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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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www.falgen.org

Newsletter  
February – April 2009

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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.*

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## Program Notes From Meetings

Joint Meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies

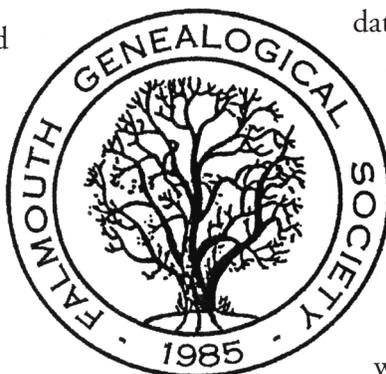
*Compiling the Genealogy of A House Using The Barnstable County*

*Registry of Deeds Website <http://www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us/> – November 8, 2008*

Presented by Marianne Lockwood Shafer, FGS

*by Marianne Lockwood Shafer*

As an introduction, Marianne Shafer opened with a surprising statement: “You cannot compile the genealogy of a house using this website,” <http://www.bcrd.co.barnstable.ma.us/>. She then went on to explain that the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds website tells who previously owned the land, not the house that sits on the land. But, by initially determining the date your house first shows up on the land, you can use that as your target date,



and then trace your land back to that point. This date can be found online through each town's Assessor's Office or Property Evaluations page. Just enter your address and search to find "Year Built." However, she cautioned, especially with very old houses, sometimes the house was built earlier and then moved to its current location. All you can do in that case is search the deeds that will show up on the BCRD website, looking for words that might indicate that a house was on the land at a certain date.

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## Calendar of Meetings for 2009

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Feb. 14 | Artifacts Day  |
| Mar. 14 | Michael Brophy – Irish-American Catholic Genealogical Research                     |
| Apr. 11 | Mary Sicchio, Archivist – Genealogical Holdings of the Falmouth Historical Society |
| May 9   | Paul Cyr, Librarian – Genealogical Holdings of the New Bedford Free Public Library |
| June 13 | Tales of Our Ancestors   |
| July 11 | Leslie Huber – Family Search.org   |

### *We're Back At The Falmouth Public Library*

We are pleased to be back at the Falmouth Public Library for our meetings held on the second Saturday of each month; the downstairs meeting room now has shades. Our Tuesday help sessions are from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library in our new Genealogical Society area and by appointment at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road. Call Joyce at 508-540-2849 for an appointment.

## The Genealogy of a House

*Continued from page 1*

Beginning her presentation with a Microsoft Power-Point slide show of photos of historic Cape Cod houses, Marianne told a story for each house: about the original owner, the family of the original owner, or about another former occupant of the house. She related how the head of a wild boar, teeth and all, was found during one renovation of the c.1780 Charles Weeks house in Falmouth. Studying the Osterville Daniel Crosby house, c.1790, revealed through a poem that a water mill was built by “the Crosby boys.” Another Crosby, Enoch, was reported to be the title role model for James Fenimore Cooper’s Revolutionary War story, “The Spy.” Marianne showed a photo of the Hoxie House Museum in Sandwich and told the tale of one Hoxie, Joseph, who shot the last and meanest wolf in all of Sandwich, Falmouth and Barnstable, a wolf who had killed about 3,000 sheep.

Showing photos of engravings from an old book of Longfellow’s poems led to Marianne’s reading his little known poem, “Haunted Houses” in which he wrote that “All houses wherein men have lived and died are haunted houses.” Longfellow’s poem went on to describe these “harmless phantoms” gliding through houses “on silent feet.” Marianne used this poem to entice participants to find the harmless phantoms that once lived in their houses, and to use the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds website to do so.

After the slide presentation, she distributed a handout to participants which thoroughly described the website process and necessary computer requirements that will be helpful reference tools for using the website at home. Also included in the handout were pages of suggested examples of how to record the information once it is found.

Finally, Marianne demonstrated the use of the BCRD website through Internet Explorer to compile the “genealogy” of the c.1863 Andrew Jackson Handy house in Falmouth. This process discovered 13 previous owners from the time the house, built c. 1790, was first documented on its current lot.

Before the question and answer period, Marianne

distributed two more handouts. One, contributed by David Martin, was a “Tool Kit” page from *Family Tree Magazine*, listing websites, books and organizations helpful for tracing the history of a house. The other, compiled by Marianne, was a list of Suggested Readings on Cape Cod History, Town History, and House History. Participants were encouraged to investigate this added information after they found their previous owners, to try to come up with some good stories to enhance their “genealogy of a house.”

### *Suggested Readings on Cape Cod History:*

- Deyo, Simeon L., ed. *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts, (1620-1890)*. New York: H.W. Blake & Co., 1890.
- Freeman, Frederick. *History of Cape Cod*. Boston, MA: Rand & Avery, 1862.

### *Suggested Readings on Town History:*

- [www.clamsnet.org](http://www.clamsnet.org) – Under “Search by” enter Subject, then enter the name of your town and state, (Falmouth, MA). You will find a long list of books, etc., dedicated to your specific town, and available through the CLAMS library system.

### *Suggested Readings on House History:*

- Green, Betsy. *Discovering the History of Your House*. Santa Monica, CA: Santa Monica Press, 2002.
- Howard, Hugh. *How Old is This House?* New York, NY: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1989.

### *Suggested Fiction: (not in the handout)*

- Hoffman, Alice. *Blackbird House*. New York, NY: Doubleday, 2004. This story traces the lives of the different families who once occupied an old Cape Cod house.

Extra handouts and a complete list of Suggested Readings for historical research are available for those who missed the presentation by contacting Marianne Shafer at [maricafe@aol.com](mailto:maricafe@aol.com).

## Ancestral Holiday Food Fest – December 13, 2008

by Ralph Wadleigh

On December 13, 2008, the monthly meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society featured something new – the first Ancestral Food Fest. It was truly a holiday event featuring treats prepared by many of the attendees using recipes handed down in their families. As people arrived it became quite obvious that there would not be a shortage of food! Treats ranged from potato pancakes to rum balls, and from gingerbread men to springerle.

One of the most exotic treats was Maki Zushi, prepared by Ed Shibata. The history of this dish derives from Japanese immigrants to the American interior having to make their traditional foods without access to seafood. In this case, the roll was made with a seaweed (nori) skin, and a filling made with seasoned rice, scrambled egg strips, red pickled ginger, seasoned shitake mushroom, seasoned gourd, cucumber and snow peas. The ingredients were an odd number for good luck. Ed's maternal grandmother, Tokiwa Nakaoka, taught him the process.

Despite being in France, Joyce Pendery provided two German dessert favorites, pfeffernisse and springerle, prepared from her grandmother's recipes. It was interesting to see the special rolling pin used to impart a design on the springerle and it was nice to have a picture of her grandmother watching over the proceedings.

Ethel Whitford's mahagony (sic) cake was provided by Judy Wadleigh using a recipe passed down in her Whitford line. However, she had to admit that the identity of Ethel Whitford and her relationship to Judy remains a mystery. At any rate, the cake was delicious!

We also passed around an old handwritten cookbook. It was interesting to note that there were no oven temperatures given and the measurements for the ingredients were rather imprecise to our modern eyes.

Steve Hemberger told us about a family relish recipe, which we all wished he had made. One member promised to make it herself! Marianne Shafer's great grandmother's French apple cobbler was a real hit! My apologies to the others who participated that I did not mention.

Everyone joined in the fun either by giving a little talk about holiday food they remembered or by taking a plate and filling it with samples of the wonderful food prepared for our enjoyment. We will probably be repeating this program next December, so get those old cookbooks out and see what you might be able to prepare! Oh, if you don't want to cook you won't have to. Just come and join the fun!



### Uncle Remus Was A Horse Thief and Train Robber

*This story was contributed by Ralph Wadleigh*

Judy Wallman, a professional genealogy researcher in southern California, was doing some personal work on her own family tree. She discovered that Harry (senator (D) from Nevada ) Reid's great-great uncle, Remus Reid, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. Both Judy and Harry Reid share this common ancestor.

The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows in Montana territory. On the back of the picture Judy obtained during her research is this inscription:



'Remus Reid, horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives, convicted and hanged in 1889.' So Judy recently emailed Senator Harry Reid for infor-

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## Family Research in Congregational Church Records – January 10, 2009

Presented by Rev. Dr. Douglas K. Showalter  
Senior Minister, First Congregational Church, Falmouth

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Rev. Showalter began his presentation with a quiz to determine how much participants knew about the religious history of the early English settlers in Massachusetts. He noted that many scholars view the Pilgrims as part of the Puritan movement. They speak of the Separatist Puritans of Plymouth Colony and the Non-Separatist Puritans of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Both groups were Calvinists and very critical of the Church of England. The Pilgrims went so far as to reject that church completely. Bay Colony settlers were more affluent and more numerous than those in Plymouth Colony. The Puritan movement in America came to be known as Congregationalism.

Early Congregationalists worshipped in meeting houses that were built by each town for use by the town church. Those meeting houses tended to be square buildings, a shape thought to provide better acoustics. They were not considered “sacred space.” Town meetings were also held in them. The only surviving 17th century Puritan meeting house is in Hingham. Later Congregationalists worshipped in church buildings, which usually were rectangular in shape, with the entry opposite the pulpit, on the shorter ends, providing longer, narrower sanctuaries.

Sucknesset was founded in 1660-1661 and incorporated in 1686; the name was changed to Falmouth in 1694. The town’s first lay preacher, who served from 1677 to about 1684, was Jonathan Dunham, who later moved to Martha’s Vineyard. Samuel Shiverick served as the second lay preacher from about 1687 through 1703. Harvard graduate Joseph Metcalf served as the first ordained minister of the town and church, arriving when the church was gathered in 1708 as the Church of Christ in Falmouth with at least twenty members.

Until 1790 the Falmouth church required a conversion experience for full membership, which permitted one to receive communion and baptism for one’s self and one’s children. However, some Congregational churches also initiated a “half way covenant” that granted limited

membership permitting baptism, but not communion, to those who lived Christian lives but had no conversion experience. Between 1790 and 1816 a conversion experience was no longer required for full membership in Falmouth. As a result of the early 1800’s religious revival known as “The Second Great Awakening,” the Falmouth church began in 1816 to require again a conversion experience for full membership. It was in this period that many Massachusetts Congregational congregations split, some became Unitarian, whereas many, like the Falmouth church, remained Trinitarian Congregational. In the 20th century, the Falmouth church no longer required a conversion experience for full membership.

The earliest religious records of the community are included in the Proprietors’ Records of Sucknesset, available at Town Hall. Records of the Falmouth church from its gathering in 1708 to 1731 are missing. Church records are complete thereafter and can be found at the church. (A transcription of the church’s records from 1731 –1833 can be found at Town Hall.) Included in church records are:

- lists of members in full communion
- indications of those who transferred into the church from other churches
- baptisms with no dates of birth included. Some families had several children baptized at the same time. Others were baptized as adults.
- records of church discipline procedures that describe nonconforming behavior of members and efforts of church leaders to convince wayward members to confess, repent, and seek forgiveness, so they could be accepted back into the fold.
- lists of funerals attended. Death dates were included in later records
- lists of marriages were included in later records

*Continued on page 5*

## Congregational Church Records

*Continued from page 4*

About 1777 the (First) Congregational Society in Falmouth was formed, on behalf of the town and in accordance with Massachusetts laws, to oversee the use of town tax dollars to support the town's church and manage such civil affairs as maintaining the meeting house, ministerial compensation, and pew sales. The society's records are mingled with Falmouth Town Records until the society began to keep its own separate ledger in 1804, now in the possession of the Falmouth Historical Society.

In Massachusetts, church and state were not separated until 1834. At that point the society could no longer use town tax dollars in its work. Later records of the society are found in the church. The society ended in 1836 when the Falmouth church was legally incorporated.

Rev. Showalter also distributed a "Select Time Line of American Congregation History," from the 1500s to the present. The Winter 2009 issue of *Spritsail*, a Journal of the History of Falmouth and Vicinity published by the Woods Hole Historical Collection, includes an article by Rev. Showalter entitled, "First Congregational Church and the 1812 Quissett Revival." *Spritsail* is available at the Falmouth and Woods Hole Historical societies as well as at local book stores.

### *Major Repositories for Congregational Materials*

- Congregational Library, 14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108; (617) 523-0470; [www.14beacon.org](http://www.14beacon.org). The library is in the process of putting their catalog of 225,000 books online.
- Franklin Trask Library, Andover-Newton Theological School, 210 Herrick Rd., Newton Centre, MA, (617)-964-1100; [www.ants.edu/library/](http://www.ants.edu/library/)

### *Overview of American Congregationalism*

- von Rohr, John. *The Shaping of American Congregationalism, 1620-1957*. Cleveland Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 1992. This book is an overall source of information on Congregationalism.
- Young, J. William T. *The Congregationalists*. (Denominations in America, Number 4). New York:

Greenwood Press, 1990. This book includes thumbnail biographical sketches of noted Congregationalists.

### *New England Congregationalism*

- Taylor, Richard H. *The Churches of Christ of the Congregational Way in New England*. Organized by state and country, this book provides information on every Congregational Church that ever existed in New England.

### *Massachusetts Congregationalism*

- Worthley, Harold Field. *An Inventory of the Records of the Particular (Congregational) Churches of Massachusetts Gathered 1620-1805*. (Harvard Theological Studies XXV). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1970. This book is a well-documented compilation of information on all Congregational Churches in Massachusetts up to 1805.
- Available on Google Books: Clark, Joseph W. *A Historical Sketch of the Congregational Churches in Massachusetts from 1620 to 1858*. Boston: Congregational Board of Publication, 1858.



## Uncle Remus Was A Horse Thief

*Continued from page 3*

mation about their mutual great-great uncle. Believe it or not, Harry Reid's staff sent back the following biographical sketch for her genealogy research:

'Remus Reid was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1883, he devoted several years of his life to government service, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.'

That's real POLITICAL SPIN! THAT is how it's done folks! .

## *From the President*

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

JSPendery@msn.com

### R U MY CUZN?

Text messaging is a popular way for 21st century youth to communicate with one another and to develop interpersonal relationships. Members of older generations (like some of us!) are aware of another approach: comparing family trees and as a result, sometimes discovering that we are distant cousins of other genealogical society members, of friends, or even of our spouses.

This light bulb turned on for me once again at the 11/08/08 joint CCGS/FGS meeting at CCCC. (How's that for text messaging?) I realized I was surrounded by three distant cousins. All three are members of CCGS, and two are members of both CCGS and FGS. In two cases, we have common Cape Cod Mayo ancestors, and in the other case, common Cape Cod Crosby ancestors. And our member Bob Rice has found several Rice cousins among FGS members.

One of our members recently commented that she has frequently found that new acquaintances, toward whom she feels a special affinity, turn out to have ancestors in common with her.



### *The Joy of Finding Cousins*

by Janet B. Chalmers

As the result of an email I received last week from an unknown cousin I've had a wonderful time indulging my genealogical obsession. About two months ago I bit the bullet and posted a portion of my family tree on Ancestry.com, hoping to make a breakthrough in my Mahady family research. I have come a long way learning about my mother's Irish roots and learning about members of her extended family. I wish I had asked her questions about Uncle Tom and other relatives she occasionally mentioned, and what she knew about her grandparents who emigrated from Ireland, but when I was young I didn't realize that I would ever really care. A few years ago, when I feared it was too late to learn about my mother's relatives, I started looking anyway, and found some other folks who were trying to sort out the Mahady family too.

Many years ago, when I was just beginning my own research, a good friend and I discovered we have common Hoover ancestors from Maryland. More recently, my older son discovered that he and his wife are sixth cousins through that same Maryland Hoover (vacuum cleaner) family. This meant that my good friend, my daughter-in-law's mother and I are all fifth cousins! Although my late husband did not know it, he and I were twelfth cousins through a Salisbury, MA, Barnard line. The world is smaller than I thought.

Much to my dismay, not many FGS members have returned the Membership Survey included in the November Newsletter, but among those responding, several indicated an interest in helping to create an up-to-date listing of family names each FGS member is researching. We hope to get this project underway early in 2009 and to post the results on our FGS web site so we can begin to compare our family trees. Perhaps we will then all discover more CUZNS!

I'm excited to have found Andrea and Denise, both descended from my grandfather's sisters. We shared our knowledge and did more research on our downlines, and I filled them in on what I know of our common ancestry. For joy, it's not too late! Seek out your cousins.



*From the Falmouth Enterprise*

### *Once Upon A Time ...*

20 Years Ago

January 16, 18, 1989

The members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society have made it their hobby to get to the roots of their family trees.

"It's just like eating peanuts," member Dorothy E. Sandlin of Teaticket said at a workshop held on Saturday morning at the Falmouth Public Library. "Once you get started, you want to know more and more."

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



The Falmouth Public Library has recently added three new titles to its Reference Genealogy collection. They have added volumes 4 and 5 to *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635* which can be found at 929.274.

The other new title is *New Englanders in the 1600s: A Guide to Genealogical Research Published Between 1980 and 2005*. It was written by Martin E. Hollick and can be found at 929.4 Hol. Both are publications of NE-HGS, the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

I am also working on updating *A Guide to Genealogical Resources* at the Falmouth Public Library that Mary Hunt had compiled in 1998. I hope to put the new version online on our website as Mary Hunt's is now.



## Letter to the Editor

Recently while trying to resolve an apparent discrepancy in my family history I discovered your cemetery project.

The project was very helpful to me because it allowed me to view not only the grave-stones of specific people, but I was able to view a large sampling of the stones used in Falmouth to help me determine the possible age of the stones of interest to me.

The "family group" format seemed quite promising to me, especially if contributions based on high quality sources could be accepted. The possibility that otherwise unavailable resources such as bible records, family correspondence, and so forth could become available seems to me an exciting one.

I realize that an immense amount of volunteer effort goes into a project such as this, as well as a substantial amount of money.

I'd like to offer a modest donation in support of the cemetery project from which I've benefited. I only wish I could afford more.

I wish you the best of success as this project proceeds. It is a valuable gift to the genealogical community, and



Helen Erickson listens to Richard Harbison at a recent Tuesday afternoon help session at the Falmouth Public Library. FGS members are present from 2 to 4 p.m. in the genealogical section of the library to give help to visitors and members.

I hope and expect that it will be a magnet site for the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

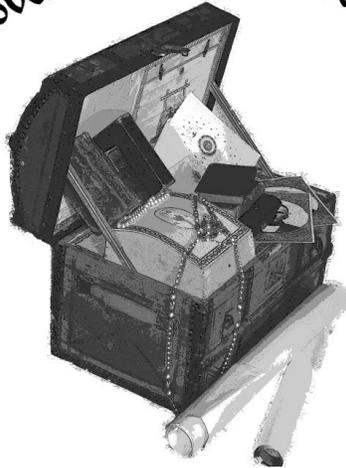
Sincerely,  
Harlow Chandler  
Keswick, VA

# New England Regional Genealogical Conference

22-26 April 2009

Manchester, New Hampshire  
Expo Center and adjoining Radisson Hotel

*Discovering family Treasures*



The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC), an umbrella organization for New England genealogical societies, will hold its tenth genealogical conference in Manchester, NH, this coming April. The conference website has the full program and allows online registration. The URL is:

<http://www.nergc.org/2009/>

NERGC 2009 will help bring together genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds. Whether you are just beginning the search for your family, are already an advanced researcher, or perhaps even a professional genealogist, the NERGC 2009 conference will provide you with an ideal opportunity to advance your knowledge and research skills.

The conference is being held at the Radisson Hotel Manchester and the adjoining Expo Center of New Hampshire, located at 700 Elm Street.

Telephone:	603-206-4109 or 800-333-3333
Rate:	\$127+ single/double/triple/quad
Hotel website:	<a href="http://www.radisson.com/manchesternh">www.radisson.com/manchesternh</a>
Group Code:	NERGC

When making reservations, be sure to give—online or by phone—the group code above to get the special NERGC rate.

**NOTE: EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 28 FEBRUARY 2009**