

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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www.falgen.org

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

Program Notes From Meetings

Falmouth Genealogical Society's Website, www.falgen.org – August 12

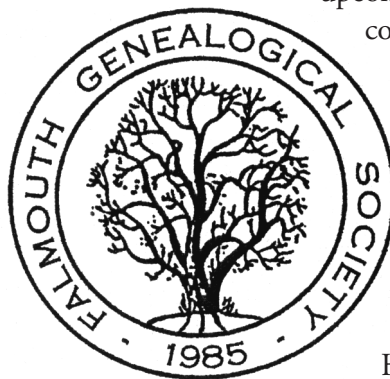
Presented by Donna E. Walcovy

by John Caspole

Donna Walcovy, a past FGS president, our webmaster and current chair of the cemetery transcription project spoke to us on how to use and benefit from our Society's website, www.falgen.org. This site has been in operation for three or four years now and grown substantially with helpful information.

By clicking on the various tabs you can view pages including the calendar of meetings and speakers, how to join and the benefits of membership, professional services available, publications other than our newsletter, and the by-laws. Other tabs include related websites for genealogical informa-

tion or societies, information on the Falmouth Public Library where we meet and give assistance, a comprehensive listing of the CDs and literature available at the library to help you in your research, information on upcoming New England Regional Genealogical conferences that FGS participates in and a "Contact Us" link where you can send FGS an email.



There are two other very helpful data banks that can be beneficial and have generated queries. First, there is the Family Data Bank: As a member you can post up to four surnames that you are searching. Hopefully another member might also be searching the same surname or some outsider may see your listing and contact you.

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Calendar of Meetings for 2006 – 2007

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

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 11 | Patty Locke, Holdings of the American French Genealogical Library, Woonsocket, RI |
| Dec. 9 | Marge Gibson – Women in the Seventeenth Century |
| Jan. 1 | Genealogy Workshop |
| Feb. 9 | Internet Research Workshop |

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

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

Falmouth Vital Records – September 9

Presented by Michael Palmer

Michael Palmer, Town Clerk for Falmouth, spoke on various vital records, their development, use, archiving and access to a larger than usual audience of members and guests. We surprised him with an abundance of questions and he had all the answers. Mike focused mainly on the records under his control at Town Hall much of which is ruled by state and federal regulations today. It wasn't until the mid 1800s that the state began to require civil recording of births, marriages and deaths and that was more or less haphazard until early 1900s when the state began to standardize the requirements on forms and reporting. From that time on the original document was sent to the State Archives and the Town kept a copy. Forms have changed over time but there is more consistency today. All forms used today are of archival quality. One recent change came about with the Massachusetts Supreme court ruling on same sex marriages. Formerly the Marriage record called for the "Bride" and the "Groom." Now it simply asks for "Party A" and "Party B"; the couple gets to choose who will be "A" and "B." There are basically four parts of concern to the Town Clerk: the who, the source, the officiant and the where the event occurred. Once recorded it is dated and numbered and sent to the State Archives. Currently there is thought of a plan to link this information into the state wide electronic recording system.

Other pertinent comments were that if a person dies in Boston and is buried elsewhere, Boston issues the death certificate and includes the disposition of the body. There is no interstate transfer of records and control of the VRs is by each individual state. Impounded records are open only to those whose name appears on the record, especially a birth VR where the child may be born out of wedlock.

On marriage the couple can now choose what their surname will be; it's no longer mandatory to use the male's surname, but their child will take the male's surname. The only condition is that there is no intent to defraud. Divorce records are not kept by the Town Clerk as they emanate from the Court systems.

Mike also told us of plans to obtain funds from the Community Preservation Act Funds to microfilm and digitize all heretofore uncopied records over 50 years

old. The process would include the deacidification of old records. Modern records are presently scanned into the database. The new Falmouth Library will include a vault for the preservation of Town VRs

Mike spoke of recent legislation in the form of the Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and the Real ID Act of 2005 which mandate access be restricted to the person on the record. State regulations then cover how the Federal legislation is implemented and what records will be available. Mike is on a team working to develop a compromise position.

How to Build a Genealogical Website – October 14

Presented by Bill Long

Bill Long presented an interesting report to FGS members and guests on how to build a genealogical website using Microsoft Word. After demonstrating the process he directed us to his website where we can download and print his entire presentation including all the steps he took. Check it out at:

<http://mysite.verizon.net/vze4ch63/WebDemo.doc>

Bill can be contacted at longbill33@msn.com



FGS Website

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The other useful tool especially for those searching Falmouth people is the Cemetery Project. Here Donna and her volunteers are transcribing and photographing gravestone information and researching collaborating vital record information. After proofreading and verifying the information is posted on the site. There are 19 cemeteries in Falmouth so this project will take a few years to get all the cemeteries done and up. Donna pleads for any help you can give. She can match your skills and ability to the task's needs. If everyone can help, just a little bit, the project can move ahead faster. Our THANKS to Donna for such dedication and drive to tackle this Society project.

From the President

John M. Caspole

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Library Closing Moves FGS Meetings

As a result of the major construction project at the Falmouth Public Library our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave. Those who attended our September meeting there found comfortable digs and ample parking. We thank John Magnani, the director of the senior center, for letting us use the facility. Our promise to him is that we shall leave it as we found it or in better shape.

Tuesday Afternoon Assistance Experts

Another consequence of the FPL construction is that FGS has now reached an agreement with the Church of the Latter Day Saints on Old County Road in Cataumet to staff their Family History Center on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4. This FGS service commenced on Tuesday, October 3. My thanks to John Peri and Bob Rice for helping to arrange this. It can be of great, great benefit to our members to have this facility available as it can vastly enhance and expedite research. You will

be able to order LDS tapes there and view them there when they arrive. Folks, this is a golden opportunity for you. Oh yes, we will need some volunteers to help us staff it regularly. Come and help out. You will find our experts are a good bunch to know and work with.

New members

We welcome the following new members:

Marianne Shafer

Cheryl A. Barnhurst

David E. Long

Evie Michon

Joe Mulvey

Melvina H. "Bebe" Brock

Ordnance Survey Ireland Launches Irish Map Website

From: *NEHGS, eNews Vol. 8, No. 35 Whole #286*
September 6, 2006

The Ordnance Survey Office was established in 1824 to carry out a survey of the entire island to update land valuations for land taxation purposes. Today, Ordnance Survey Ireland produces urban, rural, and tourist and leisure mapping at a variety of scales, in both digital and print format.

In September, at the FGS/NEHGS 2006 conference, OSI launched Irish Historic Maps, a new website providing almost a century of extremely detailed maps that are invaluable to Irish genealogists. Users can purchase credits to use the site for one day, three days, one week, one month, or one year. Prices range from €5 (about \$6.40 US) to €300 (about \$384 US).

The maps are incredibly detailed, offering views of land plots, cemeteries, hospitals, churches, businesses, etc. The site gives users the ability to zoom in to a significant level of detail.

"These maps represent the world's first large-scale [historical] mapping of an entire country," said Malachy McVeigh, senior operations manager at Ordnance Survey Ireland.

The images were created from original maps at Trinity College, the National Library of Ireland, and the Royal Irish Academy. These carefully scanned images cover the period 1824-1847 and 1888-1913, providing insight into nearly a century of Irish life.

Visit <http://www.irishhistoricmaps.ie/historic/> for more details.

Genealogical Resources at the Falmouth Historical Society Library and Beyond

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

With many genealogical resources at the Falmouth Public Library not readily available for the next year or more, consider visiting the library of the Falmouth Historical Society, especially if your research needs include the Colonial period, southern New England, and southwestern Massachusetts. Archivist Mary Sicchio will be happy to assist you on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The stacks (but not the archives) are also open during office hours, Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visit the FHS web site at www.falmouth-historicalsociety.org.

Collections of the Falmouth Historical Society include:

- Falmouth Vital Records to 1874
- Vital records for several other Cape Cod and southwestern Mass. towns, as well as Boston
- Vital records, histories, genealogies for Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket
- Family histories and genealogies
- Vertical files for many Falmouth-area families and their descendants
- Collections of family papers, mainly Falmouth-related
- Bible records of Falmouth families
- Falmouth and Woods Hole Church records: Congregational, Episcopal, Quaker, Methodist
- Cemetery records for Falmouth and Woods Hole
- Annual Falmouth Town Reports that include vital records, 1890-2005
- Falmouth town directories from early 1900s
- Falmouth school records
- Falmouth Historic House Survey
- Historic records from Falmouth villages
- Historic records from several Falmouth organizations
- U.S. census records for New England States for 1790, Massachusetts for 1800, and annotated 1850 Falmouth census records

- Plymouth Colony records
- Records concerning Mayflower families and other 17th-century New Englanders, including the silver series of five-generation Mayflower descendants, Torrey's *Seventeenth-Century New England Marriages*, James Savage's *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, Robert Charles Anderson's *The Great Migration Begins*, Noyes, Libby, and Davis's *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*
- Early passenger ship lists and lists of immigrants to New England to about 1750.
- Massachusetts state, county, town, and village histories
- Military records, including Massachusetts *Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, records and information about Falmouth Revolutionary War soldiers, Civil War records and letters, records from Otis/Camp Edwards military base
- Maritime records and history and information on whaling captains and voyages, including logs from several whaling vessels
- Native-American histories for southwestern Massachusetts
- Falmouth-area maps
- Historic photographs of Falmouth-area people and places

Other Area Research Facilities

Within 45 minutes drive:

- **LDS Family History Center**, 1220 County Road, Cataumet; 508-563-6974; Tues 2-4 & 7-9.
- **Wareham Free Library**, 59 Marion Road, Rte. 6, Wareham; 508-295-2343; hours: Mon & Fri 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Tues & Thurs 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Sat 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- **Sturgis Library**, 3090 Main St., Barnstable, 508-362-6636; hours: Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri 10:00 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues 1:00-8:00 p.m., Sat 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



Your Library Committee has had a busy month. As anticipated, the Falmouth Public Library closed its Main Branch on September 30 in preparation for the construction of an addition and a major renovation to its infrastructure. The good news is that in about 18

months, the library will reopen with modern technology, more space and hopefully a new genealogical area. The closure meant that we had to pack all the books and equipment owned by FGS. Currently the books are in storage at a member's home. The equipment has been moved to the Family History Library, 1220 County Road, Cataumet, MA. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with this move.

Obviously, we have changed the location of our Tuesday

afternoon help sessions. With the cooperation of the Family History Center, we are now meeting there on Tuesday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. Several members have already ordered FHL tapes to further their research and all are invited to take advantage of this opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Family History Library's operations and holdings.

The library's closure also meant that we had to change the location of our monthly meetings. These are now being held at the Falmouth Senior Center, 200 Dillingham Ave., Falmouth as usual on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. We hope to see you there!

While the library is closed we will not be ordering any books for the collection. However, if you learn of books or publications that should be a part of the collection, please let the Library Committee know and we will add them to the recommended list for future acquisition.



Genealogical Resources

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- **Mayflower Society Library**, 4 Winslow St., Plymouth; 508-746-3188; hours: Mon-Fri 10:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; fee of \$5.00 per person per day.
- **Plymouth Public Library**, 132 South St., Plymouth; 508-830-4250 hours: Mon-Wed 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Thurs 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Fri & Sat 10:00 a.m.-5:30; Sun 12:30-5:00 p.m.
- **New Bedford Public Library**, 613 Pleasant St., 508-991-6275; call for hours of genealogy room

About an hour's drive:

- **LDS Family History Center**, 94 Freeman's Way, Brewster, 508-896-9863; call for hours
- **LDS Family History Center**, 400 Cross Road, No. Dartmouth; 508-994-8215; call for hours

- **Eldridge Public Library**, 564 Main St., Chatham; 508-945-5170; genealogy room hours: Tues. & Thurs, 1-5 p.m.
- **Old Colony Historical Society Library**, 66 Church St., Taunton; 508-822-1622; hours: Tues-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; fee of \$7.00 per person per day.

Just over an hour's drive:

- **LDS Family History Center**, 76 Main St., Foxboro; 508-543-0298; call for hours
- **Rhode Island Historical Society Library**, 121 Hope St., Providence (401) 331-8575; www.rihs.org; library hours: Wed. & Fri. 10-5; Thurs. 12-8. User's fee.

Report on the Cemetery Transcription Project

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

by Donna E. Walcovy, Program Chair
falcem@hotmail.com • 508-477-1947



Old Town Burying Ground

The 2006 Inventory of the gravestones in OBG compared with the 1903 Smythe reading and map has been completed. Three years ago the Falmouth Historical Society let me photograph the original 1903 Smythe map. The map has no key; it doesn't even point North! Finally I've figured out what all the various Smythe squiggles mean so I can truly understand this historical snapshot of OBG in 1903.

This 2006 inventory compares with the Smythe 1903 Reading and Map and notes: headstones and footstones missing, gravestones in the wrong place and gravestones facing the wrong direction. The 2006 inventory also notes previous repairs to the gravestones and suggested repairs to gravestones to conserve this historic burying ground.

East Falmouth Burying Ground

A few members of FGS assisted in the restoration and preservation of the East Falmouth Burying Ground this summer. Major changes have been taking place since July. If you know this graveyard, stop by and visit. Work will continue in late Spring 2007 and volunteers are needed.

Friends Burying Ground

Reading of the Friends Burying Ground on Route 28A in West Falmouth has begun. Please contact Donna Walcovy, 508-477-1947 to volunteer to help or Ralph Wadleigh for information about volunteers for the photography.

Bay View Cemetery

Tons of thanks to Salli Giffins who has done wonders reviewing the Bay View Cemetery on-line and making corrections to my weird spelling and links that don't work, etc. THANKS Salli!

Work to be Done

Corrections to Bay View Cemetery, getting the East End Burying Ground and the North Falmouth Cem-

etery on-line. That's my responsibility as chair and web-master.

As genealogists we know a gravestone doesn't supply all the Vital Record information we crave. One of the goals of the FGS Cemetery Transcription Project is to offer additional information about the deceased like parents names, parents marriage, marriage date and spouse of the deceased, and in some cases the children of a marriage, or siblings of the deceased.

Volunteers are needed to take the original reading forms and add, in red pencil or pen (which will be provided) the additional vital records information from Col. Brown's books.

Who has a copy of *Falmouth Vital Records to 1850*?

Please contact D.E. Walcovy falcem@hotmail.com or 508-477-1947

Falmouth Vital Records 1870 to 1970

Don't look for this book! The information is only available by reading the Town of Falmouth Annual Reports, year by year. There is no complete listing by surname of persons who were born, married, and died in Falmouth in this time period which the Cemetery Transcription Project needs to examine to offer comprehensive and meaningful vital records for our website.

The Annual Reports of the Town of Falmouth have been photocopied from 1870 through 1925, and the work is continuing. I need 18 additional volunteers to take the photocopies of only five years of Births, Marriages, and Deaths and enter the information into an Excel or Microsoft Works database. I will email you or provide a disc of the categories that need to be entered in either Excel or a Works Database. One hundred years of Vital Records for Falmouth, MA is a task so overwhelming it gives you more than pause; it stops you in your tracks. Five years of Falmouth Vital Records is a breeze.

Please contact me if you would like to join this very important project!

Book Reviews

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

The New England Historic Genealogical Society has recently published two books that may be of interest to our members. While totally different in content, they each provide information that can be very valuable to genealogical writers and researchers.

Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century, Second Edition, edited by Michael J. Leclerc and Henry B. Hoff; published by The New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.; www.NewEnglandAncestors.org; 2006. 130 pp. Appendixes, bibliography, index, paperback. \$11.95, plus tax and shipping.

Each chapter in this volume is written by an expert who attempts to answer many of your questions about genealogical writing, whether for your family, for genealogical journals and magazines, for websites, or for publication: self-publishing, publishing on demand, or publishing through a vanity or other press. If the amusing volume *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves* did not answer all your punctuation questions, perhaps this book will. When do you use capital letters? Should you insert a comma or not? What is the correct order for presenting genealogical information? One section is devoted to abbreviations and acronyms used in genealogical writing.

Other sources of information go beyond the basics. What I really like is the last chapter, "Writing Using Word for Genealogy." Based on articles he originally wrote for New England Ancestors magazine, genealogist Alvy Ray Smith (also co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios) explains Word techniques (in particular, embedded bookmarks) that genealogists can use to make genealogical writing and revision easier. No more tearing of hair when you have to renumber the entire opus. Sure, Family Tree Maker software has a word processing component, but the prose is not elegant or even interesting. Smith also covers preparing tables, indexes, and tables of contents.

If you collect reference books, you need this one!

New Englanders in the 1600s: A Guide to Genealogical Research Published Between 1980 and 2005, by Martin

E. Hollick; published by The New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, Mass.; www.NewEnglandAncestors.org; 2006. 246 pp. Index, paperback. \$19.95, plus tax and shipping.

Arranged alphabetically by surname, Martin Hollick has brought together in one volume listings of all the articles, major genealogies, and scholarly works published between 1980 and 2005 that deal with New Englanders born before 1700. While the sources Torrey used for his *New England Marriages Before 1700* often provide very useful information, the references included here are more recent. When used in conjunction with Torrey's sources, The Great Migration series, the Mayflower Five-Generation Project, and other studies the author suggests, the list of reliable, published, genealogies about each individual should be nearly complete.

As a test, I asked Bob Rice to look over the entries for his ancestor Edmund Rice. He seemed impressed! Co-founder of Falmouth Isaac Robinson is included, but not his partner, Jonathan Hatch, probably because his father Thomas Hatch is. I can hardly wait to get to NEHGS to seek out a genealogy that has information about a Barnstable settler of interest to me, not to mention looking at all the references to my ancestor Thomas Crosby of which I was unaware. If you, too, have 17th century New England ancestors, this volume should be of interest to you, too.



Last Call for Membership Dues

If your newsletter address label has a red dot on it, it means that the Society has not received your dues for fiscal year 2007 (June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2007). If your dues remain unpaid, your name will be dropped from the newsletter mailing list.

Dues are \$20 and cover the membership of a spouse as well. They may be paid by sending a \$20 check made payable to the Falmouth Genealogical Society to P.O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02136. If you wish to contribute to either the book/CD fund or cemetery project, please indicate the specific amounts to either. The Society is a 501c3 charitable/educational organization, so all donations are tax deductible.

Plan Ahead to Attend New England Regional Genealogical Conference In Hartford, April 26-29, 2007

Summer is over. Now is the time to reserve your spot at the upcoming NERGC 2007 Hartford Conference. Don't wait until the last minute to send in your registration and book your room. This promises to be a fantastic genealogical experience!

The 2007 New England Regional Genealogical Conference – New England CONNECTIONs – registration brochure is available in pdf format on the NERGC Web page at www.nergc.org. Be sure to bookmark the site.

Start planning your conference experience today. Half the fun of the conference is choosing the programs that you will attend. Read the biographies of the conference speakers to gain insight into their experience. Ready your questions for the experts – those presenting programs or those available at the Ancestor Roadshow. Early preparation will make this a truly enjoyable experience.

The latest update to the Web page also includes updated Exhibit Hall information, including a floor plan showing the location of booths already sold. See who will have booths in the Exhibit Hall.

Conference Room Reservations and Group Code

The Hartford Marriott Downtown is now accepting room reservations relating to the Conference. Reservations can be made on-line or by telephone.

Hartford Marriott Downtown
200 Columbus Blvd.
Hartford, CT 06103-2807
Phone: 1-860-249-8000
Fax: 1-860-249-8181
Toll-free reservations: 1-866-373-9806
Hotel Web site: <http://www.hartfordmarriott.com>
The conference room rate is \$125.00 single/double per night.
Check-in time: 4:00 p.m.
Check-out time: 11:00 a.m.
Group code: NGCNGCA

Exhibits – Space is Going Fast

Our 2007 location boasts the newest convention center in our 15-year history! Located on the Connecticut riverfront with plenty of parking, this will be one special conference. Our exhibit hall has always been a “happening place.” Book signings, genealogy deal making, and of course, SALES, SALES, SALES. This is where attendees head to pick up all those books and other items recommended by our speakers. With 8 months to go we only have 18 booths left. With other national genealogical conventions coming soon, we anticipate the opportunity to significantly fill the remaining space. We hope you will join us in Hartford next April. Contact Maureen Murphy at MMAureen39@aol.com or Jim Holms at jimholms@cs.com.

New England CONNECTIONs Blog

Keep informed about the many special events and conference activities that are planned. Find out more information about the lectures, speakers, exhibitors, hotel, convention center, research facilities, and the City of Hartford. Check out our NERGC 2007 blog at <http://nergchartford2007.blogspot.com>. The blog will help you to get the most out of the conference and your research trip.