



# Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter

PO BOX 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
Vol. 14 No. 1 Jan.- Feb. 2002

President: Donna Walcovy

www.falgen.org

Editor: Marjorie Gibson

## MEETINGS:

Jan. 12 Genealogy 101

Feb. 8 Your Favorite Ancestor

Mar. 9 TBA

Apr. 13 Help workshop

May 11 Jan Koso will speak about Tracing Your Destitute New England Ancestors

## NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES

David Allen Lambert came down from NEHGS and gave us a very interesting and informative talk / slide presentation on military records. He also told us that soon the entire NEHG Register will be online.

The muster rolls for men in the American Revolution did not even give their ages but if you read the muster lists it will show where the men lived when they enlisted. There are no regimental histories so you should check to see where the captain was from. Also note the men with whom he served. Sometimes a man would enlist in another town

Remember that the state militias were different from the Continental Army. The many volume set titled, *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the American Revolution* should be checked. Remember that Maine was not a state until 1820 so their records will be in with Massachusetts records. [These books are at the Falmouth Library.]

Years after the war, many veterans were given bounty land but most were too old to move to a new location and they sold it. The first time women could receive pensions was in 1836 They had to have been married by 1794

to the veteran for at least five years in order to qualify for a pension.

Charges for partial pension files of a are \$17.50, and \$37.00 for all the records for a serviceman. There are general abstracts from every pension file in books, but look at the microfilm anyway.

Check ages of your ancestors to see if they could have been in the Civil War. Parents and wives could receive a pension even many years after the war. Money left over from Revolutionary War pensions was included in money for Civil War pensions.

Still living today is one Union Civil War widow and one Confederate widow. Confederate pensions were given by the state from which the vet served. In order to be entitled to receive a pension the vet, his widow or family, had to be poor and in need of support. They had to send letters to Washington to prove they were the serviceman or his widow or parent. You may be able to receive copies of them. A soldier's letters may say how much money he was sending home to his parents.

Another book like the one on the men in the American Revolution is *Mass. Soldiers and Sailors of the Civil War*. It is on CR-ROM but the copy in Washington gives much more information. The 1865 census of Rhode Island has a column that asks whether the man was in the Civil War. Regimental histories can let you follow a soldier from place to place, and battle to battle. Maps of various battles are also available.

Check town records where the soldier lived because the town often had to support his family. Town clerks kept those records.

A soldier filled out a request for a pension. It lists places of residence since he left the army, his occupation, marriage,



children and much more helpful information. An Eagle Discharge was given to Civil War vets. It may be in the the National Archives if the soldier sent it in when applying for a pension to show he was honorably discharged. Sometimes lawyers names were on the application; they received a percentage of the pension.

Local records for the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) may have been destroyed after the last member of the group died. If they are extant, the soldier's biography may be available because he had to fill out a form before he could join the local group.

No filming has yet been done on the War of 1812 records, but Conn. has a book on its militia in that war.

Although the 1890 census was lost in a fire, the veterans' schedules alphabetically by state from Kentucky through Wyoming, were saved.

The 1900 census has a space to show if a man served in the Union or Confederate army. It includes a separate index for widows who remarried.

A fire in St. Louis destroyed most WW1 and 2, Korean War and Vietnam service records.

There are many Civil War websites online, a few are listed under Internet sources. Other are [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) where you can find the index to Civil War Pension Files. Confederate State Pension File Indexes are on [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

The database of veteran burials, (The American Battle Monuments Commission), is at [www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm](http://www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm). Included are 33,714 WW1, 172,218 WW2, and 37,333 Korean War Veterans graves.

Other sources of help are:

1. Civil War - military and pension records for Union soldiers can be obtained by using the form NATF-85 from the National Archives. Obtain the form from National Archives and Records Administration, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20408 or, e-mail for a NATF-85 form to be sent to you at [inquire@arch2.nara.gov](mailto:inquire@arch2.nara.gov)
2. For the Spanish American War use the above form for all military service, except Navy

veterans.

3. WW1 and WW2: You can write to the following address if the veteran enlisted after the dates given.

National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records)  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

#### **Army**

Enlisted man Nov. 1, 1912

Officer July 1, 1917

#### **Navy**

Enlisted man Jan. 1, 1886

Officer Jan. 1, 1903

#### **Marine Corps**

Enlisted man and officer Jan. 1, 1905

#### **Coast Guard**

Enlisted man Jan. 1, 1915

Officer Jan. 1, 1929

### **DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**

Member Mary Hunt gave an interesting talk about Diaries: Familiar and Unfamiliar. Some things that can be found in old diaries include: history and events of the period; what life was like at that time and place; possible mention of births, marriages and deaths for both family members and local residents; and maybe what their personality was like.

She read from three diaries. The first was Samuel Peyps who kept a journal from 1660-1669 in London. He was a civil servant and was aboard the ship that brought Charles 2 back to England. He described the London fire and the plague, both of which descimated London. This is both an interesting and amusing journal.

The second was the journal of Madame Knight, a Boston shopkeeper, who lived with her mother and daughter. She was 38 years old in 1704 when she made the trip to New Haven and on to New York to settle family business. Her diary is an interesting story of this trip which took five months in 1704.

The third diary include many books kept by William Moore, son of Philip, from 1850 - 1900. There are also diaries of his three daughters from 1863 - 1930. These persons are related to Mary's husband.



William Moore was born in 1815 in Portsmouth, Ohio. He was very involved in running a steamboat and later on a foundry. He was living in New Orleans in 1850 and had a steamboat on the river going to Yazoo City, MS and north to Vicksburg. He was a northerner in the south during the Civil War. He hated the war because it interrupted his business.

One diary entry in Jan. 1861 told about hearing that war had begun in Charleston, and that MS seceded that day. He saw new recruits mustered into the Confederate army, and heard the rejoicing when it was learned that VA had seceded. He noted that there was a Negro insurrection; 4 were hung.

By Sept. 1861 he says that business was depressed and that mail and news had stopped. By May 1862 he left the river as it was too dangerous. Food was expensive and hard to get so he hunted and fished to feed his family of 7 children. On 18 March 1865 his daughter Anna died of scarlet fever in Portsmouth, OH at age 4.

To announce the birth of a daughter, he wrote that a new boarder had arrived. But when sons were born he states that he's been presented with a son.

A diary of one of his daughters describes how the family of 7 children, and 2 servants, had to leave their house and go into the woods. They carried food, blankets etc. in case the Union soldiers of the 94th Regiment of IL Volunteers came to their house as they marched past.

A few days later they were taken by ship, thanks to a Union officer, and returned to Portsmouth. On 14 April 1864 they heard, with much rejoicing, that the war had ended. Again in Portsmouth, he bought a share in an iron foundry. He was very much into machinery and pasted pictures of machines onto his diary covers.

Mary then talked about the sons who went to college in New Jersey, except for John who didn't finish. Later he became mentally derranged. He was the father of a well-known poet, Mary Ann Moore. Although the sons returned to work for their father, it appears that he was a hard task master and two of them

moved to Boston away from their father.

These diaries are wonderful insights into the life and times of this family. We all wish our ancestors had taken the time to detail their lives in diaries such as these.

## REPRODUCING DAGUERREOTYPES

Are you concerned about the deterioration of your daguerreotypes, ambrotypes and other family photographs? I have been told that the cost of repairing daguerreotypes is from \$700. to \$2000. each. This led me to look for other ways of saving these photos of my ancestors.

In September a relative visited me whose husband had a digital camera. He took photos with it of a few of my twenty-five daguerreotypes, then plugged the camera into my TV set where they were displayed and greatly enlarged. When he went home he transferred them to photographic paper and sent them to me.

Although he said that he doesn't have the best or newest digital camera, I am astonished at the quality of the photos, even of one which has badly deteriorated just in the past few years. I see no difference in the photos and the daguerreotypes. In addition, they can be enlarged if you wish and framed.

Some of the daguerreotypes are the only pictures I have of some of my ancestors before photography was common; two were born in the 1790s. Now I can have them reproduced and given to other family members who otherwise wouldn't have access to them.

If you have photos that are, and will be, deteriorating, I suggest that you have them reproduced using a digital camera. [Ed.]

## INTERNET SITES

1. For old marriages in New Milford, CT, see [www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/marriage/new-milford.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/marriage/new-milford.htm)
2. An update for the Barnstable, MA census of 1855 see [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/4815.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/4815.htm)
- 3.. Chicago voter registration lists for 1888,



1890 and 1892 contain lots of information. House numbers changed after 1892 so they will not correspond with modern house numbers. See

[www.rootdig.com/voters/chicago.html](http://www.rootdig.com/voters/chicago.html)

For Cook Co. in 1888 see

[www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/indds/5991.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/indds/5991.htm) For 1890 and 1892 change

the above numbers to **5997**, then **6001**.

The Chicago Genealogical Soc. website is at

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

4. For Florida death indexes for 1937, 1938 and 1944 change the numbers to **5993**, **5986**, **5987**.

5. For Ohio marriages 1803-1900 change the number to **5194**

6. For Texas land abstracts update change the number to **5112**.

7. For the reconstruction of the 1890 lost Federal census see

[www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/1890sub/main.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/census/1890sub/main.htm)

8. A Guide to research for Chicago and Cook Co., IL see [shops.ancestry.com/product.asp?productid=2115](http://shops.ancestry.com/product.asp?productid=2115)

9. For city directories change the number to **2346**, **2347**, **2348**, **2345**, **2350**, or **3230.asp**

10. This site is the 4 volume set of colonial Connecticut records

[www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.cfm](http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.cfm)

11. Information about deeds is at [www.ultranet.com/~deeds/deeds.htm](http://www.ultranet.com/~deeds/deeds.htm)

12. A good site for American history is [americanhistory.about.com](http://americanhistory.about.com)

13. The Hamburg, Germany, emigration records are being put online. So far, those who left Hamburg from 1890 - 1893 are now searchable at

[www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/engl](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/engl)

[ish/welcome.htm](#)

In time, the years 1850-1934 will be included. After the large emigration halls were erected, the average stay was a few days to a week unless a person was quarantined for health reasons. Beginning in July 1892, most lived in emigrants' barracks on the American Pier with sleeping halls of 140 persons each.

Hamburg State Library has the exclusive possession of lists of those who passed through her harbor. Bremen and other cities lost nearly all their emigration lists in WW2. Hamburg has them from 1850-1934. These lists show the home town of those who shipped out of Hamburg. By 2003 all these lists should be available online.

14. This excellent site includes the 1790 census for some of Litchfield Co., CT, marriages, deaths, historical societies, email lists, town web sites, cemeteries, etc.

[www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/)

15. This is a site about Cape Cod graveyards in several towns

[www.capecodlife.com/CCL/features/articles/PgsOfHistOct.html](http://www.capecodlife.com/CCL/features/articles/PgsOfHistOct.html)

16. Someone has CDs of over 1300 gravestone inscriptions in Holyrood Cemetery in Brookline, MA, with photos included. Over 3400 stones in Sudbury, Wayland and Natick have also been transcribed. See [www.mindspring.com/~gchung/cemeteryMain.html](http://www.mindspring.com/~gchung/cemeteryMain.html)

17. Some Long Island, NY, information is at [userweb.springnet.com/quest/LONGISLAND/LongIslandWelcome.html](http://userweb.springnet.com/quest/LONGISLAND/LongIslandWelcome.html)

18. Some very early CT family trees are at [www.familylineage.com/colonial\\_trees2.html](http://www.familylineage.com/colonial_trees2.html)

19. This site opens a window on life in the American Colonies from 1650-1780/ [www.pinetreeshilling.com](http://www.pinetreeshilling.com)

20. This is a list of what each person could take going west in a wagon train.



[www.geocities.com/Heartland/acres/7241/wagontrn.html](http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/acres/7241/wagontrn.html)

21. After the number above add [/epidemic.html](#) and you will find epidemics from 1628-1918.

22. This database is for some ships coming into Prince Edward Island  
[www.isn.net/~dhunter/shipdata.html](http://www.isn.net/~dhunter/shipdata.html)

23. Civil War service records are at [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/alldblist.asp?s=99](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/alldblist.asp?s=99)

24. Civil War pension index is at [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/military/cwpi/main.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/military/cwpi/main.htm)

25. Confederate state pension file indexes can be found at [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

26. American Battle Monuments Commission's database of veteran burials. Includes 33,714 WW1, 172,218 WW2, 37,333 Korean War Veterans graves. See [www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm](http://www.abmc.gov/abmc4.htm)

27. For the Civil War Pension Index see [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/military/cwpi/main.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/military/cwpi/main.htm)

28. For the Civil War Service Records see [www.ancestor.com/search/rectype/alldblist.asp?s=99](http://www.ancestor.com/search/rectype/alldblist.asp?s=99)

29. Poland - [www.polishroots.com](http://www.polishroots.com)

30. Long Island genealogy - [userweb.springnet.com/quest/LONGISLAND/LongIslandWelcome.html](http://userweb.springnet.com/quest/LONGISLAND/LongIslandWelcome.html)

31. This site tells how long works are protected and when they are in the public domain.  
[www.unc.edu/~uncing/public-d.htm](http://www.unc.edu/~uncing/public-d.htm)

32. The entire passenger list for the John and Sara which left London in 1651 bound for New England with Scottish prisoners from the

British Civil War is at [www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/main/john&sara.html](http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/colonial/main/john&sara.html)

33. What are the pros and cons of upgrading from Win 98 to Win XP? See [www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/extra.4889.asp](http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/extra.4889.asp)

34. The Industrial History of Mass. was developed as a way to help teachers and students tackle the Commonwealth's curriculum frameworks for social studies and economics. In addition to lots of interesting material, there are online primary source links included in the industrial history bibliography. See [k12s.phast.umass.edu/~masag/industrial\\_history.html](http://k12s.phast.umass.edu/~masag/industrial_history.html)

35. CT history online has more than 5,800 images that chronicle CT life from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the middle of the twentieth.  
[spirit.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/CHO/index.htm](http://spirit.lib.uconn.edu/DoddCenter/ASC/CHO/index.htm)

36. Would you like to see a survey of monetary history including : how much did things cost in Roman times; English consumer prices from 1261-1998; dollar-pound exchange rates 1800-1997; money in fiction from Chaucer to the present? If so, see [www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/money.html](http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RDavies/arian/money.html)

37. This very important website has a current listing of state archives and their holdings. Every state has a different amount of material. Before visiting the site, it is wise to make sure what you are looking for is there. British Columbia is also included.  
[www.rootdig.com/statearchives.html](http://www.rootdig.com/statearchives.html).

## QUERY

Stan Grayson, [sgray@earthlink.net](mailto:sgray@earthlink.net), wants information regarding a Falmouth boat builder, Frederick Dunn, who worked with W. W. Phinney. Apparently Dunn moved from Monument beach to Falmouth in 1912.



By the way, the query in last month's Newsletter was answered by one of our members, and the person was very pleased that someone had taken the time to e-mail her with the information.

## SO MUCH FOR FUTURE PREDICTIONS

An issue of Popular Mechanics in 1949 stated that, "Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."

## WINDSOR, CT FAMILIES

The following are excerpts from the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc. (CT)

1. The Strong Family Assoc. of American, Inc. has published the third of its four volumes in the Strong Family History Update series. Contact Diane Strong Runser, 156 Maple Dr., Trafford, PA 15085-1435
2. Richard C. Roberts, 596 Gurleyville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268 is preparing a genealogy of the descendats of John Broughton, a Founder of Windsor.
3. Robert E. Hull, 19259 Harleigh Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070-5145, has nearly completed his Hull Genealogy covering the male descendants of George Hull of Crewkerne, Dorchester, Windsor, and Fairfield.. He can be reached at 408-867-2677.
4. Norman Hosford is finishing his Hosford genealogy. Contact him at 1 Binney Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371, 203-434-2907.

Anyone interested in joining this Society may writeto them at  
Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor, Inc.  
PO Box 39  
Windsor, CT 06095.

## LIBRARY NOTES

We are very fortunate to have a very good relationship with the Falmouth Public Library. We not only hold our meetings there, we have also, for several years, had a computer and a collection of genealogy CD-ROMs housed

there. Every Tuesday afternoon from two to four o'clock, one or more of our members is there to give advice and help in genealogical problems.

We have recently purchased a second computer, faster and easier to use. Also, we have the complete U.S. Census for 1880. This CD-ROM set (over 50 of them) has two parts: a complete index for the entire country, which includes all household members, and a detailed listing of each household. The search program is easy to use and flexible, allowing you to specify which items to include in the search. It also has a "wild card" capability, which helps to find names which are grossly misspelled.

Another CD-ROM which might prove helpful to some is PERCI, or Periodical Source Index. This is a bibliography of genealogy articles from 7,000 journals. The list is searchable by surname and place. You just might hit the jackpot and find an article about an elusive ancestor.

Our collection also includes U.S. census indices for each year up to 1880, the complete British census for 1881, a collection of pedigrees submitted by other genealogists, and assorted others. We are always there on Tuesday afternoon from two to four and are willing to help anyone who comes.

## IMPORTANT MA. RESEARCH SITES

1. Mass. Historical Commission Archives, 220 Morrissey Blvd, Boston 617-727-2816. Free admission and plenty of parking shared with the JFK Library. They have birth, marriage and death records for Mass. from 1841 - 1910. Also, naturalization records, census records for the 1855 and 1865 state censuses -- the only ones still in existence.
2. Mass. Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, 150 Mt. Vernon St., 1st Floor, Dorchester, MA 617-740-2600. For public research, the hours are 9 AM to noon, and 2 - 4 PM. Admission is \$3.00 an hour for research; visits of less than 20 minutes are free. Certified copies are \$6. if you buy them there. This is the location of Mass. vital records from 1911 to the present.



## GENTECH CONFERENCE

This conference will be held Jan. 25-26, 2002, in Boston at the Hynes Convention Center which is within walking distance of three major genealogical research facilities, NEHGS ([www.newenglandancestors.org](http://www.newenglandancestors.org)), Mass. Historical Soc. ([www.masshist.org](http://www.masshist.org)), and the Boston Public Library ([www.Bpl.org](http://www.Bpl.org)). NEHGS will open for a special day of research for conference attendees on Sunday, Jan. 27, from 10 AM to 5PM. Any conference attendee who shows the badge will receive free admission to the Society's Library.

Special hotel rates have been offered by the Sheraton 1-800-325-3535. The hotel and the convention center are connected by walkways to the indoor shopping areas of the Prudential Center ([www.prudentialcenter.com](http://www.prudentialcenter.com)) and Copley Place ([www.shopcopleyplace.com](http://www.shopcopleyplace.com)).

Genetics, a very timely topic, will have several sessions led by 4 geneticists, Dr. Bryan Sykes of Oxford University, Dr. Scott Woodward of Brigham Young University, Dr. Thomas Roderick of Jackson Laboratories in Bar Harbor, ME, and Dr. Joan Mitchell of the University of Alabama. They will each make individual presentations on their different approaches to this subject, and will join together in a panel discussion. As always, there will be many vendors at the Conference.

To see conference offerings and information see [www.gentech.org/2002/](http://www.gentech.org/2002/)

### **PUBLIC RECORDS OF THE COLONY OF CONNECTICUT** 15 volumes.

These public records from 1636 to the late 1700s were transcribed, edited and printed beginning in 1850 by Charles J. Hoadly and also by J. Hammond Trumbull. After driving over 100 miles to read them I discovered that they are now online, including the indexes. See [www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.cfm](http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.cfm).

These books are a wealth of information about the earliest settlers of this state, and certainly should be consulted by anyone doing Conn. history and/or genealogy. They also

give an interesting insight into relationships between men and women. A few excerpts on this topic are as follows.

Volume May 1717 - Oct. 1725: In 1717 An Act Against Poligamy and Unchastity was approved. It stated that if a husband or wife marry while the other is alive s/he shall be punished as in adultery. This Act does not pertain to the person whose husband or wife shall remain across the seas for 7 years, or absent from the other for 7 years. If the person doesn't know if the other is living or if a seaman a space of 3 years. If a man and woman are found in bed they shall be whipped 30 stripes unless one party was surprised and did not consent.

Volume May 1678 - 1689, p.23.  
A divorce was granted to Joanna Pember due to desertion for over 3 years. The court granted her a release from her conjugal tie to Henry Pember, with the liberty to dispose of herself in marriage as she shall have opportunity. [It was important for women to be married so the town wouldn't have to support them.]

p. 129 - Hanna Huitt of Stonington was granted a divorce on May 12, 1670 due to desertion for 8 years.

p. 292 Elizabeth (Griswold) Rogers was granted a divorce in May 1675 from John because she was under great stress and hazard. The Court gave her liberty to live with her father Matthew Griswold in Lyme, CT. Later on page 326 the court granted her the two children and John was to support them. John Rogers renounced all forms of worship and said that the Christian sabbath was a mere invention. [This was certainly cause for great stress at that time, and undoubtedly the reason she was allowed to live with her father.]

p. 293 - Sarah Towle was granted a divorce as her husband had deserted her 6 years previously and was granted the right to remarry.

p. 193 - Experience Shepard was granted a divorce from William; Mercy Nicholson was granted a divorce from John for desertion.

p. 322 - Mary Murrain was divorced from Patrick due to desertion for 6 years.

In the same series but Prior to the Union



with New Haven Colony May 1665, regarding a rebellious or stubborn child or servant: they would be sent to the house of correction under hard labor and severe punishment. A law was passed that anyone going to live with the Indians shall be in the house of correction for 3 years, be fined and corporal punishment administered. [For a law to be passed, such as the latter, there must have been men (or maybe even women?) who went to live with the Indians probably to escape the strict laws and difficult life of the early settlers.]

In the volume from 1636 - 1665, p. 379, Bridget Baxter wife of Thomas, was freed from her conjugal bond. Her estate left by her husband was sold to pay debts, all except her bed and her wearing apparel. [I wonder where she was supposed to place her bed?]

Another court order in the same volume, p. 350 May 17, 1665 decreed that no man/woman within this Colony who has a wife or husband in foreign parts shall live here above 3 years upon penalty of 40s pr. month fine, and that any that have been here over 3 years already was not to remain more than a year longer.

These laws do not designate where or how persons (undoubtedly mostly women) were supposed to go. In addition, with communication almost non-existent, how could they know if a seaman was alive or dead, or if someone had returned to England, were they still alive?

## A COLONIAL GRAVESTONE

In the last Newsletter were notes from a lecture given by Bob Carlson about Cape Cod Colonial gravestones prior to 1800. (See photos and inscriptions on his website, [www.capecodgravestones.com](http://www.capecodgravestones.com), about old stones in all Cape Cod town

Pictured below is one of the most highly decorated stones. It is for Marcy Freeman, wife to Major John Freeman. She died Sept. 28, 1711, age 80, in Eastham. There was not room in the last Newsletter to include the photo.

Hers is the oldest winged portrait on Cape Cod. The borders on the stone are rich and deeply carved. The heart symbolizes the blissful state after the soul gets to heaven. Her husband, John Freeman, son of Edmond Freeman of Sandwich, is next to hers but his stone is not quite as ornately carved. He died in 1719 aged 98. It is not known where this stone was carved but possibly in Newport, RI.

Marcy (Mercy), b. ca. 1631 in Plymouth, was the daughter of Gov. Thomas Prence and his first wife Patience (Brewster) -- Patience was the daughter of William Brewster b. ca. 1566/7, d. 1644, and Mary (possibly Wentworth) who died 1627 in Plymouth.







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## MEETINGS

March 9 Archivist Nancy Kougeas will speak .

April 13 Help workshop

May 11 Jan Koso will speak on Tracing Your Poor New England Ancestors

## FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

Seven Society members talked about their interesting ancestors. Bob Rice discussed the very unexpected results from the Rice DNA project; Donna Walcovy talked about her grandfather; Benj. York, who came in costume, discussed his Falmouth ancestors; MarciaHall gave a very interesting Indian story from KY; JohnPeri talked about an ancestor captured by Indians in Canada; Jan Koso talked about his 4th great grandfather in NH; Joyce Pendery showed a photo she just found of her great grandparent s; Muriel Locklin discussed how a family name was changed.

## WHALING CREW LISTS

The New Bedford, MA, Free Public Library has begun a five-year project to index original whaling crew list documents and put it online. This project is surported by a gront from the Mass. Historical Records Advisory Board and the Sec. of the Commonwealth, William F.

Galvin.

It began online in Jan. 2002 and the site is maintained by the City of New Bedford Managment Informatiions System Dept. Currently about 1400 shipping papers have been indexed. Dates are 1807-1855 for this first year. Updates will be loaded every two months. Because these men moved around, often from ship to ship, their lives are not well documented. These indexes will help alleviate this problem Visit the site at [www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us](http://www.ci.new-bedford.ma.us), and click on whaling voyage crews.

## 1930 CENSUS RELEASE

The release date for the 15th US census at all of the Federal Records Centers is 1 April 2002. Soundex is only available for AI, AR, FL, GA, pat of KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and part of WV. There are three websites that are helpful in searching this census:

1. [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census) gives information about enumeration districts
2. [ama.ama-assn.org/issues/v285n6/ffull/ifd10001-1.html](http://ama.ama-assn.org/issues/v285n6/ffull/ifd10001-1.html)
3. [www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html#date](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html#date).

## DNA RESULTS FOR ONE FAMILY

It has long been wondered if the John Clough family of Salisbury, MA, was related to the Richard Clough, Sr. family of Denbigh, Wales.



To try and find out, some descendants of both of these families agreed to have their DNA tested. The results showed that the men in both countries have the identical DNA. Now more research will be done to see if they can find the common ancestor of these men whose families separated over 350 years ago.

### ORDERS TO NARA

Have you sent in an order on form numbers NATF 18-86 to NARA at 700 Penn. Ave. NW, Washington, DC for records but have never received them? The post office that processes the mail for this address is still not open. Orders addressed to Archives, 11 College Park, MD are not affected as it is not serviced by the Brentwood mail distribution center.

### INTERNET SITES

1. There is a long and interesting article entitled, "Mobility and the Social Network in Nineteenth Century Montreal". See [www.ub.es/gencrit/olsomntr.htm](http://www.ub.es/gencrit/olsomntr.htm)
2. This site has primary sources that pertain to early American history. It is an invaluable collection of historical works which contributed to the formation of American politics, culture and ideals. Sources are listed in chronological order from 500 BC to 1800 AD. Take a look at this URL - you will be amazed at what is available to us on this site.  
[personal.pitnet.net/primarysources/](http://personal.pitnet.net/primarysources/)
3. This is the site for the Kent Memorial Library genealogy link in Connecticut which has a good genealogy collection.  
[www.suffield-library.org/localhistory/index.htm](http://www.suffield-library.org/localhistory/index.htm)
4. Click on "content" for many databases on this site. [freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~historyofmarlborough](http://freepages.history.rootsweb.com/~historyofmarlborough). A request by men in Marlborough to become freeman includes: Brighams, Barnes ad Rices.

5. The 1901 British census went online in early January. It was prepared to handle 3 million hits a day, but when 30 million came to the site it crashed and is down for retooling.
6. The state-wide online catalog for CT is at [www.chs.org/library](http://www.chs.org/library)
7. The online catalog for Mass. Historical Society can be found at [www.mdhs.org](http://www.mdhs.org)
8. The online genealogy forum for Maine is at [www.mainehistory.com/genealogy.html](http://www.mainehistory.com/genealogy.html)
9. The online catalog for NH is [www.nhhistory.org](http://www.nhhistory.org)
10. Basic information on the RI Historical Society is at [www.rihs.org/](http://www.rihs.org/)
11. This VT site has a guide to genealogical research with links to organizations with URLs.  
[www.state.vt.us/vhs](http://www.state.vt.us/vhs)

These are just New England sites, but most states have them.

12. This is a list of provisions needed by those coming to New England in the early 1600s.  
[www.plimoth.org/Library/massprov.htm](http://www.plimoth.org/Library/massprov.htm)  
Those who came here had to have the financial resources in order to purchase all these items for each person in their family as well as servants.
13. An online automatic translation system may be able to help you read materials in Polish.  
[www.poltran.com](http://www.poltran.com)
14. Before sending for Civil War pension files see: [www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/4005.asp](http://www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/4005.asp). Some changes have been made.
15. **APRIL LDS CONFERENCE IN RI.**  
See [www.angelfire.com/ri2/providencerifhc.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/ri2/providencerifhc.htm)

### HARVARD UNIVERSITY TUITION - 1832

- Instruction, Library, Lecture Rooms, Steward's Dept., Rent, and Care of Room \$35.00
- Wood or fuel delivered from the Steward's Office \$4.00
- Board paid the Contractor for Commons



\$22.00. Total: \$61.66. (Thanks to Mary Hunt for this bill for the 2nd term ending in April 1832.)

### NEW LOYALISTS GUIDE

One of our founding members, Paul Bunnell, has written yet another very useful book on Loyalists. This is a 8.5 x 11 56-page book entitled, *American Loyalists Migration and Document Guide*. It is \$12.50 + \$3.75 s & h, address: Paul Bunnell, 100 Whitehall Rd., Apt 15, Amesbury, MA 01913-0004. Or e-mail him at benjamin@amesbury.net.

The topics he covers, including examples of each, are: historical maps (1775-1783); Indictment and Other Court Papers (1779); Revolutionary Pay Stubs (1777-1783); Old map of New Jersey/New York Area; Loyalist Muster Rolls #1 (1783) and #2 (1784); Loyalist Newspapers (1779); List of Loyalist Refugee Ships (1782); Loyalist Land Grant Settlement Maps #1 (1786) and #2 (ca. 1786); Bad Land Grant Documents (1785); Military Pay Statements (1788); Land Petitions (1789); Claims for Losses (ca.1790); Memorials (1791); Wills (1794); Deeds and Land Sales (1810); Picture of Loyalist Chief Joseph Brant (Mohawk); Post Revolutionary War Newspapers #1 (1806); #2 (1806), #3 (1806) Probate Records and Other Related Documents (1807); Newspaper Death notices (1828); Census (1851); More Probate Records (1906); Migration Locations and Associated Name Places.

Anyone searching for Loyalist ancestors can find many types of sources for further research from the above list. Paul explains what type of information can be found in them. He lists areas from which Loyalists left (or were driven away from) and where they may have gone. Sometimes they named their new settlements in Canada after the town from which they had come.

### NEW LDS BRANCH LIBRARY

We are fortunate that the LDS church in Cataumet is opening a branch library in early March. It will be open for church members on Tuesday evenings, and for non-church members on Saturdays from 9 - 2. The entrance is to the rear of the church. It has 4 microfilm readers, 2 microfiche readers, and 2 computers, one of which is online. The telephone number is 508-564-5437.

The church is located at 1200 County Rd in Cataumet. They are looking for volunteers, either church or non-church members. If you would like to volunteer, you may call them at the above number.

### THE ELUSIVE SAMUEL PAGE

by Eleanor Baldic

Samuel Page and Huldah Shaw were born in New Hampshire, they married and eventually moved to Washington County, Warren, Vermont and raised nine children: *Lydia Ann*, b. 1825; *Samuel S.*, b. 1827; *Diana* b. 1829; *Charles*, b. 1831; *Sarah Jane*, b. 1834; *Olive*, b. 1836; *John S.*, b. 1839; and *Hiram & Horace* born 1842.

We searched many years to find Samuel's place of birth and parents. We eventually found that Samuel, age 65, died in 1865 in South Danvers, Massachusetts, and was born in North Hampton, New Hampshire. The death of Huldah Shaw Page at age 47 was found in the 1850 Mortality Schedule of Vermont.

A thorough search of all North Hampton records gave us one possibility for our Samuel Page. We looked at the Page genealogies in the *History of Hampton*, by Joseph Dow, and found one reference to a Samuel Page, the son of Coffin Page from North Hampton, born about 1800, married Mary Godfrey with whom he had four children: *Oliver*, b. 1820; *David*, b.



1822; *Mary Jane*, b. 1824; and *Sarah Ann*, b. 1826. This could not be our Samuel Page but he was the right age and came from North Hampton. It was disappointing. We searched all other sources and came to dead ends; that is when we decided to hire a researcher.

She reviewed all our Page information gathered through the years, including our search in North Hampton and decided to have another look at the North Hampton Page families in *The History of Hampton*, by Dow, and noted the remarks about the family of Samuel Page, who was the son of Coffin Page. Dow said that "*Mary Godfrey returned eventually to her father's house where several of the children were brought up.*"

Our researcher was curious about Dow's remarks and nearly eliminated this Samuel Page as other genealogists had done because Samuel and Mary had a daughter in 1824, Samuel and Huldah had a daughter in 1825 and Samuel and Mary had a daughter in 1826 ..... so the Samuel of Vermont could not have been the same as the North Hampton Samuel Page. But she still was thinking about what Dow had said and wondered what happened to Samuel, the husband of Mary Godfrey; did he lie or just disappear?

A look at the family of Coffin Page, father of Samuel Page of North Hampton, proved interesting. Coffin Page had died quite young and left a fairly good estate, a widow Betty, and four children under the age of 14. Betty eventually re-married to Noah Page, the brother of her late husband, Coffin, and soon applied to the courts for division of the two-thirds of her dower to be given to the children she had with Coffin Page. The courts gave Samuel, Daniel, Debra, Benjamin and Rhoda Page Fogg, the children of Coffin, their two-thirds shares in several parcels of land.

A few years later, the deeds show that Daniel, the brother of Samuel, bought interest in the property that was owned by his siblings,

which was given to them by their mother, Betty, from the estate a few years before. The search ended when a deed that was found in Rockingham County, New Hampshire proved beyond a doubt that Coffin Page's son Samuel, who married Mary Godfrey, was indeed the Samuel Page who moved to Warren, Vermont. It says:

*"Samuel Page of Warren in the County of Washington and State of Vermont sells for \$30. to Daniel Page of Rye, New Hampshire. land in North Hampton, which formerly belonged to the Coffin Page Farm and was part of the dower of Betty Page."*

Without a researcher we would never have found our Samuel Page's parents. A divorce record has never been found for Mary Godfrey and Samuel. We can only assume that because of the liason he had with Huldah Shaw, Mary left him. We have not yet found a marriage record of Samuel and Huldah or her birth place.

#### GENTECH 2002 CONFERENCE

by Joyce Pendery, C.G.

GENTECH 2002 - the 10th annual conference for Genealogy and Technology - was held at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston on 25-26 January 2002. The conference was a success by any means of measurement, setting a record for total registration at a GENTECH Conference. Quite a few genealogists from the greater Boston area, who weren't free on Friday, attended the Saturday session. Almost everyone stayed to the end of the conference, rather than leaving early to beat the traffic or get home for dinner.

Not being a "Techie", I was afraid that most sessions would be over my head. NOT to worry! The carefully planned program included something for everyone with presentations on all levels from beginning and intermediate to very advanced. There were lectures on how to



effectively access, collect, and evaluate information from the web, on how to get the most out of various software packages, on how to publish on the web, and on the latest hardware and software. Special tracts were devoted to cartography, imaging, and genetics. (Be sure to read Bob Rice's article on the important lectures and panels on genetics.)

In a lecture of interest to almost anyone, Alan E. Mann of the Family History Library staff in Salt Lake City, discussed "Using Family Search.org." He focused on tips and tricks for getting the most out of the website by digging deeper and deeper into the underlined information on each hit, and sometimes even coming up with parish registers or other primary sources on-line.

Several lecturers focused on how to find and evaluate information from the internet. The last session I attended on Saturday at 5 PM, "Credible Clues from the Incredible Internet" lasted until 6:15 p.m. by choice. All of us wanted the speaker, New York genealogist Leslie Com, to go on and on presenting fascinating case studies illustrating how she locates and interweaves information from websites and from archival and library resources to effectively and efficiently solve complicated genealogical problems.

Playing the Devil's Advocate as far as the internet is concerned was another popular approach. Sharon Carmack and Maureen Taylor debated the topic, "What We Love/Hate about the Internet." Their lively discussion raised several red flags about what happens to your information when you put it on the net and about the consequences of putting personal information on-line, but in general the tone was more positive than negative.

Curt B. Witcher, manager of the Historical and Genealogical Department of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, presented a thought-provoking lecture on "The Future of the Past: Is Technology

Answering our SOS Beacons?" He asked: "Is more and faster necessarily better or more meaningful?" "WOW!" was his favorite word for describing genealogists' reactions to the "stuff" they find on the web. One patron wasn't "WOWED." He came in with a suitcase full of equipment - laptop, scanner, etc. - and was disappointed when, after taking half an hour to set up, he came to the reference desk and asked where the "Lists of Names" are kept. Witcher believes that new processes and new ways of doing things need to accompany advances in technology. We have to ask: "Why are we doing this? What will be the result? Is there a better way? Information comes and goes on the web. Is it correct? Is it out-of-date? Who decides what should go on and who pulls the plug and takes it off? Where does it go? Since so many people communicate exclusively by internet and keep family histories only on their computers, what will we leave behind for future generations? Will there be letters, diaries, genealogies to leave behind? Will future generations be able to read our old discs? How about the states that are now digitizing all vital records and no longer keep records on paper? What can we do about the lack of nationally-applied standards for recording and transmitting information?"

The talks after lunches and dinner hit lighter notes. Everyone loves to hear Cyndi Howells lecture. Described by one speaker as "The Queen of the Internet," Cyndi is actually a very down-to-earth, warm, approachable, incredibly hard-working, dedicated genealogist and webmaster. Her luncheon lecture, "What a Tangled Web We Weave" focused on some of her amusing and not-so-amusing experiences - such as fixing the hundreds of links that are mysteriously broken each day. She often has to impress family members to tackle this challenging, never-ending task. Hard as it is to believe, Cyndi tries to answer personally all the emails she



receives. While many communications seem incredulous (I tried to pick a nice word), many contain very helpful suggestions. She hears regularly from supportive people from around the globe some of whom, she said, have the uncanny talent of sending her a message of encouragement just when things seem very discouraging. One thing I appreciate about Cyndi is that she is among the first to say that the internet is only a tool and undocumented information must be validated in traditional sources.

Aren't you sorry you didn't go to Boston? Hopefully, there will be a repeat performance before too many years pass.

### GENTECH 2002

by Bob Rice

The entire day on Friday, 25 January from 9 AM to 6 PM and then again at the Banquet Friday night was devoted to the use of genetics in genealogy. Professor Scott Woodward of Brigham Young University spoke on "Molecular Genealogy, Welding the World Together". His talk introduced the entire aspect of how genetics is used for genealogical purposes. He went into what DNA is and where it is found - the nucleus of the cell and in the mitochondria outside of the nucleus. He discussed mitochondrial DNA and Y-chromosome that carries the genetic information that makes us human. Dr. Woodward went into some of the operations for sequencing DNA and mentioned the use of super computers to analyze the results. He spent some time on his main project which is to do the sequence found in 250 loci of 100,000 people. With that his group will "reconstruct a genetic map of the world that will be used to help people with blocked genealogies in tracing their family origins." (He also gave a talk on Saturday on some of the details of how he is going about it. This attempt to utilize

nuclear DNA is controversial and has been challenged.)

The second genetic talk was by Joan Mitchell of the University of Alabama who discussed the Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings story. She did not add much to this by now familiar tale. (The entire issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly for September 2001 [vol. 89 No 3] was devoted to this subject and some of her slides were from that issue.) But she also had some illustrations from popular literature. Ms. Mitchell obviously had been following the story for quite some time.

After lunch, which I did not attend, (Henry Hoff of NRHGS was scheduled to speak but not on genetics) we heard from Professor Bryan Sykes of Oxford University. It was his paper in the spring of 2000 in the American Journal of Human Genetics that started the rush of genealogy to genetic analysis. In the meantime he has written, "The Seven Daughters of Eve", W.W. Norton, New York 2001. He was clearly the "Star of the Show" and in addition to his performances in Friday technical sessions gave the banquet talk Friday night.

His talk was "Surnames, Genes and Genealogy" in which he discussed the use of the Y Chromosome. He had done this last July at the Farmington, CT genealogy meeting. Again he talked about the "Ice Man" found coming out of a glacier in the Alps and doing the DNA analysis and being interviewed by newspapers. He said that because he was able to show a living person in Britain had the same mitochondrial DNA as the relic it impressed him as a method important to genealogy.

Sykes then went into the Czar Nicholas II story and found it was his own mitochondrial DNA, and the Czar's, that matched back 10,000 years. He then went into populations in Europe and ended up with his



names for the seven daughters of Eve and showed slides of various living starlets! He finally did talk about the Y chromosome DNA, which was the subtitle of his talk. He talked about his own surname, which was the subject of the Human Genetics paper two years ago but added nothing new. He also spoke about the surname Dyson, and George Redmond's theory that Dyson was derived from the son (born about 1316) in Yorkshire) of a woman bandit called Dia, and Sykes found this to be true. He then went over the Pomeroy surname, which does not descend from one person. He went over several other surnames and pointed out some members in the US. His newest work was of surnames in Scotland which had a different method of assigning surnames. He did McDonalds and others with other clans and found consistencies. He found the same Y-chromosomes extended back before surnames were used for a number of living men in the United Kingdom. He predicted that eventually he would find surname groups of the same Y chromosome.

Dr. Thomas Roderick spoke on "Using Genetic Technology to Access Genealogical Lineage". He spoke in detail about tracing Hemophila B which is carried on the X chromosome by women and men but only expressed by men. He was able to trace the "founders" to a couple in Cherryfield, ME in the late 1700's. For some reason, which escapes me, Tom was not able to cover all the items he had written about in the published Syllabus.

By 5 PM we were still at it with a Panel Discussion in which all the day's speakers gathered with the Moderator Robert Charles Anderson. The panel entertained questions from the audience. But beforehand, Anderson had laid down ground rules - namely no slides, which disappointed me. Various questions were answered about ancient DNA, where the larger amount of mitochondrial DNA as compared to Y-DNA, means it is studied; about

non-paternity events; about haplotypes, which are the same from different surnames. Woodward recognized the value of good genealogy in such cases and pointed out that increased numbers of loci allowed higher resolutions. I asked why one person who submitted his sample to three different labs did not get agreement among the labs. Woodward blamed the lack of standards between machines and between labs while Sykes thought it might be a mix-up of samples.

There were other questions about saving DNA, and how Sykes located the various daughters of Eve. A question was asked about the genes other than on the Y chromosome and mitochondria. Woodward pointed out that recombination does not occur in the Y and mtDNA. He further said that his lab was now working on linkage dis-equilibrium studies, which might allow some of that DNA to be used. They discussed the unique event polymorphisms, which are very large, and how they might be used.

Sykes quizzed Woodward about his ambitious program of using nuclear DNA (other than Y) because of the complexities involved. Woodward said he was using populations based on assigning individuals to gene pools based simply on their location at birth and at the birth of their ancestors which will be known from their pedigree. In the latter case he would use percentages or a statistical approach.

Mutation rates were then discussed. Mutation rates vary from locus to locus. The confidence level can be very broad. Woodward put in a plea for those with very strong pedigrees to get tested so that any marker mutations would be identified as mutations not as non-paternity events. The Iceland genetics-genealogy study, which is funded by pharmaceutical companies, was questioned somewhat on an ethical basis.









# Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter

PO BOX 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
Vol. 14 No. 3 May - June 2002

**President: Donna Walcovy**

**www.falgen.org**

**Editor: Marjorie Gibson**

## MEETINGS

May 11 Jan Koso will speak on Tracing Your Poor New England Ancestors

June 8 This is our annual meeting and it will be a help session. Bring your genealogical problems as others at the meeting may have suggestions for solving them. Refreshments will be served.

July 13 Workshop topic: Introduction to Genealogy with Emphasis on Resources.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

According to our bylaws, two Board members are elected every year. This year the Treasurer and Vice-President are to be elected. Nominated are:

Treasurer - John Caspole

Vice-President - nominations can be made at the meeting.

This Society, which has been in existence since 1985, has been run by pretty much the same people for many years now. We need other members to take on Board and other positions. We believe that new people with new ideas are essential in any organization. I have been Newsletter Editor for nearly 10 years and I feel it is time for someone else to take over. Please consider taking on

one of these positions.

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Marge Riley, who was one of the founders of this Society, has been our membership chairman for a long time. In addition, she had held every Board position during the seventeen years since she helped found the Society. We all owe her many, many thanks for all the time, work, and effort she has put in to keep this Society alive, functioning and growing. Thank you, Marge !!

We have two new membership chairmen: Carlton and Kathleen Purcell. We welcome them to the Board, and thank them for their participation. !!

## NOTES FROM THE MARCH MEETING

An Introduction to Genealogical Resources at Massachusetts Archives was the topic of Janis Duffy, who is on the staff there.

The records stored at MA Archives have been collected and preserved from many state agencies, and are filed under various collections. Although many are very helpful to genealogists, none were originally collected specifically with the aim of being useful to them.

At the present time, original birth, marriage and death records from 1841 through 1910 are located there and can be viewed on microfilm. Those from 1911 to the present are



with the Registrar of Vital Records and Statistics, Mt. Vernon St., Boston., not far from MA Archives . The fee for doing research at Mt. Vernon St. is \$3.00 per hour. However, MA Archives has the indexes so go there first to get the information you need to fill out the form at Mt. Vernon St.. This will save you time and money.

Records from the 1600s to 1841 are in the towns or cities where the event took place. Since these cities and towns copy their vital records and send them to the state, it is advisable to go back to the sending town/city if there is a question about accuracy. Certified copies of vital records may be obtained from MA Archives for \$3.00.

In 1903 the format changed for death registers from copying into a register book to a individual record which gives burial place; birth and marriages weren't done as individual records until 1923. Remember that a death record is located where the death occurred, possibly in another state, but they may have been buried here. Check other spellings, and of course, some were never recorded.

Census records from 1790-1900 , just for Mass., are at MA Archives, except for the burned 1890 census. There is a CD-ROM index for the MA 1900 census. The newly released 1930 census is not indexed but there are some finding aids for it. It is very important to note who the neighbors were in searching for a family because they could be relatives, or even other families from the same town from which the families emigrated.

Censuses were taken in Mass. between the Federal censuses from 1855 to 1875 as they didn't want to rely on the Federal censuses. Only the 1855 and 1865 are available now as the others were destroyed after statistical analysis was taken from them.. They were collected for representation and tax purposes.

Naturalizations are also at MA Archives

and can give the person's county or town from which s/he came. Naturalizations were done at a variety of courts throughout the state and some have been moved to MA Archives. It is important to notice who the two witnesses were for each naturalization - often relatives.

Passenger lists for the Port of Boston are at MA Archives from 1848 to 1891, except for 1872 to 1884 which are lost. During that time each ship's captain had to provide a list of everyone on board. From 1891 on they are found on a U.S. Custom list. The Federal Archives have some crew lists, and the office of the Cunard Line in England have some lists.

In the 1930's, during the Depression, the WPA created an index card list for passenger lists. They are called alien passenger lists - people who came into the U.S. They listed everyone who came in including U.S. citizens returning from another country. [This is also the case with passenger lists now appearing on [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org). Ed.] Over 1 million persons came in, and now 300,000 have been typed into a database, but the project is expected to take about 20 years to complete. They will go through 5 proofings for accuracy purposes.

The WPA index cards aren't as accurate as they could be because the persons transcribing them were paid by the card. Always go back to the original manifest as sometimes more information on a person is given, sometimes on the first page of the manifest.

Before 1848 the passenger lists are at the Federal Archives. Always look at all records on a person as they may vary.

Military records from the French and Indian Wars are at MA Archives but they give minimal information for genealogists. The records for the American Revolution and the Civil War are also there, including the muster roll for the battle at Lexington Green. Regimental histories of MA units are available



and there are individual cards for each man.

Another collection at MA Archives are probate records. Some court records have been moved to the Archives. They have been microfilmed and indexed. First you get the probate number, then the film of the document book. You may have to look through more than one film. The State Court Archivist determines what can be seen at MA Archives. Some records are in a storage facility which is under the jurisdiction of the Court Archivist who has jurisdiction for the entire MA Court system.

There is another collection known as both the MA Archive Collection and the Felt Collection. Mr. Felt collected documents from state agencies and put them in a series of records. There were about 240 volumes completed when he died but now there are 328 volumes, microfilmed and indexed by both name and subject.

The State Institutions and Prison Collection has great genealogical information but most are restricted. They are arranged by case file number, so contact the institution first. Court orders to see them are usually needed.

Another collection is Maps and Plans of Cities and Towns in 1794, 1830, and a third series. They are detailed maps of towns/cities, and are in a card catalog; most have been microfilmed.

Legislative records are also located at MA Archives. Anyone can petition the state government for what they want and it may be granted or denied. Included in these records are divorce requests that weren't granted, petitions signed by many citizens, and information about females found nowhere else.

Janis distributed a booklet entitled, "Researching Your Family's History at the Mass. Archives." A copy will be available in our section of the Falmouth Library.

### INTERNET SITES

1. [www.nara.gov/genealogy/coding.html](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/coding.html)

. This is a government site that gives better instructions for using the Soundex guide. It is a must read for using censuses that have been Soundexed.

2. [www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=1644Key=A059301](http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=1644Key=A059301)

It discusses the book, *Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places* by Laura Szucs Pfeiffer. It details over 100 sources that give genealogical information and includes U.S. marriage dispensations.

3. [sanborn.umi.com](http://sanborn.umi.com) is the site for over 660,000 town and city street maps (50 ft. to the inch) that were done between 1867-1970. They were created to assist fire insurance companies. They assessed properties and they chart the growth of more than 12,000 cities and towns which list streets, blocks and building numbers. Individual maps can be ordered. Also see [www.edrnet.com](http://www.edrnet.com) or call 1-800-352-0050.

4. [www.lib.de.us/delaweb/reference.shtml](http://www.lib.de.us/delaweb/reference.shtml)

This is a great reference site which is maintained by the Delaware Division of Libraries. It includes calendars, census data, currency converters, dictionaries, directories, genealogy, general references, grammar and style guide, maps and geographic data, quotations, time, weights and measurements and more. It includes some cemetery listings in the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, United Kingdom and other countries.

5. [www.rootsweb.com/newsletter/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/newsletter/index.htm)

is Eastman's online genealogical newsletter.

6. [www.wakemanlibrary.com/wakemanlibrary](http://www.wakemanlibrary.com/wakemanlibrary)

This Wakeman, Ohio, library site has the history of the area including early settlers



from CT who were given lands because their homes were burned by the British in the American Revolution. Many families are listed, and there are also some cemetery records as well. Click on genealogy.

7. [www.indigo.ie/~rfinder/Index.html](http://www.indigo.ie/~rfinder/Index.html) is Grenham's Irish Record finder. It is an expert software system designed to give simple but comprehensive answers to Irish records --- where they are and how to access them. This is a must for Irish research.

8. [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) plans to place the entire 1930 census online, and indexed!, probably within a few months!

9. Our program chairman, Jan Koso, has built a web site for his "pet" genealogical project, the Mace family of New England. It is at [www.vsg.cape.com/~mace](http://www.vsg.cape.com/~mace)

10. [www.linkline.com/personal\\_xymox/fraud/fraud.htm](http://www.linkline.com/personal_xymox/fraud/fraud.htm) Check out many of the fraudulent genealogies that are listed here.

11. [www.topozone.com](http://www.topozone.com) - great maps.

12. [www.mainmemory.net](http://www.mainmemory.net) is a statewide digital museum designed to make rare and often inaccessible materials available to all.

13. [lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html](http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html) is a list of manuscripts collected by the Library of Congress in 1986-7.

### QUERIES

Seeking information on the following Cape Codders: Hanna Rebecca CROWELL 1834 - 1917 who married William Howes BURGESS, a native of Brewster born ca. 1829. Also, a Benjamin BURGESS, owner/operator of a commercial house in Boston. Please reply to

[jcaspole@capecod.net](mailto:jcaspole@capecod.net). (John Caspole)

Seeking the person who was given the family genealogy that Horance Clapp SYLVESTER 111 had. He died 1990 in or near Osterville. Please contact [kelleyoconnor@attbi.com](mailto:kelleyoconnor@attbi.com) (Kelley Sylvester O'Connor)

### FORUM ON HISTORICAL RECORDS

The topic of this forum, presented by the Sec. of the Commonwealth of Mass., is Documenting Underdocumented Populations and Communities. It will be held June 7, 2002, at Bridgewater State College, Rondileau Campus Center, Bridgewater, MA. For more information see [www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aac\\_intro.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aac_intro.htm). Brochures will be at the May meeting.

### BLOOD RED ROSES

*Blood Red Roses*, edited by Veronica Fiorato, Anthea Boylston and Christopher Knuse, is a truly fascinating book about the bloodiest battle on British soil. It was published in 2000 by Oxbow Books, Oxford, England, is 8.5 x 11 in size, has 277 pages, many photos, maps and illustrations. See their website, ([www.oxbowbooks.com](http://www.oxbowbooks.com))

This battle, which took place on Palm Sunday 1461 during a heavy snowstorm, was fought between the Houses of York and Lancaster near the two villages of Towton and Saxton in North Yorkshire. It was one of the battles in the War of the Roses which began in 1455 and escalated into a civil war over the rightful succession to the throne. The Yorkist army won the day which led to the coronation later that year of Edward, Duke of York, as King Edward 1V.

A contemporary chronicler wrote, "So followed a day of much slaying between the two sides, and for a long time no one knew to



which side to give the victory so furious was the battle and so great the killing: father did not spare son nor son his father." Power, titles and land were at stake in the War of the Roses.

It has been estimated that about 45,000 men fought that day and 20,000 to 28,000 died. They knew that no prisoners would be taken and no quarter given. One side fought while facing into a raging snowstorm; hills, woods, and rivers all influenced the outcome.

This book was written by over 20 men and women who specialize in various aspects of the latest up-to-date archeological methods after the mass grave of 38 soldiers was uncovered in July 1996. The battle lasted ten hours, the snow and two small rivers ran red with blood.

Every aspect of life in 1461 has been looked at: ages and heights of the men, their health status, dental health and disease, what weapons were used, what weapons killed these men, details about bows and arrows, burial practices, clothing, the armour used, combat techniques, the positioning of the armies, and previously healed wounds were all carefully examined.

One of the many discoveries in examining the bones was that 24% of these men had spina bifida occulta, non-fusion of some the vertebrae. This is not the severe type of spina bifida where the spinal cord is exposed at the body surface.

One very interesting chapter is on archery. It discusses the types of wood used for bows, arrows and types of feathers. The book noted that the length of the bows found on the *Mary Rose* (Henry V's flagship) were 6 feet 2 inches. "There are not only huge problems in shooting these heavyweight bows but also in making and stringing them. How a medieval archer could string bows at the top of this range under battle conditions has yet to be understood. Bows of 100 lbs can be strung in the normal way by a trained longbowman but

his height, the length of his arms and, of course, his strength are all determining factors. To pull a bow of these heavy weights repeatedly, as might be required in a combat situation, takes years of practice. These years of practice made the medieval English Bowman an expensive commodity, not easily replaced". "It was estimated that at full draw the archer had a weight of 300 lbs on the shoulder muscles, and in excess of 3 cwt across his back, essentially the weight of two men". The bones of the skeletons of the men who fought in this battle were looked at with this in mind.

One appendix has lists of all known battles on English and Welsh soil, where and when fought, by whom, and the results. Listed are 288 battles on 22 pages.

Some of what is known about weapons of that era comes from the *Bridport Muster Roll* which was made after a raid on Sandwich by a French force in August 1457. It is the only known example which not only lists the names of those who reported for duty, but also lists the arms and armour the men brought with them.

It is known who owned the land in the villages of Towton and Saxton at the time of the battle. Names include: Vavasours, Gascoignes, Percys, Melton (Multon), Hungates/Hungaite/Hundesgate, Sallays/Sawley/Saintly. It is possible that two chaplains were there that Palm Sunday, Robert Swyfte and John Brandesby. Lancastrians who died in the battle include Lord Dacre, Lord Welles, Henry Percy and his brother Sir Richard Percy.

A chronicler mentions that "on the king's side, John Stafford and Horne of Kent are dead, and Humphrey Stafford and William Hastings made knights ..." On the other side Lords Clifford, Neville, Welles, Willoughby, Scales, Andrew Trollope are dead.

There are undoubtedly many New England settlers who descended from the men



who fought at the Battle of Towton on 29 March 1461 - the bloodiest battle on English soil.

### HOW A DECISION BY A MAN 2000 YEARS AGO AFFECTS US TODAY

Normally I don't even consider including something in this Newsletter that doesn't pertain directly to genealogy. However, I felt that this little bit of history was worth repeating. It came to me via e-mail, but I was informed by an engineer that it is true.

The US standard RR gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches. Why this odd number and why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they were built in England, and English expatriates built the US RRs. Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same men who built the pre-railroad tramway, and that's the gauge they used.

Why was that gauge used? Because the men who built the tramway used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, and they used that odd wheel spacing. Why was that spacing used? If any other spacing was used, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.

So, who made those old rutted roads? Imperial Rome built them for their Legions! The roads have been used ever since and the Roman war chariots formed the first ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels. So the US standard RR gauge of 4 feet, 8 1/2 inches is derived from the original specifications of an Imperial Roman war chariot --( bureaucracies live forever.)

And why did the Romans use that gauge? Because it was the width of the back ends of two horses which pulled the Roman war chariots.

There is an interesting twist to this story. When we see a space shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are 2 big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank, called solid rocket boosters. They are made in Utah. The engineers who designed them might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but they had to be shipped by train to the launch site. The RR line from the factory runs through a number of tunnels in the mountains and the SRBs had to fit through the tunnels. The tunnels are slightly wider than the RR track, and the RR track is about as wide as 2 horse's back ends.

So, a major space shuttle design feature of the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over 2000 years ago by the width of two horses' behinds! This e-mail ended by saying, "and you thought being a horse's - - - wasn't important?"

### SCOTS IN POLAND

In the medieval period, Scottish knights accompanied the Teutonic knights on their crusades against the heathen Letts. From 1550 to 1650, more Scots followed the shores of the Baltic Sea, and Poland was their favorite destination. By the 1640s there were more than 30,000 Scots living in Poland.

David Dobson has written *Scots in Poland, Russia and the Baltic States, 1550-1850*. The book is available for \$20. plus \$3.50 s/h from Clearfield Co., 200 E. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT IN 1900:

- only 14% of homes in the US had a bathtub
- only 8% had a telephone?
- there were only 8,000 cars in the US; speed limit in most cities was 10 miles per hour and there were only 144 miles of paved roads



- more than 90% of doctors had no college education
  - the average wage was \$.22 cents an hour; the average worker made \$200-\$400. a year
  - most women washed their hair only once a month and used borax or egg yolk for shampoo
  - life expectancy was 47 years
- (Source: The Family Tree, Oct-Nov 2000)

### WILD CARD!

For the last several years, I, along with others, have been using the CD-ROMs the Society has purchased. They are created by several different groups, each with its own search mechanism. It has been a great pleasure lately to use the CD-ROM created by LDS for the 1880 census. It is very well-planned and easy to use. It includes the capability of allowing the user to replace any letter or contiguous group of letters with an asterisk, which means that the asterisk can be replaced by any letter or group of letters. I found two instances, in my own family, where this was needed.

The first case was my great-grandfather. His name was Louis GRANDGENT, he taught at Boston English High School, his wife was Lucy, and they had one son, Charles. I have never found another family with this surname. Entering his name gave me no results. So I used the Wild Card, entering his name as GRAND\*. BINGO! His name was spelled GRANDGROST!

The second example was a great-great uncle, whose name was Van Renselear Gifford, he lived in Minnesota and was born in 1837. I can never remember how to spell the name, and as expected, got no hits on the first try. I then entered just VAN Gifford. Again no hits. The Wild Card to the rescue! I entered VAN RENS\*. Again, BiNGO!

When we think how the CD-ROM was

created, it may not appear so strange. First, back in 1880, a census-taker went from house to house collecting the information. We must suppose that these men were not the best educated members of the community. They wrote down what they heard, perhaps in very poor penmanship. Then, over a hundred years later, an indexer comes along to read the record. This person was probably fairly well educated and tried to decipher the writing. It is certainly possible for errors to creep in.

My final example is not my family, and I can't remember the surname but it was fairly common and not likely to be misspelled. Let us say it was COLLINS. We were looking for a Frederick Collins who probably lived in Massachusetts, and we knew his wife's name. So we entered his name, and residence as Massachusetts. We had many hits, but not the one we were looking for. So I went to the National Index, and found, among many others, the name FIEDERICK Collins, with the correct age, and living in Massachusetts. Back to the census. I entered that spelling, with Collins, and got exactly the same hits I had for FREDERICK! Wild Card to the rescue. I entered F\*RICK, and BINGO!. This, I believe, is a program error, or at least a inconsistency. The program didn't retrieve when I entered the name exactly as in the record.

Another problem may arise for which the Wild Card cannot help. Back in 1880, capital letters were usually written with lots of loops and swoops. I have often found it hard to distinguish them. And the Wild Card cannot be used for the first letter. The only solution is to study the usual form of these capital letters and try to guess what substitution might have been made,

Happy Hunting!

Mary Hunt

[Many thanks to Mary for this informative article which is very helpful to others. My aim in doing this Newsletter is just that -- giving suggestions to the members which will help them in their



research. I'm sure that all of you have helpful information. Please write it up and give it to me for inclusion in another Newsletter. Ed.]

### 2003 GEN. CONFERENCE ON CAPE COD

The N.E. Regional Gen. Conference will be held at Seacrest Rerort , Falmouth, Nov. 6-9, 2003. Members Joyce Pendery and Donna Walcovy are in charge of obtaining speakers and preparing the syllabus, respectively. The registration for the 2.5 days is \$99., and the special hotel rate is \$99. per night. By fall 2002 we will need names of volunteers to help at the conference. We are fortunate that one of these very interesting and informative conferences is in our back yard..

### HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL ATLAS AND GUIDE TO BARNSTABLE COUNTY, MASS. (CAPE COD)

The Board of this Society suggested that since there have been many new members in the past few years, that I should mention this book in the Newsletter. This book, which I wrote and published in 1995, was revised and reprinted in 1998. I have donated all proceeds to this Society for a book fund.

After moving to Cape Cod, I discovered the many historical and genealogical treasures were located here, but there was no concise publication which listed and described them. This Atlas was written to remedy that situation. It provides locations of these resources in the fifteen Cape Cod towns which comprise Barnstable County. These include cemeteries, museums, historical societies, locations where births, marriages, deaths, wills, deeds and other probate records may be found, as well as some historical sites and old buildings. Some vignettes of life, customs and practices have been inserted to give a glimpse into conditions under which our ancestors lived.

The history of each town is described including early settlers, churches, old businesses, the impact of various wars, old buildings, location of records and historical places. A map of each town locates all the cemeteries, town halls, libraries, historical societies, and telephone numbers. A photo of a historical site in each town is included.

This Atlas has never really been marketed although NEHGS buys them and includes them in their catalog. The cost for this concise and very informative 47-page paperback book is \$14.00, including s & h. It may be ordered from the Society: PO Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536., or it may be obtained at any monthly meeting. [Ed.]

### HERITAGE QUEST MAGAZINE

The Mar-Apr 2002 issue of this excellent magazine has several articles about twentieth century censuses which shouldn't be missed, including the newly released 1930 census. Included are suggestions for using the Soundex and Miracode indexes without which you may not find your ancestors. See [ancestor.search.com/soundex.htm](http://ancestor.search.com/soundex.htm).

The Jan-Feb 2002 issue, p. 103, offers a solution to one of the problems with the [www.ellisland.records.org](http://www.ellisland.records.org) database -- the inability to enter all of your known information in one place about an immigrant. This is very important as names can be spelled various ways. It also allows you to search in ways that are not otherwise possible, such as by entering only the first letter of the last name. The site will only work for PCs. See [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html). S.P. Morse designed the site as a tool to find his own relatives but he told friends about it, who told others about it ---. Remember that ALL persons coming into the US are listed, not just emigrants. US citizens returning home after business trips or vacations outside the US are also included.





# Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter

PO BOX 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536

Vol. 14 No. 4 July - August 2002

President: Donna Walcovy

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

Editor: Marjorie Gibson

## MEETINGS

July 13 Workshop. Topics will include beginning genealogy, Irish genealogy, etc.

Aug. 10 John Konvalinka of Chatham and Princeton, NJ, will speak on How to Combine the Internet and Traditional Resources in Genealogical Research.

Sept. 14 Nancy Kougaes, an archival consultant who lives in Newport, RI, will speak on Falmouth Town Records.

Oct. 12 Walter Hickey from the Mass. Archives will discuss the 1930 census.

Nov. 9 Joyce Pendery's topic will be Connecticut Resources

Dec. 14 Paul Cyr will speak on Genealogical Holdings at the New Bedford Public Library.

Jan. 11, 2003 Workshop

Feb. 8, 2003 Using pay sites on the Internet

Mar. 8, 2003 Member participation

## HELP !!!

This Society is having difficulty finding members who are willing to do the necessary work in order to keep this organization viable. Most of us who do the work now have been doing it for many years which is not good for any group. We need "new blood" with new ideas to volunteer for these jobs. It would be very sad if the Society had to disband due to

lack of volunteers to do what has to be done. There are jobs that won't take much time or commitment. Among these are:

1. Pick up the mail at the Teaticket Post Office and distribute it
2. Obtain checks from the treasurer and make bank deposits
3. Keep our CD-ROM collection up-to-date on our computer at the library
4. Take meeting minutes to be included in the Newsletter if the editor or secretary are unable to attend the meeting
5. Write an article for the Newsletter giving suggestions of where you found something that might help others. Do you have an interesting story, or have taken an interesting genealogical trip?
6. Take the Newsletter to be reproduced, put on the labels and stamps, and mail them.
7. Volunteer to be a board member, be on the membership committee, library committee or help with publicity.
8. Volunteer to help at the NE Regional Conference in Falmouth in Nov. 2003, and at the planning sessions.
9. Suggest meeting topics -- do you have a topic you could discuss at a meeting? If you are writing a genealogy could you speak about it?
10. Set up chairs for the monthly meetings.
11. Will you help with the Falmouth cemetery project?

## NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE

At the June annual meeting John Caspole was re-elected treasurer. No one was nominated for vice-president. I agreed to be VP **IF** someone would do the Newsletter and keep it to 8 pages. Since I have been editor for 9 years it is time to pass it along to someone



else.

My purpose as editor has been to provide the membership with places to search for their ancestors, and keep the Society's business basically for announcements at the monthly meetings -- something I personally feel is very boring and not why members attend.

**It would be extremely helpful if each of you would answer the following questions.**

- 1. What do you like, or not like, about the Newsletter?**
- 2. Do you want more, less, or about the same number of internet addresses? Are they helpful in your research?**
- 3. It's been suggested that it could be shorter than 8 pages. We have many out of state members -- how do they feel about the length of the Newsletter?**
- 4. Do you want more Cape Cod genealogy topics? N.E. topics?**
- 5. What do you like most, and least, about the Newsletter?**
- 6. Do you want more Society business in the Newsletter?**

**We would also like answers to the following questions:**

- How has the Society helped you? And how can it help you?**
- Will you be a greeter at meetings?**
- Attendance in the summer is lower than in the winter. Do you want July and August meetings or omit those monthly meetings? (We can't get off-Cape speakers to come in the summer due to the heavy traffic.)**

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU ANSWER THIS QUESTIONNAIRE.** You may include your answers (and other comments) and suggestions, when you mail in your dues to PO Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02635, or, email me at [mg@cape.com](mailto:mg@cape.com), or, the president at [gertu@attbi.com](mailto:gertu@attbi.com). Many thanks! (ED)

## **DUES**

The dues of \$15.00 go toward speakers, CD-

ROMs, our computer and printer, books, magazine subscriptions, the Newsletter and the ever increasing bill for photocopying and postage. We have not raised the dues for many years although our costs have gone up. It is also very helpful if you will pay your dues on time which prevents us from having to spend time and money reminding you. If dues are not paid by August, you will not receive the September-October Newsletter.

## **CARLETON A. MIXER, 73**

The Society was sorry to hear of the recent death of member Carleton A. Mixer. He graduated from high school in Falmouth, was a cryptanalyst in the Army during the Korean War, and retired as a foreman for NE Telephone Co. We send our condolences to his family.

## **NOTES FROM MAY MEETING**

Jan Koso spoke on Tracing Your Destitute New England Ancestors. This line of research began because he "hit a stone wall" while searching the old Yankee ancestry of his mother.

He discovered that his 4th great grandparents, George Mace and Martha/Patty Smart, were married in the Congregational Church of Raymond, NH, on 28 Aug 1828. The marriage records, as expected, listed only the parties, the officiant, the date and place.

In searching for vital records, he found the birth record of their first child, James, in Candia, an adjoining town. However, this birth was not in the state records. Mr. Mace's death of 1834 was in the town history.

The 1830 census only listed him but did not give neighbors, therefore no address in Raymond was given. The 1840 index did not show any Martha/Polly Mace as head of household anywhere in NH - had she died, or married? Church records were no help, nor were probate records as apparently he had no land or estate to probate. At this point Jan concluded that they were very poor people.

The key legal event that determined how the poor would be cared for in England



(and eventually in her colonies) was the Poor Law of 1601. This law detailed the responsibilities of local governments for the care, and hopefully the "reform" of the poor.

Deportations of "undesirables" and criminals to the colonies was common throughout the colonial period and there were some individuals who came to avoid the law. This resulted in large numbers of people unable to support themselves who arrived from England, including some who only had enough money to afford the passage.

Each town was responsible for caring for its poor. The most common seventeenth-century practice in small New England towns was to place the poor in private homes at public expense. Since towns needed to account for how the taxes were spent, records of those expenditures are very useful in searches for the destitute.

Often towns and cities would inform paupers that they could not settle there but would have to leave. This is called "a warning out." The following is an example dated Nov. 5, 1759, of a "warning out" from New Hampshire to Constable Clement March requiring in His Majesty's name to warn and give notice unto Gibbins Mace and family now residents in Portsmouth the space of ten days to depart and leave this town.

Larger cities appointed Overseers of the Poor who had to determine the residency of the poor in their district as they did not want to support those who did not belong to their town/city. Suits were filed against the place where it was felt the pauper should reside. Often, the jurisdiction being sued would deny that the pauper(s) in question were actually from their town. In order to bolster the case, the Overseers often supplied family information about the person(s) in question. It is these statements that are the "gold mine" for genealogical research.

Boston had a large pauper population and several almshouses. NEHGS has a 15 roll microfilm collection in their microtext section on the 4th floor. Providence, RI, also has one.

An example of what can be found is: "Dec. 18, 1823. Notified the Selectmen &

Overseers of the Poor of Newburyport that George Mace, aged 25 years & the illegitimate son of Lydia Mace & who was born in said Town was in our Alms House as a pauper. His grand Parants' names were Abraham & Ruel Mace, as he states and his grandmother now resides in Newburyport. His grandfather is dead".

An example of a town denying a claim from another town is: "Eliphalet Mace, whose lawful settlement we resume to be Fitchburg, is sick in this city. We have given him aid to the amount of \$7.38, and shall continue to supply his necessary wants till you cause him to be removed to your town, or otherwise provide for him. We understand his father's name was Eliphalet Mace and owned real estate in your town. Said Mace has a wife and five children.

We wrote to Boxborough thinking that he had gained a settlement in his own right in said town, but the Overseers of the Poor has denied his settlement to be in that town.

You are requested to pay the expenses we have already incurred on account of said Mace, & any further we maybe at in affording him relief....."

A letter from Fitchburg dated Feb. 27, 1827, denied the claim, and after further inquiry they are still of the opinion that they are Fitchburg's responsibility. They said., " his grandfather, not his father, who owned real estate in Fitchburg and after his death, the father of said Eliphalet occupied the farm for his mother, and we have no reason to believe, ..., that the father is said Eliphalet Mace..." "We therefore, conceive that our claim on you, for needful aid afforded to said Eiiphalet Mace and family, is just and hereby request you to discharge the expenses which we have incurred or may incur, on their account and also request you to remove them to Fichburg. In case you decline to comply with our request, we shall be under the disagreeable necessity of commencing an action for the recovery of said expenses." The letter was signed by the Overseers of the Poor of the City of Boston.

#### Bibliography:

- Repository of Records
- Mass. Archives at Columbia Point



- NEHGS - Boston
- New Hampshire Archives - Concord, NH
- Peabody Essex Library - Salem
- Maine Archives - Augusta, ME
- "Rockingham Co.{NH} Paupers", by Pauline Johnson Oesterlin
- Town Histories
- Poorhouse Histories state by state - [www.poorhousestory.com](http://www.poorhousestory.com)

[The Archives of the Town of Barnstable has many early records of individuals supported by the town. Families who offered the lowest bid to the town were accepted as caregivers to the indigent, until the town built a poorhouse about 1827. In one case the Town of Barnstable sent someone to a town nearly on the New York border to bring two women back to Barnstable to be supported here. These records are available at the Barnstable Archives on Main St. in Hyannis. Many of the families needed help because the breadwinner was unable to work due to accident or illness. ED.]

### **NAME CHANGES AT ELLIS ISLAND** Marcia Yannizze Melnyk

Question: Were names actually changed by immigration officials at Ellis Island?

Answer: No documented case proves that any immigrant's name was changed by Ellis Island officials. The passenger lists were prepared at the port of departure, using the papers the emigrant provided. The blank lists were provided to the shipping lines by the United States and were to be filled in as the passengers boarded the ship. Names were copied from the documents carried by the emigrants. On board the ship the officials were required to document any births or deaths that occurred during the passage. Once the ship arrived in New York harbor, the first-class and cabin passengers disembarked at a pier, and the steerage passengers were transported by ferry to Ellis Island (or Castle Garden, depending on the time frame) for processing.

Numerous pictures of immigrants who had slips of paper bearing numbers attached to their clothing appear in the many books on immigration. These numbers corresponded to

the list number that the immigrant appeared on. Officials asked the same questions that were asked when the passengers boarded the ship. The officials were instructed merely to verify the answers and had no need to write any names down -- they were already recorded on the list.

If an immigrant appeared to be ill or of questionable character, was a woman traveling alone, or perhaps gave different answers than what was recorded on the list, she might have been detained. Her name would have been transcribed onto the list of detained passengers, usually at the end of the passenger list (for New York records only), and a record of all inquiries regarding that individual was maintained. A woman traveling alone was detained until a male relative showed up to get her. Many times the detained passenger list states the name and relationship of that male relative, in such instances you will have even more information.

Excerpted from "The Genealogist's Question & Answer Book" by Marcia Yannizze Melnyk, \$18.99. Reprinted with permission from Family Tree Magazine Email Update, copyright 2002 F&W Publications Inc. To subscribe to this free weekly e-mail newsletter, go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter.asp>. For a free sample copy of the print Family Tree Magazine, America's #1 family history magazine, go to [http://www.familytreemagazine.com/subscribe\\_mag.html](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/subscribe_mag.html)

[If you think that only those who came steerage to Ellis Island are online at [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org), think again! I typed in the surname of an ancestor who arrived in 1639, and found there were 305 of that surname online in the Ellis Island records. They were not emigrants, nor did they come steerage; all 305 were U.S. citizens and were returning from either a business trip or a vacation abroad from 1891 - 1924. One man and wife of that surname were in their late 70s and were away on a cruise in 1923. The ship's manifest showed both their place of birth and their current address. I found this couple in the genealogy of that surname. The information that they left the U.S. on a cruise helps "flesh out" that particular family. ED]

The Fall 2001 issue of The Forum, newsletter of the the Federation of



Genealogical Societies, has a good article entitled, "Strategies For Using the Ellis Island Database". A few things mentioned in the article are as follows.

- The index includes 23 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island.
- Different questions were asked depending on US immigration laws at the time. For example, starting in 1897 the manifests include the immigrant's last residence. In 1907 the exact town and country were recorded.
- If you are looking for a not too common surname, type in just the surname and then you can decide which persons to click on to obtain further information.
- The passenger record screen provides additional information about the immigrant's arrival.
- The ship manifest screen displays the actual page of the manifest.
- By 1907 so many questions were asked that you will have to look on 2 pages side by side. If a page comes up that is the second page, you can then click on the "previous page" in order to find the person's name.
- Remember that if the person you are looking for changed his/her name, even by one letter after they arrived in the U.S. it makes finding him/her difficult. One person I was looking for had added a letter to her first name, and changed the last letter of her surname. I couldn't find her until I found her naturalization papers which asked, by what name did she enter the country. When I used those spellings on the Ellis Island records, there she was!
- There are many errors in these records due to the difficulty of those keying them into the database. For example, Ts and Fs, Ss and Ps, etc. As we all know, transcribing handwriting is a challenge, particularly for those not used to ethnic spellings.

### INTERNET SITES

1. Do you have old home movies that you would like to preserve? See: [www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/June02/movies.html](http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/June02/movies.html)

Why is moving picture film better than electronic media? See:

[www.littlefilm.org/Primer.html](http://www.littlefilm.org/Primer.html)

2. Scottish ancestry. See:

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

For free lookups see:

[www.ancestralfindings.com](http://www.ancestralfindings.com) &

[www.genswap.com/free.html](http://www.genswap.com/free.html)

3. This historical site includes the diary of Martha Ballard -- among many other interesting topics.

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

4. The TAG index for New York state is at

[www.nygbs.org/info/articles/TAG.html](http://www.nygbs.org/info/articles/TAG.html)

Does anyone know if there is any other index for TAG?

5. Sisson family reunion:

[homepages.rootsweb.com/~dasisson/gathering.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~dasisson/gathering.htm)

6. Nickerson reunion:

[nickersonassoc.org/togethering.htm](http://nickersonassoc.org/togethering.htm)

7. Howes reunion: Sat., Sept 21, 2002, Cummington, MA 413-665-3837

8. Fianna Guide to Irish Genealogy:

[www.rootsweb.com/~fianna](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna)

9. The Ireland Atlas Townland Database:

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

10. Early Litchfield, Co., CT VR:

[www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2)

11. Directories: [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org) and

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

12. There are a great many online sites about ships' passenger lists. The following is a wonderful site to help you. This comprehensive site is divided into sections, i.e., ships arriving before 1820; 1820-1891; after 1891. Also included are how to locate Immigration and passport records. If your immigrant ancestor returned to his/her native country, a passport will give the town/city plus other pertinent information. This URL explains the process of



finding them.

[home.att.net/~arnielong/shipguide.html](http://home.att.net/~arnielong/shipguide.html)

Other passenger list information may be found on:

13. [www.genealogylinks.net](http://www.genealogylinks.net)

14. [olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml](http://olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml)

15. [www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm](http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/start.htm). This site includes personal data for 5 million who emigrated via Hamburg 1850 - 1934. It is available now from 1890 - 1893; by 2003 they should all be available. The Hamburg {Germany} State Library has the exclusive possession for these records which list the emigrant's home town.

18. [istg.rootsweb.com](http://istg.rootsweb.com)

19. [freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.cim/~northing/immig/usa\\_ships.html](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.cim/~northing/immig/usa_ships.html)

20. [www.wvculture.org/history/linkarch.html](http://www.wvculture.org/history/linkarch.html) is a link to state archives and libraries. Just click on the state.

21. [www.searchforancestors.com/archives/vol2.html](http://www.searchforancestors.com/archives/vol2.html)

22. [www.searchforancestors.com/](http://www.searchforancestors.com/) gives tips for using search engines effectively. It suggests that we always use lower case letters in a search engine. Also, always use a singular form (church instead of churches)

23. State archives websites may be found at:

[www.rootdig.com/statearchives.html](http://www.rootdig.com/statearchives.html)

Click on a particular state. Topics some contain: ND - naturalization index for all ND counties, and the 1885 Dakota Territory Census index; OH has the death index from 1913-1937; TX has a Confederate Pensions Database; VA has colonial land patents, bible records, religious petitions, etc.; IL has the marriage index from 1763-1900; ME has some death and marriages indexes; MD has over 400 volumes of searchable records ranging from the 17th century to the 1930s.

[See the Forum, Fall 2001 issue]

## 1930 CENSUS

The following is taken from the May 2002 issue of *The Genealogical Inquirer*, published by the

Plymouth County Genealogist, Inc.

"In order to locate your ancestors in the 1930 Federal Census, you need to know the enumeration district (ED) in which they were counted."

"A new Web site called 'Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census in One Step' provides a simple lookup facility. Select the state from the pull-down menu, and the site will either tell you if there is a Soundex for that state, or it will allow you to select a city or region. In the latter case, the site will tell you precisely which roll of National Archives enumeration district microfilm to order/search to locate the address and therefore the enumeration district." See [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/)

The official census date was April 1, 1930. After the census was filmed in 1949, the Bureau of the Census destroyed the originals. Not all states were soundexed when the WPA closed down in the early 1940s due to the war. States soundexed were KY (7 counties), AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and 7 counties in WV. Also see [1930census.archives.gov](http://1930census.archives.gov)

## WHAT IS GENEALOGICAL PROOF?

The following are excerpts from *New England Ancestry Magazine*, published by NEHGS, from an article by Henry B. Hoff.

The question of what is genealogical proof has been a concern for a long time. Hoff states that one must pick and choose wisely from available sources. He gives the example of abstracts of NYC probate records from 1665-1800 that were published in 17 volumes, ("Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York, 17 Volumes") He states that they contain many errors, some of which are major. He suggests that if the original records are not available it will then be necessary to verify the information in another source.

He says that Elizabeth Shown Mills defines genealogical proof in her article, "Working with Historical Evidence: Genealogical Principles and Standards," in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 87:3 (Sept. 1999):165-184. She defines the



standard as follows:

1. Research should be reasonably exhaustive
2. Evidence should come from reliable records, correctly interpreted
3. Contradictory evidence should be rebutted
4. Facts should be documented
5. Deductions should be carefully reasoned and explained in writing

She says there are four types of evidence: "direct evidence, conflicting direct evidence, an accumulation of indirect evidence, or an accumulation of indirect evidence that contradicts direct evidence." She notes that an original record may not always be reliable. For more on this subject see the above mentioned article, or her excellent book, *"Evidence, Citation and Analysis for the Family Historians"*, Baltimore: Genealogical Publ. Co., 1997.

### **HOURS: LDS IN BREWSTER, MA**

This genealogical library at 94 Freeman's Way in Brewster is on Freeman's Way, north of exit 11 off Rt. 6. It is open Tuesdays 9 - 1 and 6 - 9; Wednesdays 6:30 - 9; Thursdays 9 - 1 and the second Saturday of the month from 9 - noon. It is well to call them at 508-896-1242 to make sure space is available. It is wheelchair accessible.

The new LDS library at 1200 County Rd. in Cataumet, is open Saturdays from 9 - 2.

### **CIVIL WAR RECORDS**

Most of the Union service records and pension files are only available at the Downtown Branch of the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The company, noted below, has a researcher there whom they say can access these files faster than going through the Archives. In addition to the soldier's name and unit they need the numbers off the pension index card.

For more information, including fees, contact them at 877-537-2000. They will help you determine the soldier's unit and will discuss research options. Their email is [inquiryhg@HeritageConsulting.com](mailto:inquiryhg@HeritageConsulting.com) and their website is [www.HeritageQuest.com/army.html](http://www.HeritageQuest.com/army.html).

The company is Heritage Consulting and Services. [This Society subscribes to their magazine, Heritage Quest.] If anyone has done business with this company, please let me know so it can be included in a Newsletter. See [www.HeritageQuest.com](http://www.HeritageQuest.com), or call 1-800-760-2455, for help in locating your family in the 1930 Federal census.

### **REPRODUCING DAGUERREOTYPES**

Information taken from genealogical newsletters are often passed around from one society's newsletter to others. The Genealogical Inquirer, published by the Plymouth County Genealogist, Inc. had a comment on my article in the Jan-Feb 2002 issue about taking photos of deteriorating Daguerrotypes with digital cameras which I will quote.

"A caution concerning the longevity of these photos [by digital cameras] : The reproduction of these photos onto even very good camera archival paper is short lived. The ink jet printers use vegetable dyes that are very sensitive to the light. The good news is that archival inks are being produced now for ink jet printers. As yet they are very expensive and require changing the ink cartridges every time you wish to reproduce a photo. Keep your eye out for these new inks and for scanners that will reproduce these photos for computer files as accurately as digital cameras."

I wish to thank the editor of The Genealogical Inquirer for reminding us that photos will not last forever, and for informing me that archival inks are being developed that if put on archival paper should last quite a long time. If anyone knows where the inks can be obtained, and the cost, please let me know. In the meantime, reproducing them by digital camera is much better than having the original daguerrotypes fade away completely as is now the case.

Does anyone know how long regular black and white photos will last? (not color which everyone knows fades in 20-30 years). Possibly photos of the digital photos will last longer? I would appreciate further information on this topic as well as comments on any



articles in this or past Newsletters. [ED]

## IMMIGRATION TIMELINE

- Pre 1790 : 300,000 Africans, 300,000 English, 100,000 Scotch-Irish, 100,000 Germans, 75,000 Scots
  - 1790-1820: 85,000 Africans, 50,000 Scotch-Irish, 45,000 English, 25,000 Germans, 25,000 Irish
  - 1880-1930: 4,600,00 Italians, 4 million Austro/Hungarian empire, 3,300,000 Britains, 2,300,000 Canadians, 1,700,000 Irish, 1,100,000 Swedes
  - 1820-1860: 3 million from German empire, 2,800,000 Irish, 2 million Britains, 1 million from Austro-Hungarian empire, 750,000 Canadians, 230,000 Chinese, 50,000 Africans
  - 1965-2000: 4,300,000 Mexicans, 1,400,000 from the Phillipinines. 760,000 Koreans, 750,000 from Dominican Republic, 740,000 from India, 720,000 Cubans, 700,000 from Vietnam, 650,000 Canadians
- [Source: [www.ellisland.org/immexp/index.asp](http://www.ellisland.org/immexp/index.asp)]

1819 was the first significant federal legislation relating to immigration: passenger lists to be given to the collector of customs; reporting of immigration to the US on a regular basis; specified sustenance rules for passengers of ships leaving US ports for Europe.

In 1920 the government of Prussia attempted to halt emigration by making it a crime to urge anyone to emigrate. In 1825 Great Britain officially recognized that England was overpopulated and repealed laws prohibiting emigration. Also in 1825 the first group of Norwegian immigrants arrived

In 1830 Congress allocated public land in Illinois to Polish revolutionary refugees.

In 1840 the Cunard line began passenger trips between Europe and the US opening the steamship era. The crop failure in Europe caused mortgage foreclosures and sent tens of thousands of dispossessed to the US. Irish emigrated due to potato famine in 1846-7.

In 1848 the failure of the German revolution resulted in the emigration of political refugees to America. [Source: The Genealogical Inquirer]

A new book by Mary Pipher, "The Middle of Everywhere", published in 2002 by Harcourt Books, tells stories of displaced refugees that our government has sent to Lincoln, NE, over the past 15 years. They have come from Mexico, Vietnam, Cambodia, Russia, Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia, Hungary, Ethiopia, Iran, Nigeria, Afganistan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and include Kurds, Sudanese and Somalis among many others. Most have had terrible experiences. They bring their own cultures, religions, music, holidays, games, ways of dressing, foods and languages to this Nebraska city just as the emigrants did who came from Europe so many years ago.

This book tells some of their stories and how difficult it is to understand our language and culture. Reading it will help us understand how hard it was for our ancestors to come to the US. The book states that by 2050 Americans of European ancestry will be in the minority.

## CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS SYSTEM

This project is compiling a database that names every individual who served during the Civil War, both Union and Confederate. It will be available at the National Archives and its Branches, the Family History Library and centers, and selected National Parks. See [www.ltd.nps.gov/cwss](http://www.ltd.nps.gov/cwss). [Source: The Forum, Spring 2002, Federation of Genealogical Societies]

## GENEALOGY HELP LIST

This is a network of volunteers in every state and in many countries who are willing to do lookups for us. They will often copy records or cemetery inscriptions and send them to you. There are other help lists as well. Look at [helplist.org/](http://helplist.org/) and Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness at [raogk.rootsweb.com/](http://raogk.rootsweb.com/)

**SANBORN MAPS:** see [sanborn.umi.com](http://sanborn.umi.com) They wre created for insurance purposes and include buildings back to 1867.

**Please answer the questionnaire on page one - thank you !**





# Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter

P.O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536

Vol. 14 No. 5 Sept. - Oct. 2002

President: Donna Walcovy

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

Editor: Marjorie Gibson

## MEETINGS

Sept. 14. Nancy V. Kougeas, an archival consultant and record management specialist. She has a MA in history and a MA in library science and has been a consultant to both the Towns of Falmouth and Eastham. She will speak on Falmouth Town Records.

Oct. 12 Joyce Pendery, CG, will speak on Connecticut Resources

Nov. 9 Walter Hickey from the Mass. Archives will discuss the 1930 census.

Dec. 14 Paul Cyr, Local History and Genealogy Librarian, will speak on What's New in Genealogy at the New Bedford Public Library.

Jan. 11, 2003 Workshop

Feb. 8, 2003 Using pay sites on the Internet.

Mar. 8, 2003 Member sharing participation.

## AUGUST 10TH MEETINGS NOTES

John Konvalinka gave a very excellent talk on Traditional vs. Computer Based Genealogical Research, Not 'Either/Or' but BOTH. In addition to a very informative handout, he suggests that we go to his website, [www.konvalinka.com](http://www.konvalinka.com), and click on 'Genealogy Events' in order to obtain an online version of the handout.

There are about 300 million people using the Internet and there are 400,000 genealogical websites, with 16,900 links to Cape Cod genealogy. There is erroneous information online, but there is also much wrong information in books. One of the best things about the Internet is the great ability to search and also to contact those who are interested in the same families or places as you are.

There are two ways to think about how to use computer resources: [1] as an index or finding aid for documents, transcriptions or references. They do not, however, replace visiting a repository. Indexes are very useful before going to a repository as they will save you time once you arrive there; [2] images of original source documents and photos of newspapers are being scanned on line. These images can validate transcriptions

An example of the latter is that of the original U.S. census from 1790 - 1930 which is, or is being put, online. In addition some are being copied onto CD-ROMs. LDS has the entire 1880 census on CDs. Some sites such as [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (for the 1880 census), [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com) for the 1900 census, [www.genealogydatabase.com](http://www.genealogydatabase.com) for the 1910 census and [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) for the 1920 census have provided powerful indexes plus new transcriptions and/or actual images of census data on the Internet or on compact disks. These efforts have greatly increased the accessibility and usability of these census records.

In addition to the above sites, there are



many volunteers who provide transcriptions or actual census images on line. One of these is [www.census4all.com/default.asp](http://www.census4all.com/default.asp) which develops an online 1910 census "every name" index for all households listed in the states and territories that were never indexed.

Other sites provide actual images of many public records. Two of these are: [www.BRBPub.com](http://www.BRBPub.com) which links to 650 free public record sites; and [www.pac-info.com](http://www.pac-info.com) which has over 6,000 free public record sites. Some sites which had births, marriages and deaths have been removed for privacy reasons. You can go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and do a "divorce records online" search online; some states have sealed divorce records, others do not. Adoption related information may be found on [www.calib.com/naic](http://www.calib.com/naic). The Social Security death index has over 70 million deaths reported from the 1960s to 2002. It is possible, for a fee, to send to Washington for a copy of a person's Social Security application form.

There are many sources of records of persons who have been in the U.S. military from the early Colonial Wars to the present time. They include enlistment records, muster rolls, pension records, land grants and even draft registrations for WW1. Some sites even offer online access to various records. Two of these are the VA State Library - [www.lva.lib.va.us](http://www.lva.lib.va.us), and [home.att.net/~weemonster/military.html](http://home.att.net/~weemonster/military.html). The one for the WW1 draft registration is [home.att.net/~weemonster/military.html](http://home.att.net/~weemonster/military.html)

Land records are among the oldest and best-preserved records in the U.S. and may contain good genealogical material. Two of these are [www.lva.lib.va.us](http://www.lva.lib.va.us) and [userdb.rootsweb.com/landrecords](http://userdb.rootsweb.com/landrecords)

The UK Public Record Office's online system for locating and downloading digital images of public records has some wills from 1840-1858. See [www.pro-online.pro.gov.uk](http://www.pro-online.pro.gov.uk)

A good people-finding aid is a large collection of telephone directories at [www.teldir.com/eng](http://www.teldir.com/eng), as is one for city

directories at [www.citydirectories.psmmedia.com](http://www.citydirectories.psmmedia.com).

Online historical newspaper collections can be found at [www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=D6231](http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=D6231). Images of original 18th - early 20th century newspapers from the U.S., England, Scotland, Ireland & Australia, are indexed and searchable.

One good site for passenger, immigration and emigrations lists can be found at [www.ellislandrecords.org](http://www.ellislandrecords.org). It can be more productive at [sites.netscape.net/stephenmorese/ellis.html](http://sites.netscape.net/stephenmorese/ellis.html). Another good site is [home.att.net/~arnielang/shipgide.html](http://home.att.net/~arnielang/shipgide.html). Another site has 4,129 ships to the U.S. at [olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml](http://olivetreenealogy.com/index.shtml).

Other sites were on his handout including many locations for cemetery and obituary records such as [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net) with nearly 3 million records from over 5,900 cemeteries around the world.

We look forward to having John as a speaker at the Nov. 2003 New England Regional Genealogical Conference at Seacrest Resort in Falmouth..

## THE NEW WORLD OF GENEALOGY

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

We often hear and read about how the Internet is changing the way genealogists do research. In the past, professional genealogists shuddered when they heard about genealogies compiled through information obtained from the Internet. We knew that the only way to genealogy was through traditional research in published or documentary records that had sources attached. So much information on the Internet was (and still is) undocumented. Times change. Now most of us realize that a combination of research on the Internet and in traditional sources often yields results much sooner than either method used by itself.

Recently, I received a genealogical inquiry through the Falmouth Historical



Society. The sender, a resident of California, had been looking for information about her great-grandmother, Elizabeth Yost, who according to family records was born in Falmouth on 24 July 1805. She had found nothing about this person or her ancestry on the Internet and wondered whether the Falmouth Historical Society might have any information on the Yost family. Obviously, living in California, she has very limited access to Massachusetts primary sources.

I immediately looked in the published *Falmouth Vital Records*, Oliver C. Brown, compiler (Camden Maine: Picton Press, 1976) and found on page 131, the record of the birth of Betsey Yoss, daughter of Peter and Abigail, born on 24 July 1805. The date was a perfect match, and it is easy to explain: "Betsey" is a common nickname for "Elizabeth" and Yoss and Yost are very similar. In addition, the records indicate an older brother and older sister. There was no additional information about the Yost/Yoss family in Falmouth vital records.

Looking in the *Book of Falmouth*, edited by Mary Lou Smith (Falmouth, 1986), I found on page 126 an article on "The Poor House." Therein I learned that Peter Yost had owned a tavern on Sandwich Road, near the East End Meeting House (now the Jewish Center). As a result of deprivations suffered during the War of 1812, Peter Yost and many others decided to leave Falmouth. In 1814 Peter sold his tavern to the Town of Falmouth for \$340. He left town with his nest egg and the Town of Falmouth moved the Yost tavern to East Main Street, where it became the Poor House and then in 1824, the Work House. After it was closed in 1960, in a second reincarnation it became the Falmouth Artist' Guild. Now undergoing the third transformation, we wonder what's next? The Yost family file at Falmouth Historical Society suggested that more information about Peter's marriage could be found in Sandwich Vital Records.

I sent this information to California and heard back that with this additional information

about the parents of Elizabeth, it was possible to locate her ancestry on a Yost family history web site with which the inquirer was already familiar. As a result, based on family Bible records posted on the web, she was able to take her Yost family back to the 17th century Germany.

Who can guess how long it would have taken, in the past, to make these connections without Internet inquiries and family web sites? Certainly more than the eight or ten hours that passed from beginning to end of this research inquiry.

### A 'LOST' CLASSMATE

While researching my husband's ancestors, we found a small cemetery in East Wakefield, New Hampshire, on Perkins Hill Road. Upon inspection of the stones, Moses Perkins, his wife, Sarah Hill, their son, William, and others, were found along with Ebenezer Hill, Sarah's father, and others. It was a wonderful experience

We could see that someone was taking care of this private cemetery by the side of the road. How could I get in touch with this person? My idea was to put my name, address and telephone number on a piece of paper, put it in a ziploc baggie, then lay it on the granite step with a stone on top of it. This was successful!

A distant relative of Ebenezer Hill called me. The stones have been power washed to show off the white granite, and an arch has been erected in memory of his aunt who left money to clear debris, brush and improve the granite walls.

We also located the Hill residence at the bottom of the hill, and possibly Moses' home at the top of the hill. More research has to be done on the latter. Moses is Don's great, great grandfather.

I have been looking for high school classmates with whom we have not been in touch for over 20 years. I went to the Social Security Death Index online and found the



name of one classmate in Texas. How to make sure he was our classmate? I wrote to the Public Library in Texas asking for a copy of his obituary and enclosed a stamped envelope. The reply confirmed that he was born in Melrose, MA where he went to school. Another lost classmate found!

Thanks to member Bea Perkins for this interesting article.

### **FALMOUTH CEMETERY PROJECT**

Our Society is preparing to continue the cemetery project that we began a few years ago. Volunteers are needed to: read and record gravestone inscription in the cemeteries; type the transcriptions at home on a PC; develop a bibliography of Falmouth cemeteries at the Falmouth Public Library; develop a bibliography of Falmouth cemeteries on the web, at home; and, a coordinator is needed for each cemetery. Training will be provided. Please contact Donna at gertu@attbi.com, or speak with her at 508-477-1947, if you are able to help.

### **1930 CENSUS FACTS**

The official census date that the census was taken was April 1, 1930. After it was filmed in 1949, the Bureau of the Census destroyed the originals. AL, AK, FL, GA, LA, MI, NC, SC, TN, and VA are Soundexed in their entirety, and some KY and WV counties are indexed.

In the late 1930s the Works Projects Administration (WPA) prepared the Soundex cards but when it closed down in the early 1940s, no more indexes were created.

How can you find those not indexed? The Census Microfilm Locator is an online searchable database where you can search by state, county, township, institution or other place name. As long as the place or institution is included in the description of the enumeration districts, it can be found. See **1930census.archives.gov**

To aid researchers, the National

Archives has purchased some microfilmed city directories for the years around 1930. They can neither be purchased nor rented from NARA as they are not NARA publications. Microfilm publication T1224, Descriptions of Enumeration Districts, 1830-1950 (156 rolls). The geographic descriptions are arranged by state and then by county.

### **NEHGS ONLINE AND ELECTRONIC DATABASES**

Members of NEHGS today have unlimited access "24/7" to a host of high-quality databases at [www.NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://www.NewEnglandAncestors.org). The site now has more than 2 million names associated with New England genealogy and is growing all the time. Most are exclusive materials owned by NEHGS and are not available anywhere else.

At the present time the vital records of 27 Mass. towns have been added to the website with more than 100 to go.

Databases now online include:

1. The N.E. H. G. Register 1847-1994.
2. The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to N.E., 1620-1633. 3 Vol. set.
3. Legislators of the Mass. General Court, 1691-1780. These include 3,117 biographies of men who served in the General Court.
4. Diary of the Rev. Thomas Cary (1745-1808) of Newburyport, MA.
5. The Diary of William Ingersoll Champney of Boston, MA. (1814)
6. Mass. Soldiers in the Colonial Wars.
7. Divided Hearts, MA Loyalists, 1765-1790.
8. MA Militia Companies and Officers in the Lexington Alarm.
9. MA Revolutionary War Pension Receipts, 1799-1807, and 1829-1837.
10. Lists of Alien Passengers in the Port of Boston, 1847-1852. This is an excellent source for Irish research.



## THE MISSING 1890 CENSUS: HOW WW1 DRAFT RECORDS CAN HELP

Over 24 million men were registered in 1917 and 1918 who were born between 1872 and 1900. These records can also help in locating foreign-born, African American and Native Americans. Citizenship status on 3,877,033 foreign-born residents is found in this collection. To fully utilize these records, the researcher needs to understand how they were created, the nature of the information thereon, how to access them, and how to determine their accuracy.

The book by John J. Newman entitled, "*Uncle, We Are Ready! Registering American's Men 1917-1918*" fills this gap. Part one deals with the history of this draft registration, examines the cards in detail and provides information on using the records. Part two details the National Archives and Family History Library microfilm numbers for each local board. Tables are made up for each state.

This book is now on CD-ROM and requires Adobe Acrobat. A softbound edition retails for \$29.95.

See [www.heritagequest.com](http://www.heritagequest.com) for further information on the 1930 census.

### INTERNET SITES

1. Old marriages in Milford, CT: [www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/marriage/new-milford.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctlitch2/marriage/new-milford.htm)
2. Update for the Barnstable, MA Census of 1855: [www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/4815.htm](http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/inddb/4815.htm)
3. Colonial CT records: [www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.ctm](http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu/chooseVolume.ctm)
4. Deeds information: [www.ultranet.com/~deeds/deeds.htm](http://www.ultranet.com/~deeds/deeds.htm)
5. "Books we own" is a list of books, whose owners will do look-ups for you.

[www.rootsweb.com/~bwo/index.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bwo/index.html)

6. How to document online sources: [www.ngsgenealogy.org/comstandtech.htm](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comstandtech.htm) and [www.cyndislist.com/citing.htm#Electronic](http://www.cyndislist.com/citing.htm#Electronic)
7. [www.scottishdocuments.com](http://www.scottishdocuments.com) is a searchable database of over 350,000 names in Scottish wills, 1500-1875. Images of over 100,000 are online.
8. [www.genealogi.se/roots](http://www.genealogi.se/roots) is a site for Swedish research
9. [www.ukancester.com](http://www.ukancester.com) is helpful for England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales
10. [www.besthistorysites.net](http://www.besthistorysites.net) is the best history resource on the web.
11. [www.lva.lib.va.us](http://www.lva.lib.va.us) is an excellent site including actual Virginia military records.
12. [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov) has 2 million images of copies land patents, grants, bounties, and some deeds from 1820-1908.
13. [www.teldir.com](http://www.teldir.com) - telephone directories
14. [pro-online.pro.gov.uk](http://pro-online.pro.gov.uk) is an index with images for probate records in the UK from 1840-1858
15. [www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld971.html](http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld971.html) shows ways of producing quality research notes

### GENEALOGY: NOT A SCIENCE

The following was taken from the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Dec. 2001, Vol. 89, No. 4, page 273.

"Genealogy is not an exact science. Like any type of history, its reconstruction rests upon evidence that is elusive, incomplete, and



ambiguous. In American research, arguably, the pre-1850 period presents the greatest challenge, not just because the frontier environment limited record keeping but also because public policies severely limited the data collected on the decennial head counts that were needed to apportion representation. In the absence of vital registrations and in an era when few citizens left wills, how, then, can one reconstruct families and link generations through censuses that name only household heads?

Researchers meet this challenge by probing widely and deeply. Drawing reliable conclusions from the fragmentary trails that ancestors left behind requires not only thorough research in all available materials but also a careful analysis of details within each individual document and a correlation of data across record types. When conclusions rest on indirect evidence, circumstantial situations, and processes of elimination, it is crucial to document the methodology and the reasoning and to present one's case in print so that others can validate or correct the assumptions that have been made."

## **MORE INTERNET DISCOVERIES**

Within the past two months I have found 2 third cousins, one on my mother's side and one on my father's side, who I never would have found without the Internet.

Many years ago when searching for my grandmother's family in Setauket, LI, I found in the 1850 census that her grandmother, Elizabeth (Darling) Bayles, age 69, was living with her daughter-in-law Antoinette Bayles, age 36, and her children Mary E., age 10, and Adam, age 4. But where was their father, Adam Darling Bayles? At the time, I wondered if by any chance he could have gone to California during the Gold Rush but I had no way of finding if this was true, or just a very wild guess.

Through the Internet I found Martha, one of his descendants (in California) and yes he

did go to the Gold Rush, via Cape Horn and arrived in San Francisco July 3, 1849. Last month I received from her Adam's obituary in the Trinity Journal, dated Weaverville, Oct. 20, 1894. It states that he left New York on Jan. 18, 1849 on the bark *Olivia*, 90 tons burden and went via Cape Horn to San Francisco, where he worked for a time as a carpenter and then left for the mines on the Feather River. In 1852 he went to Weaverville and built a saw mill where he was making \$100. a day, but was taken ill and returned to his family on Long Island not knowing if he would reach there alive.

Adam recovered and after a few months he returned to California but after six months once again went back to Setauket. In 1855 he moved to Hayfork where he built a saw and grist mill and later engaged in merchandising. In 1859, for the third time, he went east but this time brought his family back to California with him.

Adam's daughter by this time was 19 when the whole family moved west, and she wrote detailed letters of the trip from New York, via the Isthmus of Panama, to California. Soon after she arrived there she met Frank Young who was from Rhode Island. He kept a diary and a note for Sept. 20, 1859 says, "Saw Miss Bayles, like her much", which was the week she arrived in Trinity Co., and they married in 1861.

The person with whom I am in contact in California is their descendant. She sent me various newspaper copies of stories of this family, and in one is a photo of Mary Eliza (Bayles) Young (my grandmother's cousin) and her long obituary at her death from influenza in 1926 at age 85. All this thanks to the Internet.

I had been reading a book about the Gold Rush and found a website that gave the 1850 census for California. It was interesting to read the names of many of those who went to the Gold Rush whose occupation was shown as 'miner', and then see where they had been born -- most from the east. [ED.]



## ANOTHER COUSIN FOUND ONLINE

The second third cousin I found recently, thanks to the Internet, is Nancy. She only lives 120 miles away and I was able to visit her in June. Nancy has moved back to the town where our ancestors have lived since the late 1700s.

I was surprised and very pleased to learn that she has the beautiful set of Oriental Export Porcelain china that was given to our mutual great great grandmother for her marriage in 1802. I had seen it once about 25 years ago but I knew that the person who had it had died and left no children, so I had no idea what had happened to it.

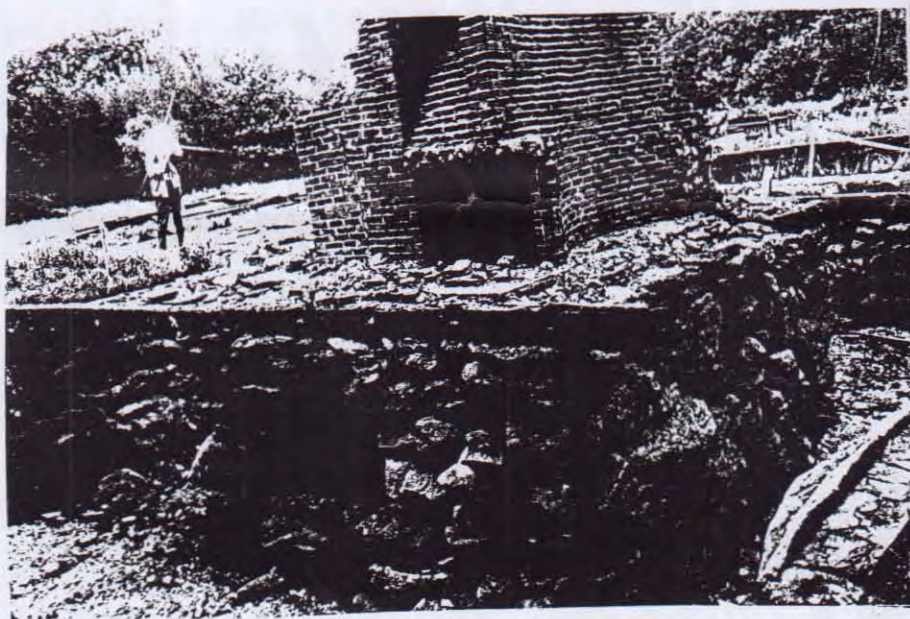
After our great great grandmother died one of her daughters got the set, but when she died two of her daughters each got a piece or two which is why I had a cup and saucer passed down to me. The cup had no handle and the saucer was deep because they didn't drink out of the cup but poured the tea into the saucer and drank from that. When I found that she had most of the set, I gave her my cup and saucer as I think that the set should not have been broken up, as did my mother.

In addition to the china, photos, and various other things that I have from this family, I also have our great great grandmother's pale green silk wedding dress with little pink rosebuds and silver stripes which Nancy had never seen.

The large two-story home that our mutual ancestor built when they married in 1802 has just been dismantled because it was beyond repairing. The huge timbers have been saved and will be used to build another house 50 feet further back from the road. The huge chimney is the only thing now standing and will be dismantled and used in the new house. Nancy took me to see it.

I was amazed at the size, depth and number of large rocks used in the fireplace foundation which took up most of what was the cellar of the house. Below are photos we took which shows the foundation.

Does anyone know why one side of the chimney is concave? Could it be because the chimney would draw better, or, would it have saved bricks? Or, some other reason? [ED]





## HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

Believe it or not, this is not a joke. It is an excerpt from the July 1943 issue of Transportaton Magazine, and was written for supervisors of women in the work force during WW2. The draft and manpower shortages necessitated more women in the work place. It is titled, Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees. The following are excerpts from its eleven points.

1. Pick young married women; they usually have more of a sense of responsibility; are less likely to be flirtatious; they need the work; they still have the pep and interest to work hard and deal with the public efficiently.
2. If you have to use older women, get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives if possible. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. Always impress on them the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. "Husky" girls who are a little on the heavy side are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman a physical examination - one covering female conditions to see if she is mentally or physically unfit for the job.
5. Stress at the outset, the importance of time; the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules ,otherwise service is likely to be slowed up.
6. Give the female employee a definite day long schedule of duties so that they will keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. They make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
7. Let them change from one job to another some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
8. Give rest periods during the day as you have to make allowances for female psychology. A

girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.

9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can not shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.

10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she will grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.

11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point cannot be stressed too much.

How might the above story help you in doing genealogical research? It reminds us that the customs, conditions and mores of the times we live(d) in, make us who we are. That is why we need to know what was going on during the times and in the places where our ancesotors found themselves. It helps us understand what they did, and why they did it, and where you might look for answers to your questions about them.

## CAPE COD NOTES

Nauset, now called Eastham, was one of the four original towns on Cape Cod; the others were Sandwich, Yarmouth and Barnstable. It was settled in 1644 by families who came from Plymouth because of Eastham's rich soil and dense hardwood forests. By 1671, however, so much of the land had been deforested to provide wood for fences, homes, barns and firewood, that further cutting of trees was curtailed because the topsoil was already eroding. Storms and high winds have continued this depletion. No one today can even imagine Eastham with dense hardwood forests and deep rich soil. The first settlers were: Thomas Prence (later governor), Ed. Bangs, Josia Cook, John Doane, Richard Higgins, John Smalley and Nicholas Snow.





# Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter

P.O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
Vol. 14 No. 6 Nov. - Dec. 2002

President: Donna Walcovy

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

Editor: Marjorie Gibson

## MEETINGS

Nov. 9 Walter Hickey from the Mass. Archives in Boston will discuss the 1930 census. *How to access a record without a name index.*

Dec. 14 Paul Cyr, Local History and Genealogy Librarian, will speak on What's New in Genealogy at the New Bedford Public Library.

Jan. 11, 2003 Workshop

Feb. 8, 2003 Using Pay Sites on the Internet.

Mar. 8, 2003 Member sharing participation.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our genealogy society is at a cross roads and needs your help. Currently we do not have a vice-president. The positions of president and secretary are concluding their second term of office in June. Our by-laws do not permit a third consecutive term. In June 2004 we will also need a treasurer.

We need new leadership to bring our Society forward. And we'd like YOU to become involved in the future of FGS. The jobs needed do not require that much time. As president, for nearly 4 years, I'd estimate my time devoted to my duties as president require about 10 hours a month. All of our officers will work with you to ease you into the duties. The experience necessary for any position is a dedication to genealogy, that's all!

If you would like to consider serving as

an officer of FGS, please feel free to talk to me at the next meeting, or call me at 508-477-1947, or email at [gertu@attbi.com](mailto:gertu@attbi.com)  
Peace, Donna

## CEMETERY INSCRIPTION PROJECT UPDATE

The Old Methodist Cemetery on Main St., has been read and the process of inputting the information into the computer has begun. The Davisville Cemetery is in the process of being read and if the weather cooperates we will finish it in two more reading sessions. It is our hope that both these cemeteries will be on-line on our website by Jan. 1st.

Winter is almost upon us and tromping around a cemetery in freezing weather is no fun. So our work will move indoors, inputting information into PCs, using Excel or Note Pad. If you have either of these programs and would like to devote two hours a week to this project, please contact Donna: [gertu@attbi.com](mailto:gertu@attbi.com)

You don't have to be on Cape Cod to help with this phase of the project. We will mail you everything you need; information to input, a 3.5" disc with the format, instructions, AND our thanks!

## FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As members of FGS, what programs would YOU like to see presented at our monthly meetings? Here are a few suggestions from the past, and possible topics for the future.

1. Organizing Your Research with the



- Computer and Without the Computer.  
2. How To Hold a Successful Family Reunion.  
3. What is the IGI and How Can I Use It?

What are your suggestions? What questions do YOU have that a monthly meeting topic might answer?

As your president, I am personally interested in Irish Estate Records. I have not had the opportunity to investigate these records and I'd like someone familiar with them to explain their usefulness in finding genealogical information.

Additionally, we might form small groups of members who are interested in specific topics, i.e., Eastern European Genealogy, Canadian Relatives, Mid-Atlantic States Research, Civil War Research; also, sharing our research tools. I have the CD-ROM for NY city Directories 1886-1894. I can lend it to you.

What topics would you like to see presented at monthly meetings? Donna

#### **MINUTES FROM SEPT. 14 MEETING**

Nancy V. Kougeas is an archival consultant and record management specialist. She has been a consultant to both the Towns of Falmouth and Eastham. Her topic was Falmouth Town Records.

Municipal records are very important to genealogists and historians but are not always located where you would expect them to be. They may be in historical societies, or even in someone's home. Many early records may be in churches because in Massachusetts the state and churches were not separated until 1836. Early town clerks may not have turned over their records to the town but kept them at home where they could have been burned, destroyed, or even still be with the family.

Municipal records are protected by law. Before 1870 they can not be destroyed, sold, or given away. Sometimes you will find town records for sale on Ebay, or other auction houses but it is illegal to sell them; the appropriate town should be notified.

The Records Management Unit for

Massachusetts is at Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point. It is necessary to obtain the permission of this Unit before municipal records may be destroyed. Even e-mails must be kept for three years, then reviewed before being destroyed. This has become a big issue because the records of all 351 towns and cities are overseen by the state. All vital records have to be kept permanently including burial and removal permits.

Terry French at Mass. Archives, head of the Records Management Unit, gives courses on town records and trains new town clerks.

The standard for preservation of records is microfilming and it is estimated that they will last 500-700 years. The microfilms can be digitized, but digital records may be unavailable because the machines that read them may no longer be produced.

School department records haven't been widely used by genealogists and historians. Student records must be kept for 60 years and then they can be destroyed but Boston will keep them permanently. However, they are in a variety of locations including NEHGS and the Boston Public Library. They may contain photos and parental information. Before 1880 few school records can be found. Plans for special students are kept for seven years and then destroyed, but transcripts remain for 60 years. Falmouth has student cards at the Teaticket school.

Nancy Kougeas, who lived in Falmouth until a year ago, was on the Historical Commission. She went to the attic of the Town Hall and found a real mixture of records stored there. Included were two boxes of old deeds that were given to the town that were thought to be lost.

There is not enough room in the town's 4 or 5 vaults for everything that needs to be retained. Vaults need to have climate control otherwise the records can be destroyed through dampness and mold. She recommended that Falmouth have a climate controlled fireproof central storage facility. Records need to be kept as the record was



created; the history of the town is in these records. The volume of records now is very large but she feels 80% should be destroyed.

Falmouth has records in various locations. The fire department keeps good records and is a good place to check for owners of old buildings. When there was an oil spill in the 1960s, the shellfish warden kept very good records. The Falmouth Historical Society has a climate-controlled vault and some town records are located there. There are state grants to towns for preservation of old records.

Any municipal department's records are open to the public. If you write to them requesting to see the records, they have to respond within 10 days by law.

Cemetery records are on index cards and should be microfilmed. There is a web site for Massachusetts cemeteries.

Our thanks to Nancy for a very interesting and informative presentation.

## MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

Joyce Pendery, CG, gave a very informative and helpful talk on Connecticut Records: Beyond Barbour, Hale, and Jacobus accompanied by several very useful handouts.

The big three in Connecticut research are: Barbour's collection of Connecticut vital records to about 1850; Hale's Connecticut cemetery inscriptions; and various books by Donald Lines Jacobus including the New Haven Genealogical Magazine which he began in 1922, but in 1932 changed to *The American Genealogist* (TAG). In addition, Jacobus set high standards for scholarship in genealogical research.

Another good source is the *American Genealogical Biographical Index* (AGBI) published by Godfrey Memorial Library at Middletown, Connecticut. It includes about 200 volumes, alphabetical by surname, taken from many sources.

The one-stop location for Connecticut records is the Connecticut State Library in

Hartford although parking is difficult if the legislature is in session. They have church records, probate records up to the early 1900s (on microfilm), land records to about 1900, the 1790 - 1930 Federal Censuses for CT, and naturalizations. In the open stacks are many genealogies, histories, city directories, and records from Bibles, taxes, atlases, etc. Connecticut never had a state census.

Materials are only brought from the archives at 10:30 and 2:00. For twentieth century records you must go to the towns and not the state library but it is important to know when each town was founded in order to locate their records. It is also necessary to be a member of a Connecticut genealogical society such as Connecticut Ancestry (which publishes a journal), or the Friends of Godfrey Library.

Another good repository is the Connecticut Historical Soc. where there is a small fee but good parking. They have Jacobus's papers, church records, Connecticut businesses and industries records, much family material, and indexed columns of Hartford newspapers.

The Connecticut Dept. of Health sent all vital records to the state. Births for 100 years are closed except to family, attorneys, or a member of a CT genealogical society.

Call before going to a town hall to find their hours and if they have the records you are looking for. Vital records from 1850 - 1897 are all in the towns. In 1960 there were 8 counties but they became obsolete in 1969 and their records are in the towns/cities.

Up to about 1850 earmarks were used on sheep and swine to identify their owners. Horses were branded. These marks were all registered and kept in each town. They will place a family in a specific place at the time the mark was registered.

Many genealogical problems can be solved by using deeds, tax liens and conveyances. Up to 1900 land records are on microfilms in the towns and at the Connecticut State Library. The original packets (wills, inventory, executors and heirs) are at Hartford



but microfilms are in the towns. Before searching for probate records check with the towns to see where their records are located.

Voter registrations may have been kept for a long time, and trade names and businesses are kept by the town clerks.

Church records may be able to fill in when vital records are missing. Up to 1818 when the church and state separated, residents had to pay a tax to support the Congregational church. Many Congregational and Church of England records have been sent to the CT State Library. But only about 600 churches actually sent them in and only 150 of these are indexed. Church records may be hard to find.

Remember that the boundaries of Connecticut weren't finalized until the mid-1800s; you may have to check for records in more than one state or town.

Many thanks to Joyce for helping us find our families in Connecticut.

### INTERNET SITES

1. [web.infoave.net/donbarb54/](http://web.infoave.net/donbarb54/) is a site created by Donald Conrad and his wife in honor of America's heroes. It is their guide to America's WW1 and WW2 Memorials. It lists thousands of monuments and memorials by city and state which can provide genealogical resources. It includes many photos.

3. [arcweb.sas.state.or.us/land.html](http://arcweb.sas.state.or.us/land.html) includes various state, federal and country records in Oregon, including land records.

4. In a recent Newsletter was a website that helped you navigate the complicated Ellis Island site, but it is no longer available. The site, [home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/ellis/ellis.html), was created by S.P. Morse but he was threatened with legal action by the Statue of Liberty- Ellis Island Foundation because he was "deeploading" the site --(finding pages beyond its homepage.) Hopefully, they will straighten out their differences so it can return.

One of our members had very good results with Morse's site.

4. [www.historyworld.net](http://www.historyworld.net). This has brief histories of events in most countries.

5. [userdb.rootsweb.com/sweden](http://userdb.rootsweb.com/sweden) has over 4 million records for 136,000 Swedish names.

6. [ahdp.lib.ucalgary.ca/home.htm](http://ahdp.lib.ucalgary.ca/home.htm) is the Alberta, Canada, Heritage Digitization Project. Texts can be located by author, title or keyword. The books have been scanned and placed online, providing rich access to the original content, including illustrations and newspapers. (Copied from The American - French Gen. Soc. newsletter.)

7. [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org) is the Internet Public Library which has been used by librarians and researchers as a first-stop site. This site has the largest collection of newspapers online; they are organized geographically for easy access. Many sites for genealogists can be found here.

8. [www.audiotapes.com](http://www.audiotapes.com) is a site where talks by speakers at genealogical conferences may be ordered.

### FRENCH GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES

Several members who have French ancestry have asked about genealogical resources in France. No one in this area seems to specialize in this field, so on a recent trip to France I bought a paperback book on the subject that might offer some useful addresses. Therein is a long list of various genealogical associations and regional groups, listed by department or region of France. In addition, there is a list of document centers, libraries, departmental archives, and a list of cemeteries in Paris and suburbs.

If you call me, I can give you the address



from the region of interest to you or I will gladly bring the book to the Falmouth Public Library for FGS meetings or on Tuesday afternoons.

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

## GRAVESTONES

Now that rubbing old stones has been found to damage them, another way to find some nearly invisible markings is by placing a sheet of aluminum foil over the stone. Then, gently press the foil into the stone and lightly rub the foil into the engraving. When the foil is removed, the image may yield details that are otherwise unseen.

Shaving cream is now thought to damage the stones due to unknown chemicals with which it is made. Plain water and a toothbrush is both a way to clean the stone and to read lettering.

(From: The Genealogical Inquirer, Sep 2002)

## WISCONSIN RESOURCES ONLINE

The Wisconsin Historical Society has 2 new online research tools to help genealogists research ancestors who served in Wisconsin units during the Civil War. Two volumes were compiled in 1886 from archival records and an alphabetical index was published in 1914. These 3,000 pages give service details on about 90,000 soldiers and can be searched by last name and/or regiment and company. See [www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/roster)

When you have found your soldier in the Wisconsin Civil War Service Records, you can order a photocopy of his Civil War service record. See [www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/ogrs](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy/ogrs)

Wisconsin birth, marriage and death records before Oct. 1907 are available and may be paid for online. Staff will search the indexes, print out all relevant records, and will mail them to you within 28 days. See online address above.

For over 16,000 articles clipped from Wisconsin newspapers between 1850 and 1950 that can be searched by name see

[www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wlhba).

To find directions, hours and telephone numbers before visiting Madison, Wisconsin, see

[www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy).

Their catalogs and archives may be searched from home at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/genealogy).

(Source: Notices from the Wisconsin Historical Society dated Aug. 14, 2002)

## WORKSHOPS AT NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives Regional Library in Waltham, MA, (380 Trapelo Rd.) is offering genealogical workshops in November:

Nov. 5 2:00 PM Census 2, 1880-1920

Nov. 14 6:30 PM Revolutionary War Records

Nov. 19 2:00 PM Census 3 1930

On Nov. 5 and 19 a tour of the Archives is available. Since workshop and tour space is limited to 20 participants, call 781-647-8100 to register, or for more details. There is no fee.

## EXCERPTS FROM HERITAGE QUEST MAGAZINE, Sept/Oct. 2002 issue

There is a 13 page article on the Witchcraft Hysteria in Colonial New England. It includes a comprehensive list of over 3 pages of names of those who suffered as a result of the Salem "witch" delusion. Stated are the person's name, birth and death date when known, location, year and outcome of the trial. Also included are 2 pages of "mis-identified, unconfirmed, and 'phantom' witches.

Following an act in 1703 Massachusetts awarded the heirs of 24 of the victims money in recompense for the deaths and suffering of their family members. The amounts ranged from £6-10 for Anne Foster to £150-0 for John Proctor and his wife.

A few sources for material on this sad chapter in our history are: *Witchcraft Delusion in Colonial Connecticut, 1647-1697* by John M. Taylor, (1908 reprint by Heritage Books,



1989, Bowie, MD.) ; *Entertaining Satan: Witchcraft and the Culture of Early New England* by John Putnam Demos (Oxford Univ. Press, 1982, New York); *Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England* (Northeastern Univ. Press, Boston, MA1991)

Another article in this issue is entitled, Is Your Family Being Auctioned on the Internet? It tells of interesting articles including Bibles, photos including daguerreotypes, tintypes, etc., even postcard pictures of churches and towns, scrapbooks, diaries, high school and college yearbooks, which are of interest to genealogists. You can use the search engines as well as the following URLs: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com); [www.oldandsold.com](http://www.oldandsold.com); [oldbooksandpaper.com](http://oldbooksandpaper.com); [www.rubyland.com](http://www.rubyland.com); and, [auctions.yahoo.com](http://auctions.yahoo.com). Remember that they can be listed under any number of different categories.

The Allen County Public Library is another article. It describes the holdings in this Ft. Wayne, IN library, the largest genealogical public library in the U.S. This Library is certainly a goldmine of information and it includes how to get there, where to stay, where to eat and other attractions in the area.

Other articles include: Making a Family CD, Identifying a Soldier's Photographs; Immigration Sources and Strategies; Immigrant Obituaries Easier Than You Think; Find It In the Yearbook; The Danish Census Almost Nobody Knew About; Life Expectancy of Adults in Early New England With New Evidence from Rhode Island; Researching Quebec Descendants Who Came to the U.S. and a list of the towns/cities that that escaped the fire which destroyed most of the 1890 census. In addition there are the usual articles on questions and answers for Scandanavians, Germans and Jewish families.

The article about life expectancy in New England bears out what I have known for a long time that many persons lived to be quite old. My maternal great great grandparents, all 8 of them born in the late 1700s, died as follows: age 88 of typhoid, 68 of a stroke, 91 of

cancer, 89 of cancer, 91 of "old age", 85 of "old age", 84 of "partial paralysis of several years, complete at last", 82 of "gravel" - maybe kidney stones? All the wives outlived their husbands and all had large families.

Maybe they lived so long because they lived on central Mass. farms and away from large cities. They lived through times when scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, chickenpox, smallpox, pneumonia and tuberculosis were very common afflictions and killed many. They survived without antibiotics, vaccines, aspirin, glasses, pre-or post natal care, cholesterol lowering drugs, dentists, heart and other transplants. They didn't have indoor plumbing, chain saws to cut their firewood, or central heat, and they walked to school and most other places. They ate meat, potatoes and pie for breakfast, used lard in cooking and didn't pasturize milk. Wells and cesspools were often not far enough apart as germs were unknown. They survived cuts and accidents while working with cows, horses, sheep, pigs and chickens and fertilized their crops with manure.

My uncle, born in 1885, was told by his mother to stop at the doctor's on his way to school to get his tonsils removed. The doctor sat him on a porch railing and cut out his tonsils and sent him off to school. He told his mother when he got home that afternoon that he hadn't felt very well all day.

With all the medical knowledge and drugs that we have today, why isn't everyone living to be as old or older than my great great grandparents?

## IRISH 'ORPHANS'

Dublin -- About 10,000 government files that will reveal for the first time details about the lost childhood of those taken into care by the state have been unearthed by the Dept. of Health. They disclose information about children who were hired out as servants in people's homes or who were sent out to work. They also contain previously unknown lists of names with



ages and details about when they were placed in institutions. See [www.irishecho.com/archives/archivestory.cfm?newspaperid=11309&issueid=260](http://www.irishecho.com/archives/archivestory.cfm?newspaperid=11309&issueid=260)

[From: The Genealogical Inquirer, Oct. 2002.]

### **ICELANDIC GENEALOGY AIDS MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Thanks to member John Peri for the following article.

Since a recent trip to Iceland I have become more aware that in addition to having spectacular waterfalls, geysers, and other attractions, Iceland is making a unique contribution to medical research through its genealogical database. This has been described by Dick Eastman (<http://www.ancesstry.com/library/view/columns/eastman/5999.asp?rc=locale%7E&us=0>) and also in online articles by the deCode Genetics company (<http://www.decode.com>). The following is mainly a paraphrased abridgement of this and other online material.

Genealogy has been a major interest in Iceland for a very long time. Most Icelanders can trace their roots back at least 200 years, and some trace ancestors back to 800 AD and even earlier. The *Islendabok* (The Book of Icelanders) written in 1130 AD and the *Landnamabok* (The Book of Settlements) written before 1148 AD contain biographies and genealogies of hundreds of the roughly 20,000 settlers who arrived from 874 to 930 AD. Many of these were chieftains - related to the early kings of Europe. Many Icelanders now exchange genealogy databases by e-mail or by floppy disk, so Iceland has a lot of information available. The population of Iceland is presently about 275,000, and from the beginning, only about 1.3 million people have been born there.

In late 1998 the Icelandic parliament adopted a law making it legal for a private company to construct an electronic database of the country's health records. A Delaware company working in Iceland, deCODE, has

received an exclusive license to build a database of Iceland's medical records and to combine and analyse these with genetic and genealogical data. The act grants deCODE exclusive rights to commercial exploitation of the database for 12 years. Accordingly, deCODE has entered into arrangements with several pharmaceutical companies providing access to the database for the purpose of researching the genetic origins of common diseases. The deCODE database, "Islendingabok", reportedly already has information about 620,000 individuals and will ultimately include about one-half of all those ever born in Iceland.

This Icelandic database promises to be of major importance since meticulous medical records on every Icelander have been kept since the second world war and tissue samples have been taken (and stored) from a large proportion of the population since WWII. Family trees have been drawn up for most of the population. (deCODE hopes to put its genealogical records on the internet.) Iceland has a relatively pure genetic pool since there has been essentially no immigration for a thousand years. The project has been plagued with lawsuits concerned with claimed copyright infringements of genealogical databases and with privacy rights regarding medical records, but these suits appear to be in the process of being settled.

To date some promising areas of research and some possibly significant findings have emerged. deCODE has mapped several key genes linked to obesity and has gathered detailed genotypic and clinical data from more than 10,000 adult volunteers. deCODE Genetics announced this year that a team of its scientists had located a gene contributing to high blood pressure. This discovery could be an important advance in understanding high blood pressure, which affects roughly one in four adults in the industrialized world and is a leading risk factor for heart attack and stroke.



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