

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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www.falgen.org

Newsletter  
May – July 2010

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

## Program Notes From Meetings

### *My Journey to the Azores and Family – February 13*

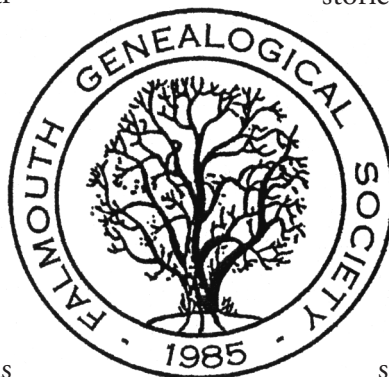
Presented by Mary Lou Botelho, FGS

*by Mary Lou Botelho*

In 1941, my family moved from East Falmouth to Woods Hole to live on the Janney Estate. My father became the caretaker of the property for the next 16 years. The caretaker's house had two bedrooms; I shared one with my grandmother Vovo Medeiros. She would take out her sewing from a basket that she had carried from the Azores. This small basket contained all her possessions when she sailed to this country to work in the mills of New Bedford. I still have her basket. Often I would listen to her tell her thoughts and stories while I lay in my bed dropping off to sleep. This was the start of my journey to the Azores.

I grew up living in two cultures. The first was my household which spoke Portuguese, made trips to visit relatives, attended Portuguese Masses with the usual baptisms, marriages, and funerals, and enjoyed the yearly festivals. I made weekly visits to my Grandparents Martin's home in Waquoit. One memory I have is my grandfather telling me that someone from the town hall had visited him to ask if it would be alright

to name the street where he lived Martin Road. The arrival of summer with the Janney grandchildren and the freedom to play and explore was what I always waited for during the long winter months. I was included in all the activities of this summer family and listened to their stories of family history.



In the early 1970s, Jo-Ann Leaf and I were team teachers at the East Falmouth Elementary School. We discovered that the materials about the history of the first Plymouth families truly did not give the students an excitement and passion for learning and inquiring about this topic. So for the next 34 years we assigned each student an actual name of one of the original Pilgrims. For one day they were that person and lived in their shoes. Often some of our students would actually trace their family to one of the Pilgrims.

These events had an impact on me. What about my family roots? Where did my family come from? What

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## Calendar of Meetings for 2009 – 2010

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| May 8   | Michael Marx – “Advanced Googling for Genealogists”                     |
| Jun. 12 | Marion Pierre-Louise - ”Don’t Call Your Relatives, Let Them Call You!”  |
| Jul. 10 | FGS Members – “Tales of our Ancestors” – stories of individual research |

## *Preserving Your Family Artifacts, Photos, Slides & Videos – March 13*

Presented by Peter Cook

Peter Cook, from Explorations Unlimited LLC - a Falmouth company that specializes in videography, copying tapes to DVD and duplication, spoke to the Falmouth Genealogical Society about preserving photos, slides, film and video tape in digital formats.

Peter emphasized that people should make multiple copies of their photographs and documents and file them in several different places. He made it clear that as technology changes people should upgrade their digital files. He said that tapes, film, floppy disks, CDs and DVDs all have limited shelf life.

Chemical breakdown is why various media fail and why valuable information should be stored in several ways. He noted that for valuable paper copies it is worth using acid-free paper. Also, one should consider buying a media safe to protect against fire, etc.

Blank CD/DVDs are highly variable in their long-term reliability. Store brands may last only eight years, but the Taiyo Yuden CDs Peter uses have been tested to last 25 years.

He said that a simple photo editor, such as Picasa, can restore colors, crop, etc.

One other tip that Peter had for folks with lots of slides that they want digitized, is to simply take a digital photo of each slide when it is projected on a wall. It's fast and cheap and with photo software, the image may even be improved!

Peter brought examples of tapes and the work he has done to copy them for clients along with machinery he uses to copy tapes and slides to DVD and CD. His website is [www.explorationsunlimited.biz](http://www.explorationsunlimited.biz).



### **My Journey to the Azores and Family**

*Continued from page 1*

was the Azores? As the years went by some of my husband's siblings and my cousin and her father made trips to the Azores. My husband Franklin and I were busy with our family and careers. But we were given pictures of family and listened to family stories. When it was time to retire, one of my goals was to visit the Azores.

On March 7, 2007, Franklin, our son John, along with Ken and Bev White, cousins to Franklin, and I boarded a SATA plane late at night. We flew for four and half hours through four time zones, landing on the island of Sao Miguel, one of the nine islands that is a part of the Azores. These islands are about 900 miles off the coast of Portugal. It is the only place in Europe that grows pineapple and tea. From the air you are able to see the emerald green islands of the Azores. We flew to the island of Terceira and spent a few days touring and enjoying the island. It was at this time that Franklin and I discovered that our Portuguese language of our childhood allowed us to be understood. We felt at home.

We flew back to Sao Miguel and spent four days touring and getting down to the serious business of looking

for our family roots. I arrived armed with photos and information about my husband's family. Thanks to the effort of James Gould, Franklin's brother Daniel Botelho, and my research, we had the names of the villages where his father Luciano and first cousins lived. We were able to find Franklin's cousins, and visit the church that his great-grandfather Francisco Souza Tavares built. His picture is displayed at the entrance to the church. In the village of Maia we were able to find the house where Franklin's father Luciano was born. We located the house of his mother Deolinda Botelho's parents, Joseph and Maria Souza Tavares.

I carried a slip of paper written by my mother, Olive Medeiros Martin, with an address and description of the road where her father lived. In the village of Vila Franca do Campo, I found the street of my grandfather Joseph T. Medeiros. She had written the wrong village but, after a visit to the village post office, I found the road and her description of the statue of King Henry that was at the end of the road.

A visit to the tea factory museum in Porto Formoso brought me to tears. I saw on display baskets exactly like

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## **My Journey to the Azores and Family**

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the one my grandmother kept her sewing materials in. After finding the person in charge of the museum, I was told that those baskets were used to carry the food for the men who worked in the fields. My great-grandfather must have sent her to America with his basket.

There was not enough time to do all the discovering we needed to do, so on April 22, 2009, we once again flew to the Azores with Ken and Bev White. This time we flew from Sao Miguel to the island of Faial. This island had an off-shore volcano eruption in 1957 which covered a village. We toured this island and one day took the ferry to the island of Pico.

Pico is the island of my father's family, Martin and Rose Perry. I had discovered that our family names are spelled differently in the Azores; they are Martins and Rosa Pereira. Once again, armed with the research of James Gould and myself, along with the address from Aunt Mary Lawrence, I looked for my roots. We traveled to the town of Monte de Cima. At a small village store I met an old woman who led me to the Rosa Pereira house of my grandmother. Grandma Louise Rose Perry Martin had told me of walking up a hill to her house and slipping in the rain. The house is up a small hill and to the right. Sadly it is in ruins. I collected a small amount of dirt and pieces of tile to take home with me. I placed some on the graves of my grandparents at St. Anthony's cemetery and on my great-grandparents' graves at St. Joseph's cemetery.

On the south shore of the island of Pico is the town of Lajes de Pico, the home of the Martin family. My great-grandfather and grandfather came to America on the whaling ships working as seamen. There is a whaling museum in the village and I asked to see the records of the ships that sailed out of that small port. I was told that those records were not available for the public but that they knew of a place that kept the best records – New Bedford, Massachusetts in the United States! As we flew from Faial, we viewed the top of the mountain on Pico Island above the clouds. It is the highest mountain in all of Portugal.

We arrived for a second visit to the island of Terceira to meet with a Botelho cousin of Franklin's family. On our first visit we were unaware that we had family on

that island. Franklin's cousin has a young family with a cute seven-year-old boy. The father works in the Azores Department of Culture. He is in charge of the monies that are given to people who do reconstruction on their property. If owners are willing to follow the government's plan of construction to preserve the history, they will be reimbursed 50 percent of the costs. He proudly gave us a private tour of his office in the 1500-year-old governor's palace.

We spent the last few days on a second visit to the island of Sao Miguel. This time I had more information on my mother's Medeiros family. I had discovered that my Grandfather Medeiros had a brother who was a priest in the village of Ponte Garca. After talking to the village men sitting across from the church, I discovered that the church had two side altars dedicated in my great-uncle's name. My mother and her brother Joseph had referred to him as Uncle Sheik. I discovered that his name was Francisco Medeiros Simas. Now I understand the confusion of the name Simas changing with the generations here in the States. Since he was a priest he had a family vault in the cemetery which when opened had pictures and names of family. The cemeteries do not expand and the decomposed remains are removed after a period of years as members are buried in the same plot.

We traveled to the village of Achadinha to find the home of Vovo Maria Branco Medeiros, my grandmother. While traveling to her village I thought of her basket and the story she told me of walking as a child with her father across the island and being handed over to a man. He walked her to the seaport and handed her to a woman who sailed with her on the boat to New Bedford to work in the mills. My cousin Patricia Thrasher and her father Joseph Medeiros had paid a visit to this village many years ago. Pat gave me a picture of our grandmother's house. With this picture I was able to find the house. As luck would have it, it was empty, ready to be sold. The neighbor had a key and opened the house. The original part of the house was at the back of the building. I was able to touch and take pictures of the lava rock oven and see where my Vovo lived as a child.

We stayed in the capital city of Porto Delgada. Franklin had brought with him his father Luciano Botelho's military papers. We went to the Fort de Sao Bras where

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## *They Went That-a-Way: Out-Migration from Cape Cod – April 10*

Presented by Scott Andrew Bartley

by Nancy Hayward

Scott Andrew Bartley of the Mayflower Library in Plymouth spoke to the Falmouth Genealogical Society on April 10 about outward migration from Cape Cod.

Mr. Bartley gave a handout with a bibliography of books about the out-migration from Cape Cod and an outline of his talk.

He introduced the topic of general migration by showing an old map of the eastern coastline of what would become the United States. It showed “Grants to London & Plymouth Companies of VA 1606” and “Council of New England 1620.” The land was divided along straight lines of North latitude at 34° - 38° (Jamestown), 38° - 40° (Neutral), 40° - 41° (New England), and 45° - 48° (ME, etc.).

Mr. Bartley said that understanding migration patterns at various times gives an indication of where a relative might have headed, although early migrations were minimal. Unless they were indigenous Indians, they were migrating into or out of Cape Cod. There were several reasons to migrate and several ways to do so. Reasons could include lack of space, price of land, climatic conditions (floods, droughts, etc.) which might have affected the food supply. One specific climatic con-

dition he mentioned was a year when it snowed every month of the year (1816-1817) causing crop failure.

There were general migrations and point to point migrations. Politics, religious issues and wars caused and/or interrupted migration. Beside the Plymouth Colony there were two separate colonies in Connecticut, and the Rhode Island colony was separate. There was also an “Oblong” in New York state (on the west side of the Hudson River) south of today’s Albany and north of New York City with settlements (Westchester, Dutchess & Putnam Counties). Settlers could migrate out of the Plymouth Colony by road, by water or by ice, which was frequently done. By 1700 there were “turnpikes” (well-traveled roads) making travel easier.

Several wars in the 17th and 18th centuries affected the colonists and interrupted migrations. Pequot War was in 1637. King Philip’s War (1675-1676) killed 5% of the settlers and 40% of the Indians. Migrations pulled back into original settlements. 1688 - 1697 was William’s War to the north and west between France and Britain. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland were affected by this. Queen Anne’s war (related to the Spanish succession), and the Seven Years War (a.k.a. French & Indian War,

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### **My Journey to the Azores and Family**

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he had served in 1918. Franklin donated the papers to the fort for their exhibit. Attached to the fort is a museum that was created in 1993. Their guide states that the purpose of this museum is to “collect, preserve an exhibit of all human artifacts related to the military history of the Azores.”

We spent the last night of our visit with the Botelho family at their village in the house of Franklin’s Uncle Carlos Botelho. Since his passing, his daughter has moved into the house along with her family. Many of the relatives who were milking cows took time to stop by and greet us before going back out to the fields. They had a family dinner for us with all the cousins. A huge

table was set up in the living room and the younger generation ate in the kitchen. They had pizza while we ate a typical Azorean meal.

Both Franklin and I were born here in Falmouth. We attended the Falmouth schools, worked in the town fire and school departments, brought up our two sons here, and have retired. Our town has always given us a respect and appreciation for family and history. This influence was the driving force for us to search for our family background and discover our ancestors. There are still lots more to discover about our families. Another trip back to the islands and more research is our plan. I read once that we are remembered as long as someone says or reads our name. This is the mission of genealogy and the respect we can give our ancestors.



## *From the President*

Ralph Wadleigh

whplar@comcast.net

It's been a busy winter for your Society. We have had some interesting monthly meetings, a few good trips to Boston and lots of visitors to our Tuesday workshops. We have also finished twenty years of *Falmouth Enterprise* obituary indexing. Not bad for our little company of seekers! With the warmer weather coming on we'll be able to continue work on the Cemetery Transcription Project, especially the photography side of it. I would encourage all of you to help out with our activities. I would also encourage you to make suggestions in the realm of genealogical-related activities which could help the membership or the community as a whole.

I can think of two things that each of you could do right now. First help out with the census – by now you

should have sent your card in, but some of us are now working for the census and will need support. Second, be on the alert for legislative moves to block access to vital records. They are constantly popping up and they all seem to have unintended consequences. During this legislative session no less than seven bills were introduced having genealogical issues. The Massachusetts Genealogical Council monitors these developments on our behalf. FGS is a proud member of this council. You can follow its work on its website [www.massgencouncil.org](http://www.massgencouncil.org).

As always, I appreciate your comments and feedback. Be sure to plan to attend our upcoming monthly meetings. They always are a good place to network and learn.



### **Out-Migration from Cape Cod**

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1754-1763) affected migrations mightily.

After the end of the French and Indian War, Albany became the center of a circle which would transcribe the direction migrations took. Westward expansion extended to about a line down through the Appalachian Mountains. Cape Codders got introduced to other parts of the country. Mr. Bartley suggested that on-line old newspapers might be a source of useful information for research. After the French and Indian War people saw newspaper ads for land elsewhere. He said that he thought “migraters” probably rented land before they bought. He mentioned major social change, land price increases and the snowy year. He said that the Revolutionary War stopped all migration.

Mr. Bartley said that reading someone's travel experience might have encouraged migration. In 1787 the first travel guide was written. One slide showed land for sale in New York state in 1819. Migration occurred on major rivers. In 1839 in Philadelphia, H.S. Tanner published “American Traveler.” It had a 1720 map of New England showing migration patterns. Quakers from Sandwich, Falmouth and Nantucket moved

to New Jersey and the southern colonies. A “District of Maine” migration map showed there were Maine settlements before the French and Indian War. Western Massachusetts opened up to migration after the Treaty of 1763 at the end of the French and Indian War. One creative census enumerator added a unique column headed “From whence they came.”

In the 1740s an unmapped area of New York state showed Cape Cod settlers. In 1759 (during the French and Indian War), the Acadians were ejected from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, then those areas were advertised to south-east Massachusetts residents. Some people migrated there but returned to Massachusetts later. In the 1770s the Tories (the Loyalists) were vanquished. Vermont took their land. In 1787-1788 journals were being published by Jabez Fitch who traveled in New England. Rivers and canals took New Englanders West. In the 1780s - 1790s many people left Cape Cod because of political and religious strife.

Mr. Bartley suggested that researchers search court records, consider crop failures/weather conditions. He noted that war stopped fishing. He suggested that in looking at church records one look at baptism records, admission and dismissal records and the business records of the church as some memberships are there.

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



I read an interesting article in the April 2010 issue of *Smithsonian*. It was "Ireland's Forgotten Sons" by Abigail Tucker. Amateur archeologists William and Frank Watson uncovered a mass grave near Malvern, PA.

A railroad company document found in a file belonging to their grandfather, who had worked for the railroad, led them on this search. The file of documents and letters collected during an internal investigation in 1909 wrote of an 1832 cholera outbreak. The outbreak occurred among a construction crew working on Mile 59 of the Philadelphia-Columbia line.

On Mile 59 workers had to level a hill and use the excavated material to fill in a nearby valley to level the ground for the horse-drawn railroad. Workers came from rural areas of northern Ireland to perform this punishing labor. In the summer of 1832 cholera swept the Philadelphia area. The workers fled their shanty town, but local area homeowners fearing contamination turned them away. The men returned to the camp where many died and were buried in a mass grave.



### Cape Cod Genealogical Society Plans Research Trip To Boston

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society is sponsoring a research bus trip to Boston on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

The destinations are the Boston Public Library and the NEHGS Library. The price is \$35.00, and all are welcome.

More details about the trip and a registration are online on the CCGS Website at <http://blog.capecodgensoc.org/>. Look for Bus Trip in the list of Topics on the right. You can also call Ellen Geanacopoulos at 508-432-5469.

Identifying the remains was difficult because these workers were not listed in records of that time.

The passenger list of the *John Stamp* which came from Ireland to Philadelphia in the spring of 1832 may be the best source for identification. The passenger list was compared to later census records to identify "missing" immigrants. One of the skulls was that of a teenager with a genetic dental abnormality. John Ruddy of Donegal was a teenager. Later research showed the dental abnormality in a current Ruddy family of Donegal.

The Watsons are raising funds for DNA testing of the skull and the current Ruddy family. If there is a match, the skeleton will be sent to Ireland to be buried with the family. I found the use of the same research tools to identify the skeleton that we use to find our ancestors interesting.



### FGS Welcomes New Member

#392 Gail Donkin of Cataumet.

#### Exploring New Paths to Your Roots

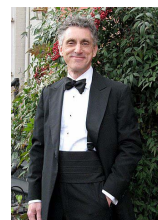
11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



**6-10 April 2011  
Springfield, Massachusetts**

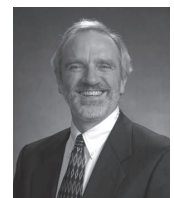
Featuring over 50 genealogical experts and 100 informative lectures, workshops, the Ancestors Road Show, Librarians and Teachers Day, and popular Special Interest Groups.

#### National Speakers



##### John Philip Colletta

Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, John Philip Colletta is a popular lecturer. For 21 years he taught workshops at the National Archives and courses for the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Colletta is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. His publications include articles, two manuals, and one "murder-mystery-family-history."



##### Paul Milner

Paul Milner, a native of northern England, is a professional genealogist and lecturer. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for 30 years. He is the author of several books on English and Scottish genealogical research. He has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for over 35 years.

**More information at  
[www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org)**

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

### FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 2107

Teaticket, MA 02536-2107

Membership dues for fiscal year 2011 (1 June 2010 to 31 May 2011) of \$20.00 are due and payable now. Dues cover a spouse's membership and include a subscription to the newsletter, printed and mailed, or e-mailed as a PDF (Portable Document Format) file or both.

If you care to add a gift, it will help the Society in acquiring new CDs and books to aid your research. The Falmouth Genealogical Society is a 501(c)(3)-charitable/educational organization, and thus all donations and gifts to the Society are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Annual membership fee (\$20 per household)   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift to the Society general funds                   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Gift to the Cemetery Transcription Project       \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed                               \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address (Unless information has changed since last year, **Name(s)** are sufficient.)

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

Street address \_\_\_\_\_

Town, state, zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer my newsletter by (check one only) ☐ regular mail ☐ e-mail ☐ both regular mail and e-mail.

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Circle the months during which the temporary address is in effect:

January	February	March	April	May	June
July	August	September	October	November	December

Suggestions for the Board \_\_\_\_\_

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Opportunities to help the Society:

1. Cemetery Transcription Project: Contact Donna Walcovy (508-477-1947 or d.quenzel@comcast.net) for details.
2. Membership Chair (Solicit new members and follow up on old members).
3. Associate Editor (Take and write program notes for the Newsletter).
4. Meeting Room Chair (set-up and restoration of the meeting room).

If you can help out, please talk to President Ralph Wadleigh (508-548-3408 or whplar@comcast.net).

