
The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY REUNION

Program presented by Donna Walcovy on October 11, 2014

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery

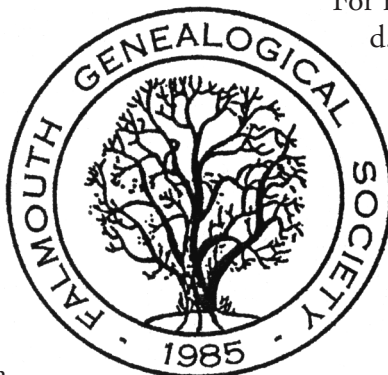
Donna Walcovy attended her first family reunion at age six and first planned a family reunion in 1990. Plan a reunion so your extended family can get together to celebrate their roots and know each other better. Organize a committee to help plan and carry out the reunion. Find out if your family has held previous reunions and determine who attended.

First, decide which family members to find and contact. Contact family communicators; look for names in family newsletters, paper and email address books; find old correspondence; search for family web sites on Face Book. Look online for cousin finders, descendent charts, family coats of arms. A reunion theme can be selected, such as the 100th anniversary of the ancestor's immigration or participation in World War I. Then decide where and when to hold the reunion. Think in terms of six months to a year in advance. Summer or long holiday weekends work best. Developing a budget is also important to cover postage, photocopies and envelopes, phone calls, name tags, refreshments, chair and table rentals, etc. Create a family email address for easier communications.

For the reunion itself: think about the place and plan the necessary furnishings: chairs, tables, etc. Plan the meal(s) as bring your own, potluck, catered, or in a nearby restaurant. Prepare and provide registration packets with information about that day and the family. Then plan games and activities, with small prizes, for children and adults, who may bring family photos, memorabilia, correspondence, etc. or items related to the theme and family to share with others. That day, take many photos and videos, as well as audio interviews of those attending.

Keep a paper copy of everything and afterwards, donate copies to the historical or genealogical society in the area where the reunion was held, as well as to other societies where family members lived, so future researchers can benefit from your planning and hard work!

For more detailed information, contact Donna at d.quenzel@comcast.net



President, Mary Barry

Calendar of Meetings for 2015

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

January 10	"A Search for Birth Parents," Cynthia Debellis
February 14	Artifacts Day: bring a family treasure to display and explain
March 14	"Holdings of the Nickerson Archives," Mary LaBombard, Archivist, Cape Cod Community College
April 11	No program due to NERGC in Providence, April 16-20
May 9	"Writing Personal Memoirs," Thatcher Freund
June 13	30th Anniversary Celebration, 9:30 a.m. brunch at Coonamessett Inn and Annual Meeting
July 11	To be announced
August 8	Tales of Our Ancestors – attendees present stories from their families
September 12	To be announced
October 10	To be announced
November 14	Joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogy Society; John Colletta, speaker
December 12	Annual Holiday Food Fest with recipes and antique cookbooks

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION: *FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS*

Program presented by Rhonda R. McClure of NEHGS
on November 22, 2014

Annual Joint Meeting of Cape Cod Genealogical
Society and Falmouth Genealogical Society
Held at the Episcopal Church, Osterville, MA

New England Historical and Genealogical Society professional genealogist Rhonda R. McClure is a nationally recognized researcher, speaker, and writer. She specializes in New England genealogy and the compilation of genealogies of celebrated families. Rhonda is the author of ten books, including *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy*. Among her specializations are immigration and naturalization, the subjects of her two lectures at the annual joint meeting of Cape Cod Genealogical Society and Falmouth Genealogical Society, held at St. Peter's Church in Osterville on Saturday, November 22, 2014.

We are all descendants of immigrants. Rhonda explained why they came here over the centuries: for religious reasons, seeking a better life economically, because of wanderlust and search for adventure, or because as criminals,

they were forced to leave the old country. For the early decades, compiled, not original, ship passenger lists exist. If not of English origin, early adult male immigrants had to take an oath of allegiance and meet religious qualifications to be naturalized as British citizens. The length of residency required before citizenship was granted varied over time. The number of immigrants yearly depended, in part, on the political and religious situations in Europe. By 1819, the conditions on ships were regulated and ships logs or manifests were required. Those with undesirable backgrounds or qualifications could be denied entry.

Between 1815 and 1915, 30 million individuals immigrated to the United States in three main waves. During the first wave, between 1815 and 1860, the majority of immigrants were Protestants who came from the British Isles, Germany, Scandinavia, and Switzerland, as did the majority of those who came in the second wave between 1860 and 1890. Finally, between 1890 and 1914, the majority of immigrants came from Eastern and Southern Europe. More information about them can be found on ship's manifests. Although different nationalities tended to settle in different areas, because of the need for workers, the majority of immigrants settled in the Middle West, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

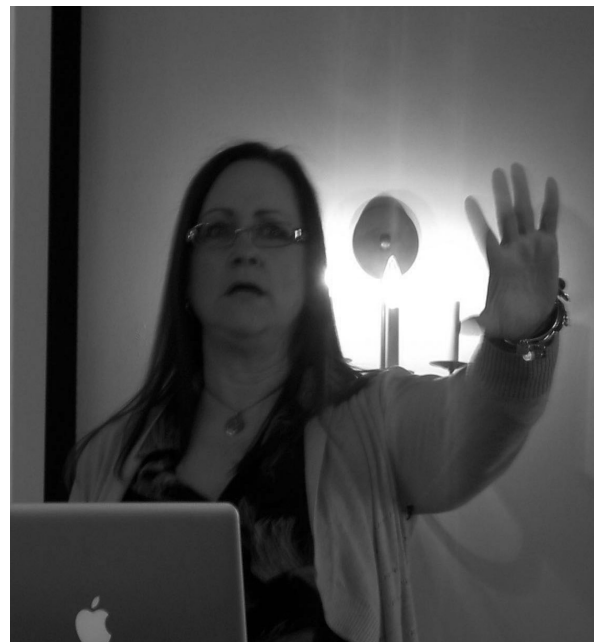
The place of application and the requirements for naturalization varied by state. Beginning in 1870, some U.S.



censuses give information on naturalization. Until 1920, women were included in their husband's naturalization. After 1920, information on women's applications for naturalization varies.

In her second lecture, Rhonda discussed the conditions of immigration. Most immigrants came here to buy land or find work. Immigration acts excluded so-called "undesirable" immigrants because of poor health, politics, or life styles potentially harmful to the American way of life. The immigration inspection for 3rd class or steerage passengers involved state of health, morality, and the ability to become economically self-sufficient by earning a living, so they would not become public charges.

Immigration records can be found in municipal, county, state or federal courthouses or at the National Archives. There are microfilmed indexes to some of these records.



Rhonda McClure



Gerald Luby with Ralph and Judy Wadleigh



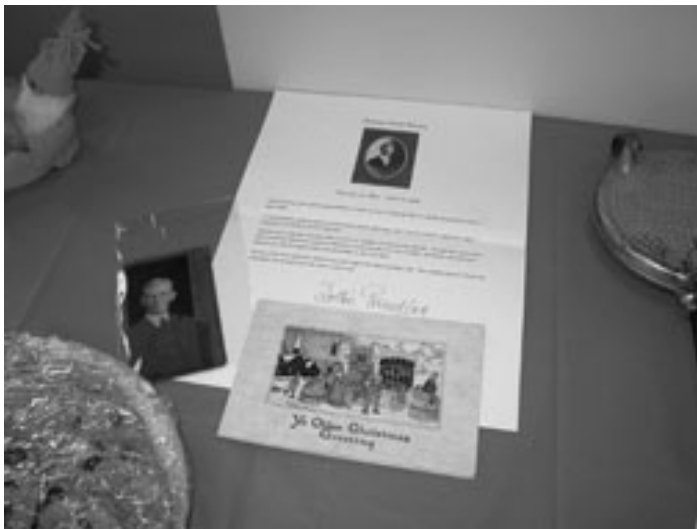
David Burt and Mary Barry

ANNUAL DECEMBER HOLIDAY FOOD FEST

The annual FGS Holiday Food Fest was held on Saturday, December 13th at the Falmouth Public Library. As is the custom, members brought one of their favorite holiday dishes, along with the recipe. Although holiday cookies are always predominate, we also enjoyed cakes, breads, and a northern California special smoked salmon treat. Members talked about their ancestors and mingled with those present. We all agree that this yearly event is also a special occasion for getting to know one another better.



Joyce Pendery and Dottie Priestly



Sample recipies

NAVIGATING THE PAST: SAIL- ING INTO THE FUTURE

13th ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode
Island, 15-18 April 2015

Have you ever attended a NERGC Conference? If you have, you will want to register for the 2015 conference at Providence. If you have never attended one of the biannual conferences, this is your opportunity. From the Cape, we can drive down for the day or stay at one of the hotels near the conference center.

During three days, experienced lecturers from all over the country will offer presentations on their fields of expertise in specialty tracks including technology, skill building, photographs, New England research, researching women, ethnic genealogy, and DNA. Luncheons and dinners have featured speakers, as well. The Exhibit Hall includes displays sponsored by member societies, many of whom have books or other genealogical materials for sale. NERGC conferences also offer many opportunities to meet other genealogists who have similar interests.

As a sponsoring society, FGS is required to provide 20 hours of volunteer services, such as taking tickets at banquets, working at the registration booth or at the Society Fair, or just answering questions of attendees. Please contact Phyllis Day if you would like to help. phyla@cape.com

While it is possible to drive to Providence for the day, two hotels are adjacent to the conference center.

Visit www.nergc.org for conference and registration information.

25 YEARS OF NERGC CONFERENCES

Joyce Pendery

About twenty-five years ago, while still living in Connecticut, I attended my first overnight genealogical conference and the first NERGC Conference, held at Old Sturbridge Village. I remember the qualms I experienced about going

there alone, and as I drove home on a Sunday morning, the feelings of satisfaction about having done so, thinking about all the new genealogy friends I had and how much I had learned. I am still as enthusiastic as I was then, after going to NERGC Conferences at Manchester, Providence, West Hartford, Boston, Portland, Springfield, and elsewhere in New England, as well as several National Genealogical Society conferences around the country. NERGC: RAH!! RAH!!! RAH!!!

Why is NERGC so great??? Because only at NERGC or other regional or national genealogical conferences does one get to learn about many specialized aspects of genealogical research and writing from national leaders in the field. Elizabeth Shown Mills, certainly the “grande dame” of American genealogy comes to mind, as do Joy Reisinger, Neil Thompson, Patricia Law Hatcher, Robert Charles Anderson, and John Coppella. And meeting other attendees to compare notes, or just to socialize, is fun and interesting. The vast number of genealogical books and supplies for sale can be both helpful and overwhelming.

You would probably enjoy a conference as much as I have, so why not give NERGC 2015 a try! For information, visit www.nergc.org online.

FROM SMALL NUGGETS---- ---DOES YOUR GENEALOGY GROW

Joyce Pendery

While lying awake one night, I tried to recall when and how my interest in genealogy began. On my father's Irish side of my family, decades ago, one great aunt had shared with her family the research she had done on her mother's Irish origins. Thanks to her notes, I have even seen where they lived north of Belfast. My father's younger sister – bless her – had kept a notebook in which she had noted all the births, marriages, and deaths in her family, as they occurred or as she learned about past events. She shared this information with me, so I was off to a good start searching for my ancestors. On my maternal side, my mother's uncle had traced his paternal family history back to early 19th century Germany. So I had a start there, too.

I also recalled that my younger son, while working at

Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, NH, during the 1970's, sent us some information he came across concerning my husband's ancestors who had lived around Exeter and Portsmouth, NH. Interested in his ancestry, he found gravestones, as well as houses they had owned. We soon went to see what he had found, and I was hooked on my husband's ancestors, as well. Some of these ancestors later went to Cincinnati, Ohio. We already had their family Bible with births, marriages, and deaths from the 18th to 20th centuries, and now we knew where everyone fitted onto the family tree.

Over the years, I have contacted, or been contacted by, distant cousins of my husband and myself who wished to share information on our mutual family members. One even sent me copies of dozens of 19th century letters, and I have shared 19th century photos with others. As we all know genealogy web sites provide a wealth of information that has to be verified, of course.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Program Presented by Ralph Wadleigh and Richard Harbison, PhD on September 13, 2014

Reviewed by Dottie Priestly



Ralph Wadleigh (on the left) has been researching his family genealogy for 20 years. He is a past president of

Falmouth Genealogical Society, a former board member of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, and author of numerous articles on genealogy. Richard Harbison, Second Vice President of FGS, is a retired marine biologist. He teaches a course called "An Introduction to Internet Genealogy" at Falmouth Community (Night) School at the Lawrence School, starting again in January 2015. Ralph and Richard have helped dozens of individuals research their ancestors during our Tuesday sessions at the Falmouth Public Library.

Ralph began by asking how many attendees are just starting their genealogical search and reminding us that a journey starts with a single step. He mentioned that many people have a box containing family photos, deeds, or letters but have never done anything with them. The first step is to gather information you personally have or can obtain from family sources. Sort those pictures, ask relatives questions, write down all memories and then record everything. Organize your information with a pedigree chart using vital records. If there is "gaps," consider it a puzzle and be a detective. Ralph calls this the "hunter/gatherer" phase. Then organize these facts utilizing the computer and genealogy software such as Family Tree Maker, which works with Ancestry.com; or Roots Magic, which now has a Mac version; or Legacy; or Reunion for Macintosh. Prices start at only \$20 and many offer free trials.

On Ancestry.com, the "gorilla" of genealogical databases, you can easily enter names or topics of interest into the search function. FamilySearch.org, a free website, has family trees available for research. Richard recommends using computer software because there's less chance for errors and multiple, varied reports can be generated. Software programs also produce timelines which can be very useful. Ralph noted that US census records, especially 1850 and later are extremely useful in verifying stories passed down in families because they list names and beginning in 1880, relationships to head of household as well as other information.

The top three FREE resources Richard recommends are: Google, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com (free at the Falmouth Public Library). Other useful free resources are RootsWeb.com and Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, (an informative publication by Dick Eastman, genealogist, techie guru and author). Other suggestions from Richard: make sure your sources are clear and remember that web links are likely to change. When using

Google, place quotation marks around the words you are searching if you want to locate the exact phrase. Use Cyndi's List to find genealogical resources. Get the big picture by incorporating historical records. With a few more suggestions from the experienced genealogists in the audience, such as recording the eldest relative's stories first, newcomers to family research were left with good ideas and some encouragement to begin or continue working on their family trees.

In the photo, Ralph is holding the publication, "Shaking Your Family Tree, A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy" by Dr. Ralph Crandall. This publication is available at the Falmouth Public Library.



SCOUT GENEALOGY MERIT BADGES

Several local Boy Scout troops have been sent information about the availability of FGS members to work with them on the genealogy merit badge at the library. Scouts can go to the Reference Desk at the Falmouth Public Library and ask them to contact a genealogist or call member Bob Chase at 508-548-2790, David Burt at 508-444-6657, or Gerald Luby at 508-563-6775 to meet them at the library to help with their research. Girl Scouts wishing to work on their corresponding badge would be welcome as well.

FGS IS ALMOST 30!

Plans are already underway to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. Ralph Wadleigh has made arrangements at the Coonamesett Inn for a FGS anniversary celebration gourmet breakfast buffet with

entertainment from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 13th, for only \$20. So circle that date on your calendar and be prepared to sign up in April 2015! All past presidents of the Society will be invited and honored. They include Eleanor Baldic, 1985-1990; Ted Carlson, 1990-1993; Judy Fenner, 1993-1997; John Peri, 1997-1999; Donna Walcovy, 1999-2003; John Caspole, 2003-2007; Joyce Pendery, 2007-2009; Ralph Wadleigh, 2009-2014; and Mary Barry, 2014-present.

NEW MEMBERS

Falmouth Genealogical Society welcomes the following new members:

Bruce Bumpus, 16 Dartmouth Court, Falmouth, MA 02540, email: b.bumpus@comcast.net. Bruce is researching Bumpus, White, Washburn, Jorn in Northeast England, France, and Germany.

Lynn Goucher, P.O.Box 1972, Cotuit, MA 02635, email: lynngoucher4@gmail.com. Lynn is researching Goucher, Miller, Goggins, Davoren, McCarley, Dupuis, and Belerose.

Clyde Tyndale, 174 Lake Shore Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536-4792, email: ctyndale@cape.com. Clyde is researching Tyndal, Tyndall, Herring, Sparrow, in North Carolina, New England, and England.

Deborah Winograd, 174 Lake Shore Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536-4792, email: debfwin@cape.com. Deborah is researching Frost, Peck, in New York, New England, and England.

DONORS

Falmouth Genealogical Society wishes to thank the following donors who made contributions during 2014:

Susan Hutchinson, Joyce Pendery, Sandra Sullivan, Peggy Theochares, Elizabeth King, Marie Brady, Frances Cadigan, Priscilla Fuller, Frances McLean, Shirley Dunkle, Helene Doyle, Richard Lawrence, Stephen Hemberger, Patrick Mahoney, Anne Carlson, Gerard Luby, Barbara Fenner, Leslie McDonald, John Caspole, Margaret Osborn