People whose relatives have already had lineage lines approved may have had most of the work done for them.



Paul Bumpus, Historian General of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, chats with FGS member Nancy Haywood following the Oct. 10th meeting while Eleanor Baldic looks on. Photo by Ralph Wadleigh.

Preliminary applications may be submitted online by filling in the name of the pilgrim and the descent through each generation to the applicant. The preliminary form doesn’t ask for dates or places of birth, marriage and death, and doesn’t ask for proofs. Applicants can print and mail the form with a check or may email it and charge the \$10 fee.

Paul warned that the society has upped its standards, noting that the Mayflower Ancestral Index doesn’t fly

anymore and applicants need to be very careful with secondary sources. He said applicants can’t rely on early censuses to prove parentage.

He said that the society approves 1800 to 2200 lineage papers a year, and added that it is good to document lines that haven’t been documented yet.

Though Paul’s talk was a personal one, relating how he got his job and several tales about his own ancestry, and showcasing his Mayflower-related photography, his program was well received and inspirational for me.

## *From the President*

Ralph Wadleigh

whplar@comcast.net

Greetings. The weather is getting cooler and we are beginning to switch to indoor activities which will probably foster our research!! Your society has not been sitting on its hands. Just yesterday, at the Tuesday Falmouth Public Library help session two of our “clients” joined FGS. That’s wonderful. The Cemetery Transcription Project also showed activity. The reading of Oak Grove was finished, the photography of Village cemetery was finished and just today we finished the photography at Church of the Messiah Cemetery. Over the next few months Village and Church of the Messiah Cemeteries

should appear on our website. We also enjoyed research trips to NEHGS and NARA. We have some enjoyable monthly meetings lined up. Please mark your calendars to attend our meetings. You will find them informative and friendly. Also don’t be shy about asking where help might be needed. Finally, your Board voted to continue to be a participant in the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. which is busy planning its next conference for Springfield in April 2011. You’ll hear more about this on a regular basis. Thanks for being a part of the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

## *Inspired to Document Mayflower Line*

by Janet Burt Chalmers

Paul Bumpus, Historian General of the Society of Mayflower Descendants, inspired me to get my act together to document a Mayflower line to Elder William Brewster that my mother used to write out as a penmanship exercise. I went to the website of the Society of Mayflower Descendants and found that I could fill out a preliminary lineage online and charge the \$10 fee to my credit card. How easy! I quickly filled out the form writing in the familiar names of ancestors I feel I have come to know well. I was lucky to have parents who each had an enormous family tree rolled up that they were able to spread the length of our living room and tell stories about various ancestors, making the names on paper come alive. My parents also had old photo albums with pictures of family members and friends. Unfortunately, most of the old photographs were never identified, but some were, and those are treasures.

I am also lucky because my brother David caught the genealogy bug when I was still a child and encouraged me to enjoy it too. He took me to Boston and bought me my first genealogy book, a wonderful big book for me to write out all I knew of my family tree. Of course I started with my mother’s Mayflower line to William Brewster.

With early technology, David input the information from our parents’ family trees, gathered and copied relevant photographs and hand made a wonderful genealo-

gy for himself, our brother Ted and me. Since that time, I downloaded his GEDCOMs into an early Family Tree Maker program and have followed my obsession for several years, enjoying computer, library and fieldwork research.

While my mother knew one William Brewster line of descent to her, I have discovered another, plus two Stephen Hopkins lines and one Thomas Rogers line. All those Mayflower descendants are in the ancestry of my maternal great-great grandmother, Rosetta Small, who was born on the Cape in Truro and raised her children in Provincetown. Her ancestors all lived on the Cape. Thanks to the wonderful website of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society, I have been able to find and photograph the gravestones of many of those ancestors in Eastham, Orleans, Wellfleet, Truro, Barnstable and Provincetown. Visiting the old Cape graveyards is so exciting because so many of the names on the stones are my extended family. And when I drive through the towns I see the familiar names too.

Brewster, Prence, Freeman, Mayo, Cobb, Treat, Lombard, Small, Knowles, Arey, Bangs, Hopkins, Snow, Paine, Hatch, Taylor, Dyer, Lewes, Davis, Rogers, Young, Doane, Shaw, Cole, Lumpkin, Wing, Swift, Newcomb, Marchant – they’re all my Cape ancestors and I figure anyone with one of those last names is my cousin.

# Umbilical Genealogy and DNA

by Robert Rice, rvrbarre@verizon.net

Umbilical genealogy is simply the tracing of one's mother's mother's, mother's, etc and thus is a form of matrilineal genealogy. But it does not include the men they married who fathered their children except to identify the generations. That is an important distinction for many matriarchal lines do include one's matrilineal grandfathers. If you have prepared a chart of your lineage then usually the women of interest are at the bottom line if using the usual convention. It is also the route along which your mitochondrial DNA passes.

It is much more difficult to search for umbilical lineages because surnames usually change with each generation and many wives' surnames and even first names were not recorded in early colonial times. The principle reason such lineages are being pursued today is the new ability through DNA analysis to verify the paper genealogy by analyzing mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and the realization that a somewhat independent source of information about early colonial families can be verified.

We obtain our chromosomes and thus our genetic heritage from all of our ancestors, albeit greatly diluted from the more distant ones *except* for the Y chromosome and our mitochondria. These two are derived from our most distant ancestors.

The mitochondria are found in almost all the cells of our body and are particularly important for the utilization of oxygen for energy. The DNA of mitochondria, although present in relatively small amounts for each mitochondrion, ends up as total large quantities persisting over very long periods and thus is useful for population genetic studies. This mtDNA is now proving useful to genealogy as well because during the past eight years several DNA testing organizations have built up large databases of mtDNA haplotypes. A haplotype is the collection of your genetic markers. It is only by *comparing* each of our mtDNA with another person's that genealogy

is advanced. Because our mtDNA always comes from a female (our mothers, grandmothers, etc.) the matriarchal lineage is thus illuminated. This approach nicely complements the YDNA surname results by providing validation for our second mode of genetic heritage.

In addition, under certain circumstances mtDNA analyses coupled with umbilical genealogy provide special information about whole communities. In particular, those of special interest include the many early English Colonial towns and villages that were founded starting in 1620 and especially after 1630 when several tens of thousands of English men and women immigrated to New England. People in these communities seldom

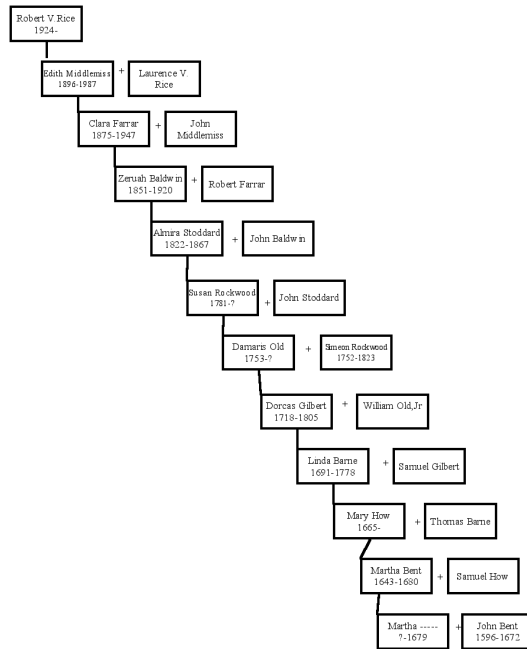
ventured far in finding mates of the opposite sex. Whereas we drive from Boston to Worcester on US Route 20 passing Watertown, Weston, Wayland, Sudbury, Marlborough, Westborough, Northborough, and North Grafton in a blur, taking perhaps an hour or so, in colonial days the horses were changed and people were rested and fed at numerous inns along the way. For those without horses walking from one town to another might take all day at least.

For example, the area of early Colonial Sudbury, Massachusetts had many families who intermarried especially during the first years after the founding in 1638. It is particularly helpful that a serious scholarly

study was carried out on the English origins of almost all of the first Sudbury families<sup>1</sup>. Many localities experienced the same cultural phenomena of original families' intermarriages such as Woodstock<sup>2</sup>, Connecticut, and, of course, Plymouth, Massachusetts among many others<sup>3</sup>.

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association started Colonial Sudbury mtDNA Project several years ago and now has a number of submissions with verifications for two colonial women. (To see the details go to [edmund-rice.org](http://edmund-rice.org),

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Umbilical Diagram of Bob Rice's ancestry.

## Umbilical Genealogy

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then DNA projects, and click on mtDNA just under the heading.) The results show four different living individuals having the same mtDNA haplotype and their conventional genealogy ending with Martha (---) Bent, wife of a first Sudbury settler John Bent 1638. The other match is of seven living individuals who go back to Sybil Brigham and finally to Mary Collins whose mother was Abigail Moore, born at Sudbury in 1672.

There are several interesting aspects of both matches. One is the inclusion of numerous individuals tested by another DNA testing lab, the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation (SMGF) and designated by sm prefix before the kit number, i.e., sm38, sm39, etc. Because one can search that mtDNA database with haplotypes it is straightforward after the haplotype is known. That database also has pedigrees. So one is not restricted to FTDNA although it has by far the largest number of results.

Note that the results are given for both Highly Variable Region 1 (HVR1) and HVR2 as deviations from the Cambridge Reference Sequence (CRS) that is the usual adopted nomenclature for mtDNA. In the future we may be using the complete sequence since the cost of analyzing all 16,568 bases has been reduced. Also note that there are mutations appearing as a result of the almost 400 years for the branching of the descendants of the progenitors. Mutations are in BOLD type.

The really interesting aspect is the verification of all the females in each generation leading to the final Sudbury progenitor of the mtDNA. In a given series each female as well as the living person who could be either a female or male has the identical genetic marker (ignoring occasional mutations). In the future this aspect may be of help in deciding lineages of other intersected genealogies. For example, Number 1673 leads to Mary Howe, b 1665 Sudbury on the way to Martha (-----) Bent. Now there is in the records at least one other Mary Howe of that approximate time and place. If she were a candidate for your separate umbilical pedigree your mtDNA haplotype could help decide whether or not she was the correct one. You could simply compare your prospective pedigree with that of your match from the other line.

## Results of Colonial Sudbury mtDNA Project

ID	Haplo Group	Haplotype HVR1	Haplotype HVR2
Martha ___ (c1600?-1679)			
1673	U*	16183C, <b>16189C</b> , 16325C	73G, 150T, 152C, 263G, <b>309.1C</b> , <b>309.2C</b> , 315.1C
102849	U*	16183C, <b>16189C</b> , 16325C	73G, 150T, 152C, 263G, 315.1C
sm38	U*	16183C, <b>16189C</b> , 16193.1C <sup>+</sup> , 16325C	73G, 150T, 152C, 263G, 315.1C
sm39	U*	16183C, <b>16189C</b> , 16193.1C <sup>+</sup> , 16325C	73G, 150T, 152C, 263G, 315.1C
Sybil Brigham (1718-1807) traced to Mary Collins (1672-1760)			
sm51	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, 309.2C, 315.1C
sm52	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, -, 315.1C
sm53	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, -, 315.1C
sm54	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, -, 315.1C
sm55	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	<b>152Y</b> , 195C, 263G, 309.1C, 309.2C, 315.1C
sm56	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, 309.2C, 315.1C
sm57	H	16293G, 16311C, 16368C	195C, 263G, 309.1C, 309.2C, 315.1C
17204	U4	16355T, 16356C, 16519C	73G, 146C, 195C, 263G, 309.1C, 315.1C, 499A
97512	T1	16126C, 16163G, 16186T, 16189C, 16294T, 16519C	73G, 152C, 195C, 263G, 315.1C
105522	U*	16192T, 16311C	
108895	U5b	16174T, 16189C, 16270T, 16311C	73G, 146C, 150T, 263G, 309.1C, 309.2C, 315.1C, 516T
sm37	H	16304C	263G, 315.1C, 456T

<sup>+</sup> This mutation is never reported by FTDNA.

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This brings us back to problems of composing your umbilical genealogy. It is generally a daunting task compared to a surname pedigree. Many female first names have been lost or never recorded in town records even in Massachusetts where early laws required records to be kept from the beginning. One is forced to use published family genealogies that are not the best records or other not-so-reliable sources. I had to use a notebook record deposited in Upper New York State that I was told about in an email from a researcher I had never met. When it came time to use this information that email person had apparently died and the NY County Historian could not verify even the existence of the notebook possibly because all the records had been moved in the meantime from one NY town to another. We drove several hundred miles and did find the actual notebook record but under another notebook keeper name. I also eventually found a U.S. Census record that listed a known sister and her husband living in the same household as my female ancestor under her proper name. Nevertheless, it was a relief to get a match of

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## SwedGen Tour 2009

by Janice Zlatev

On Saturday, October 3rd, from 9-4:30, the SwedGen Tour of 2009 was at the Worcester Public Library, one of its four stops in the US. I had been waiting for the tour to come to New England and so I drove up there on that rainy day. More than 125 people attended this event with some coming from Maryland, Pennsylvania and upstate New York. Some had been doing research for many years and some were novices. SARA, The Swedish Ancestry Research Association, which is based in Worcester, helped to organize the event and provided refreshments.

The genealogists from Sweden were Anneli Andersson, Charlotte Börjesson, Olof Cronberg, and Anna-Lena Hultman. Kathy Meade, the American representative of Genline, also traveled with the group. The purpose of this tour is to help Swedish-Americans learn about their heritage. From my own family experiences and from talking with many others, I found that the Swedes who came to America wanted to be "Americans." Much has been lost as the immigrants embraced their new life.

The introduction was titled, "How to Find Ancestors from Sweden." Topics covered by the speakers included CD resources (I have 5 of the 8 CDs available), Genline (an online resource by subscription), DIS computer genealogy and its databases, emigration facts, and SVAR (another online resource). When the four genealogists



### Umbilical Genealogy

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both mtDNA and named progenitor of that DNA. The NEHGS library's collection of private printings of various family genealogies was also a great help especially when verified by vital records.

We should remember that our genetic heritage comes from literally thousands of ancestors but modern genetics can only reliably document by chemical analysis that from the Y chromosome and from mitochondria. However, those two sources can be a great help. I now feel that I am a real part of all those descendants of Martha Bent just as I have always felt real kinship with all my Rice forbearers. My seventh great-grand uncle, David How, son of Martha (Bent) How had the same mtDNA

were not speaking, they were holding 1/2 hour one-on-one free research consultations. These sessions required preregistration and information on what help was needed. A total of 40 individual sessions was available and there was a waiting list.

At a Genline workshop in Denver about two years ago, my search for Clara Andersdotter was used as a case study. I had some information from US censuses and obituaries, but I did not know the parish she came from. Swedish church records were kept by the parish priest so to start research, you need the parish. She along with 103,000 others came from the province of Varmland. Using various resources in the demonstration, the parish was found and I have been able to move ahead.

Because of this experience, I was interested to learn what other resources were available online or with a CD. I already subscribe to Genline and look up information for family and friends. I was also looking for suggestions for using my resources more effectively. I did add a CD, the 1980 Swedish census, to try to find living relatives. I was especially delighted to meet the four Swedish genealogists whose names were familiar and it was interesting to talk with fellow researchers.

It was well worth the drive. If I can help anyone, please contact me at [janicez2@hotmail.com](mailto:janicez2@hotmail.com)

as I have. David was the original proprietor of what is now known as The Wayside Inn in Sudbury, MA. I am keenly aware of that relationship whenever we eat there but I don't get any price reduction!

### Endnotes

1. Sumner Chilton Powell, *Puritan Village*, Wesleyan University Press (1963).
2. Clarence W. Bowen, *The History of Woodstock, Connecticut*, 8 volumes; vol8 by American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts (1926-1943), vol. 8 edited by Donald Lines Jacobus, et.al.
3. *Colonial Sudbury mtDNA Project* includes: Sudbury, Massachusetts, or in the neighboring towns of Concord, Framingham, Marlborough, Natick, Stow, or Watertown, including the parts that subsequently became Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Hudson, Lincoln, Maynard, Northborough, Southborough, Waltham, Wayland, Westborough, and Weston.