

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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www.falgen.org

Newsletter
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President: Mary Barry mpbarry@mac.com
Editors: Joyce Pendery, CG
jspendery@gmail.com
C. David Burt cdburt@comcast.net

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.

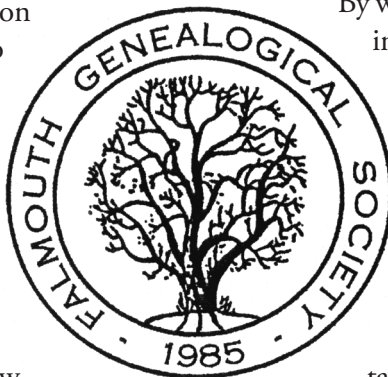
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Mary Barry

It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to a close and fall is moving in a bit quicker than usual. We had wonderful, informative speakers at our last several monthly meetings as evidenced by the robust attendance. In addition, we partnered with Cape Cod Genealogical Society to bring nationally known genealogist John Colletta to the Cape. John spoke about "Putting Your Ancestors in Historical Context," followed by a workshop on "Writing Your Family History." For all who dared set out on that rainy Saturday morning for Brewster's Ladies Library, it was a thoroughly entertaining lecture that held our attention. The time flew for us all. We hope to see John return to the Cape in the near future.

Members of FGS also had a notable presence at a recent 2-day workshop, "Old Towns/New Country", sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society and Falmouth Museums on the Green. By the end of the sessions, we had a 'historical context' for our ancestors who lived on Cape Cod or other parts of New England. We also learned about the wonderful on-line digital collection now available through the Massachusetts Historical Society.

It is a pleasure to take over the presidential role that Ralph Wadleigh so ably filled over the last five years. The Board of Directors includes some amazingly knowledgeable, experienced genealogists. We are fortunate these Board Members continue to enthusiastically support our Society in a team effort.



By way of introduction, I spent over 28 years working for the Federal Government in Washington, D.C. in various agencies. My interest in genealogy began seriously 15 years ago on a vacation here. Unlike many of you, there was no one before me who had begun to search my ancestors. However, since my Father was born here, a simple walk up and down Main Street made obtaining documents quite easy. I was also lucky to have tape recordings of my Father interviewing my Grandmother about her life here in Falmouth. I have shared my results with all interested family members including some whom I had not been in touch with for 40 years.

For me, genealogy makes history come alive. I am hooked! I am interested in writing a short book on what I have

Calendar of Meetings for 2014

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

September 13 - Workshop for Beginners, a panel discussion

October 11 - Organizing a Family Reunion, Donna Walcovy

November 8 - Immigration Research, Rhonda McClure of NEHGS (Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Wianno Ave., Osterville)

December 13 - Annual Food Fest and Holiday Party

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

JULY 12, 2014 LECTURE, PRESENTED BY CAROL
BOSWORTH, R.N.

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery C.G.

Our July speaker Carol Bosworth, genealogist and Registered Nurse, is Past President of the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society and Chairman of Planning for the NERGC Conference to be held April 15-19, 2015 in Providence.

Carol began by asking why researching family medical history is important. The answer is that many medical conditions are passed down from generation to generation, including hemophilia, autism, and color blindness, and if we know our family medical patterns, we and our physicians may be able to prevent or alleviate their effects.

Known medical conditions among several generations of family members can be listed on a Five Generation Family Tree Chart available at the web site "Obituaries.Help.org" under "free genealogy forms." A different type of form is called a "genogram." It is important to show all the descendants of our ancestors, not just our direct line of descent. Include their ages, medical problems, and if deceased list age and cause of death, as well as whether the information is medically documented.

Determining the causes of death for our ancestors and family members can be challenging due to the guarantee of privacy under HIPPA or to death certificates that state "pneumonia" or "heart attack" as the cause of death, when the underlying cause may have been a different terminal illness or cancer. Interview family members about your family health history, and ask if family medical records have been kept or if they were destroyed.

ONLINE FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY AND TOOLS RESOURCES:

For cancer and heart disease: <http://familyhealth-link.osumc.edu>

For family history resources & tools: <http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/>

For creating a family health portrait: <http://www.genome.gov/27527640>



President, Mary Barry

found and developing a creative visual representation of my families past through a painting and fabric (quilted) medium. I would also like to visit additional places where my ancestors lived.

I was asked what I hoped I could help the Society accomplish. First, I would like to say how impressed I am with the activities already being done and the many members who contribute to make them happen. Over the next year, we will have plenty to keep us all busy. During 2015, we will be celebrating FGS's 30th anniversary. Getting on-line the new content for the FGS Website (proposed by the Website Committee) is a high priority. And, supporting the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium's Conference scheduled for April 15-19, 2015, in Providence will require a big effort by us all. If all that is not enough to keep us busy, we might consider reaching out to community schools to help students develop analytical and research skills used in genealogy that are also applicable to a variety of career choices.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all of the members who give their talents to this organization. Nothing is possible without your help and everything is possible with it.

For information on collecting family health history:
<http://www.nsgc.org>

For Mayo Clinic: <http://www.mayoclinic.org> –
search web site for compiling your family medical
history

HOW TO WRITE A GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

AUGUST 9, 2014 LECTURE, PRESENTED BY
RALPH WADLEIGH

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG



Ralph Wadleigh, Past President of FGS, former board member of NERGC, and author of numerous published articles on genealogy, presented a very informative talk on “How to Write a Genealogical Sketch.” His focus is writing about one ancestor and his or her descendants, without going into the entire family tree. Although Ralph’s approach to research and writing is scholarly, less formally documented approaches were also discussed.

Most genealogists eagerly engage in the “hunter-gatherer

phase” of collecting family information from relatives, Bibles, archives, newspapers, other genealogists, etc. Then, they are faced with the question: “What will I do with all this information?” Ralph’s advice is to keep it simple and focus on one person or ancestor at a time.

The writer needs to answer several questions: (1) Who is my audience? My family or the world? (2) How comprehensive will the article be? (3) Will it be published, and if so, where and how? (4) What is my goal?

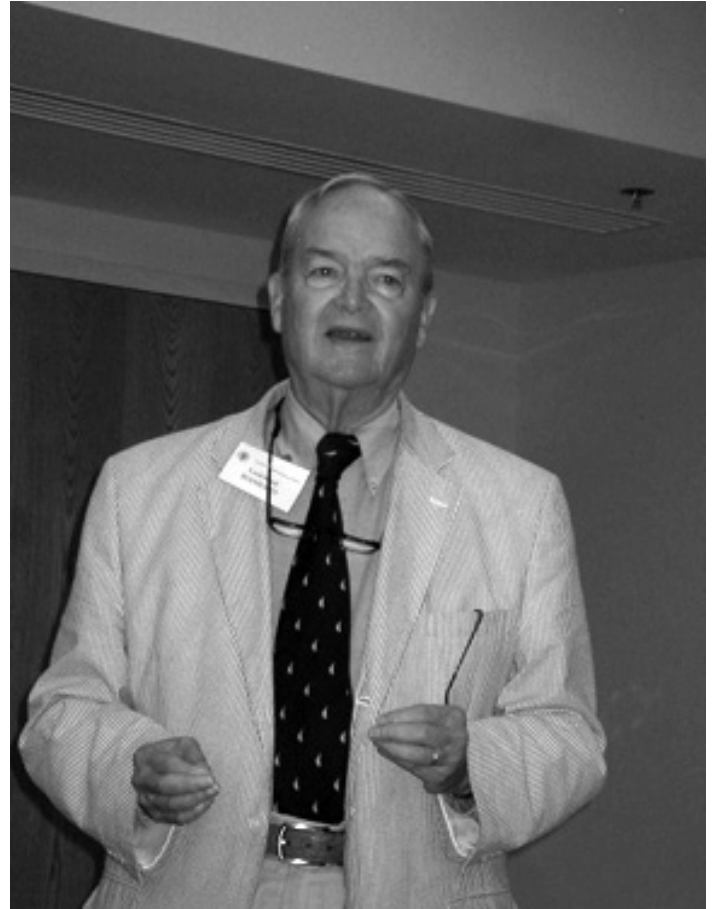
Why write a genealogy sketch? The principal reasons are to develop skills and to share what you know with others. A genealogy sketch is, in fact, an article about “The Who” or one person, starting with birth, marriage, and death information in chronological order. The body of the sketch includes life events in chronological order or the biography; then photographs; and finally, a list of children with dates of their births, marriages, and deaths in chronological order, and the same information for their spouses.

The “How To Do This Tool Box” includes Microsoft Word for the text. The web site www.americanancestors.org for information; a copy of the NEHG Register for developing an understanding of the NEHG Register style of writing; and a template for writing a sketch (as presented by Helen Ulmann in the NEHG Register). For example, www.americanancestors.org has an online learning center with a section on writing and publishing your family history. For inserting citations, use Microsoft Word, then References and then insert Citations.

While some software programs will prepare a genealogy from information you enter, that genealogy needs to be edited. The best approach is to write what you know about your ancestor without worrying about documentation, and then go back and “shape up” what you have written into a format that can be presented to anyone, anywhere. Ralph showed several examples of his sketches that he has published with different formats.



“Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.” - Unknown



Members, Jim Cardoza (left) and Lockwood Rianhard (right) offering comments at a meeting.

USING LAND, PROBATE AND CHURCH RECORDS TO PROVE YOUR LINEAGE

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

We are now so accustomed to relying on genealogical information available on the Internet to develop our ancestries that we often forget that not all records are yet online. Examples include land, probate, and church records. Here in Barnstable County we are fortunate that land records are online, but for many other U.S. counties this is not the case. Few probate or church records are available online.

Various land records, including early land grants, deeds of various types, releases of dowers, maps, mortgages, leases, liens, and bounty land files, often provide information helpful to genealogists. Probate packets, usually found in county probate departments, often contain a variety of documents that were used by the probate courts to settle estates. These include wills, intestate proceedings,

guardianships, inventories, settlements or distributions of assets, and accounts. Names of family members, signatures, and sometimes relationships are often included in these records.

Church records include not only baptismal, marriage, and death records, but often meeting or council minutes and lists of various church officials. Quakers, for example, kept minutes for separate business meetings for men and women. Records are usually kept in the archives for each church. In a few cases, they have been deposited in regional denominational headquarters.

For Barnstable County probate and land records, go to Barnstable County Courthouse, located at 3195 Main Street, Route 6A, Barnstable, MA 02630. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For Probate information, call 508-362-2511 and for Deeds call 508-362-7733.

AREA LIBRARIES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

We still have to go to libraries for research – at least once in a while. It has been many years since the FGS Newsletter has published information about area research facilities, so it's time to catch up.

Barnstable County:

Falmouth Public Library, 300 Main St., Falmouth, MA, 02540; (508-457-2555); Hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 9:30-5:30; Tues. & Wed.: 1:30-8:30.
www.info@falmouthpubliclibrary.org

Sturgis Public Library, 3090 Main St., Barnstable, MA 02630; (508-362-6636); call for hours;
www.sturgislibrary@comcast.net

Chatham Eldredge Public Library, 564 Main St., Chatham, MA 02633; (508-945-5170); Genealogy room hours: Tues., Thurs., Sat., 1-5 p.m.
www.eldredgelibrary.org

Bristol County:

New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., New Bedford, MA 02740 ; (508-991-6276)
Genealogy room hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00-5:00. Genealogy Librarian is Paul Cyr.

Taunton Old Colony Historical Society Library, 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA 02780; (508-822-1622); Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.OldColony@oldcolonyhistoricalsociety.org

Taunton Public Library, 12 Pleasant St., Taunton, MA 02780; (508-821-1410); Hours: Mon.- Sat.:9:00-5:45;
www.tauntonlibrary.org

Wareham Free Library, 59 Marion Road, Rte. 6, Wareham, MA 02571; (508-295-2343); Hours: Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 10:30-4:30.
www.warehamfreelibrary.org

Plymouth County:

Plymouth Public Library, 132 South Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; (508-830-4250); Separate genealogy room. Hours: 10-5:30.
www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

Mayflower Society Library, 4 Winslow St., Plymouth, MA 02360; (508-746-3188); small research fee; Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 10-3:30.
www.themayflowersociety.org/library

Cape Cod LDS Research Centers at LDS Churches:

Brewster, MA 02631; 94 Freeman's Way, (508-896-9863); call for hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9-1.

Cataumet, MA, 1220 County Road, (508-564-5437); call for hours: Tues. 2-4 and 7-9.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED GENEALOGICAL REFERENCE VOLUMES AVAILABLE IN THE FALMOUTH LIBRARY

Joyce Pendery, CG

Guide to Published Genealogies in the Library of New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Boston: NEHGS, 2012. 1515 pages. Introduction written by Gary Boyd Robert. There is an A to Z listing of surnames. Common names such as Perkins has 40 entries, while Smith has over 170 entries! Information about each volume includes title, author, publication information, call number at NEHGS, and cross references for names.

New England Historical and Genealogical Society is located at 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston 02116. Their library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9-5 and Wednesday from 9-9. No fee for members; \$15 daily for non-members.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 5th edition. Boston: NEHGS, 2012. 418 pages. Edited by Michael J. Leclerc.

This completely revised state-by-state guide for New England research begins with an essay on each state, followed

by standardized information, included in town-by-town tables. Statewide maps show county and town boundaries. Short historical essays present information on the types of sources and records available for each area, including standardized information found in vital, church, probate, land, court, and military records.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, 4th edition by John Grenham. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012. 579 pages, index.

This new edition of an old favorite for Irish research has been rewritten to incorporate changes in the connection between traditional Irish research and research on the Internet, now at the heart of Irish family history research. Contents include how to start, types and location of paper and online transcripts of records: including census, church, Roman Catholic registers, property, tax valuations, deeds, newspapers, directories, occupation records, county sources, wills, emigration, and Irish abroad. Northern Ireland records are also included.

NEW MEMBERS

Falmouth Genealogical Society welcomes the following new members:

Elizabeth A. Davis, 23 Knollwood Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536. Phone: 508-457-9295; email betsydavis@gmail.com. Betsy is researching Allaway in Lowe, Nebraska; Dix in Alabama, Kentucky, New England, and New York; David in Virginia, and Hayes in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Sherry Carton. Sherry is researching Hoag in New Orleans, around 1848; Keller in New Orleans around 1848; Carton in New York during 1800's; and Saenger and Eisold in Germany during 1800's.

Cynthia De Bellis. Cynthia is researching Sinclair in England and U.S., Munn in Scotland, and Dale in England.

Paco De La Fuente, (no information available).

"We need your input. Please send information or articles for the Newsletter!"

Cemetery Project Report

WAR OF 1812 VETERANS BURIED IN OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Donna Walcovy

This year of the 200th anniversary of Falmouth's involvement in the War of 1812, Oak Grove Cemetery is honoring the twenty men buried at Oak Grove Cemetery who fought in the War of 1812. The Cemetery has designed a self-walking tour of the graves of these men. The map is on the office door; please take one and enjoy your walk. They are also looking for living descendants of these men.

Oak Grove Cemetery has also applied for CPC funding to repair and preserve the lots of the twenty men and is looking for volunteers who will do research on the men listed below. If you would like to volunteer or know of a living descendant please contact Donna E. Walcovy, the superintendent, at oakgrovecemetery@verizon.net or phone the office at 508-548-7510.

Their names are:

Pvt. Barah Bourne
Pvt. Benjamin Green
Pvt. Ephraim Parker
Pvt. John Davis
Capt. Weston Jenkins
Pvt. Sylvanus Robinson
Pvt. Nathaniel Davis
Pvt. Robinson Jones
Pvt. Nathaniel Shiverick
Pvt. Francis Davis, Jr.
Pvt. Ephraim Lawrence
Pvt. Oliver C. Swift
Serg. William Eldred
Pvt. Peleg Lawrence
Pvt. Thomas Swift
Pvt. James Fish
Pvt. Silas Lawrence, Jr.
Pvt. Zimri Tobey
Pvt. Asa Gifford
Lieut. Thomas Lawrence