

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol 20 Number 2
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536
www.falgen.org

Newsletter
May – July 2008

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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.

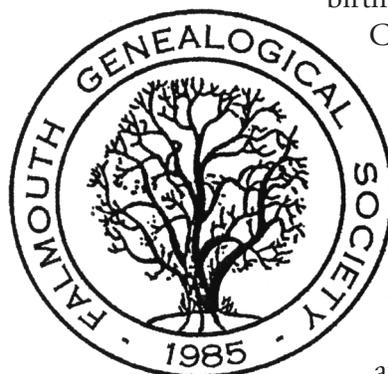
Program Notes From Meetings

What's New On The Web – February 9, 2008

by Ed Shibata

Using the Falmouth Senior Center wireless network and Richard Harbison's PC laptop, six members of the Society presented some of their favorite websites at the February 9, 2008, meeting. Richard had bookmarked the sites before the meeting and then manned his laptop to help all of the presenters maneuver about their websites.

John Caspole showed Family Tree DNA, the world's first and largest genealogy-driven DNA testing service, at www.familytree.dna. He showed how one can search for a particular surname to see how many individuals are in the database for that surname. If there is a Surname Project for that name, you can join that project, get a discount for a DNA test, and get in contact with



others in the same Surname Project. John also showed the online national Dutch genealogical database at www.genlias.nl. On Genlias, one can find records of births, marriages, and deaths after 1811 from the Civil Register as well as some parish records of baptisms, weddings, and funerals dating well before 1811.

Richard Harbison showed two of the sites he has come upon in his genealogical research that have been particularly productive for his research. The Dyer County, Tennessee TNGENWEB, located at www.rootsweb.org/~tndyer, has a huge amount of information, including funeral home records, Bible records, photos and family histories. The outstanding feature of this website is the prominently

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Calendar of Meetings for 2008

Saturdays, 10 a.m., May – August at Falmouth Senior Center; September on at FPL*

- | | |
|----------|---|
| May 10 | Tom Howard – New England World War I Research |
| June 14 | Annual Meeting and Genealogical Swap – Our Own Yard Sale! |
| July 12 | Tales of Our Ancestors – Stories from Members |
| Aug. 9 | What's New on the Web |
| Sept. 11 | Diane Rappaport – Tales from the Colonial Courthouse |

****Meeting Place Change****

We will continue to hold our meetings at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth, through August. We plan to return to the Falmouth Public Library in September. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at both the Falmouth Public Library in our new Genealogical Society area and at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road. FGS volunteers are manning both sites from 2 to 4 p.m.

Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research – March 8, 2008

by John Caspole

Leslie Albrecht Huber is a genealogical lecturer and free lance writer. Her articles have appeared in several prominent magazines. Her areas of specialty are Western European, particularly German, research and immigra-

tion research. Her talk at FGS reinforced many of the techniques I have found doing German research on my family line. You will find the information from her ex-

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What's New On The Web



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featured search engine, which enables one to search either the whole site or specific parts of the site, such as the cemetery records and photographs of tombstones. It is a model for county websites, since it does not make visitors waste time with links to sites with no data in them. The Illinois state archives, located at www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html, have numerous databases besides vital records including Illinois veteran records. The site also has a land purchase database that is easy to search and navigate, with a helpful guide to interpret the meanings of section and plat maps. For photocopies of some records, the fees are clearly stated. In general, this Illinois site is well organized, easy to navigate and provides an outstanding model for state websites.

John Peri presented two Canadian websites. Automated Genealogy at www.automatedgenealogy.com is fairly new and gives a new, easy way to research Canadian ancestry. In particular, it has almost completed the indexing of the various Canadian censuses and links records associated with a person from several sources as well as between the censuses. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/libraries/index-e.html is the more conventional gateway to Canadian research. John also showed some of the electronic files available at the Boston Public Library (BPL) at www.bpl.org/electronic/index.htm; these files can be accessed by any Massachusetts resident if they have a BPL card or get a BPL e-card online. Of particular note is the access to many historical newspapers. Finally John discussed the Genealogy Gateway at www.gengateway.com, which is a recently-redesigned gateway to genealogy online.

Janice Zlatev showed www.dis.se, which has data input by members of the Computer Genealogical Society of Sweden. However, this site has only information on

families that someone is researching. She also showed some of the things available at a free website, www.ddss.nu, whose long range goal is to have church records on births, marriages, and death for Southern Sweden. Janice is also trying a trial subscription www.genline.com. This is a site that shows Swedish church records, which are basically an online version of what can be seen on microfilms at the Family History Center. One can access a few selected counties of the Swedish Church Records archive as a test user.

Barbara Bunker showed the East Carolina Roots website, www.eastcarolinaroots.com, a rich resource for anyone whose forbears originated in any of the easternmost counties of North Carolina. It is a recently-established site inviting the contribution of material such as family trees, family bibles, etc. It includes a DNA project, as well as links to many valuable sites, including Craven County Genealogical Society, North Carolina Archives in Raleigh Online, and Eastern North Carolina Digital Library maintained by East Carolina University. There are also digitized Craven County censuses and school censuses for 1840 and 1850, as well as a link to the pirates of the Outer Banks.

Ed Shibata showed Linkpendium (www.linkpendium.org) which gives two sections for (1) straightforward searches for information available in all of the states and (2) surname searches. These sites are worth a check to avoid repeating research that has already been done. He also showed www.epodunk.com and ca.epodunk.com in which one can quickly find out in which counties a town in the U.S. or Canada is located; in addition, information about the town is available. Although one can use the Geographic Names Information Service of the U.S. Geological Survey at geonames.usgs.gov to do the same job, the epodunks are easier to use.

Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research

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cellent handout starting below. I will add some supplementary comments here to be read with her handout. She pointed out that prior to 1871 there was no German nation, just a bunch of independent states including Bayern, Prussia and Saxony.

Hometown hurdle: Almost as difficult as finding Irish townland of your ancestors. For example, information I had indicated a birthplace as Lippe-Det. I assumed it meant GGGF was born in Detmold, Lippe, Germany. Emailing a German researcher I learned that this meant GGGF was born in the principality of Lippe whose capital was Detmold, so I still don't know what town. Another case a GGGM birth was listed as Bohn, Hannover. I was able later to obtain a translated death record which fortunately included her birthplace and I learned she was born in Sappemeer, Groningen, Netherlands. US Census records are a great source for detail but beware; many times people tell the census taker they were from Baden but that is like saying I'm from Massachusetts. Hometown is not there. Those are good les-

sons for obtaining primary documentation. Secondary information as found in compiled records really needs to be verified.

Immigration sources: Leslie also stated that the books *Germans to America, 1840-1897* and *Palatines to America* are good sources.

Finding Ancestor's church: She stated that frequently several small villages would support a parish in a nearby town. Therefore, learn how to use the gazetteer, Meyers Orts.

Language Hints: I found German records very standardized and organized so I made word lists with the English word as birth and the German translation geburt or born is gebaren.

Check out all the info from Leslie's handout. It is extremely helpful and useful with URLs for German research. Thanks Leslie for your very helpful talk.



Jumping Over Hurdles in German Research Handout

from handout by Leslie Albrecht Huber

www.understandingyourancestors.com

“Oh, I can't trace that family – they're German.” Have you ever said something like this? People often catch sight of some of the hurdles associated with German research (locating a hometown, accessing the records, and dealing with the language and handwriting) and decide to run down another track instead. From a distance, these hurdles can appear nearly insurmountable. But, as you approach them, you might be surprised to find they aren't nearly as high as you first thought. With a little training and practice, you can leap over these hurdles and continue down your path of tracing your German family.

THE HOMETOWN HURDLE

Before you can start uncovering your family tree in Germany, you need one key piece of information: the name of the town in Germany in which they lived. You need this town name to access parish records – the key to German research. Here are some steps to help you find it:

- 1) **Focus your search for the town name.** Any source with information about your ancestor could have the town name; but, none is guaranteed to have it. Some are more likely than others. Try:
 - **Family records** – papers and photos
 - **Compiled genealogy records** – online family trees, IGI, published family histories, county histories, etc.
 - **U.S. records** – Church, vital, and naturalization records are more likely to contain the information you need. You can also try obituaries, census records, and others.

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Jumping Over Hurdles Handout

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- **Immigration sources** – Look for your ancestor in compiled immigration sources (such as Germans to America), U.S. Passenger Arrival Lists (many are online and indexed now), European Passenger Departure Lists (most notably Hamburg), and European emigration indexes (if you already know the state).

The best and most comprehensive guide to German immigration and emigration records is Joe Beine's German Roots site: <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/ei.html>

2) Beware of hometown pitfalls. The town name given in a record might not be the actual town of birth you are looking for. Instead, it could be:

- The nearest large town
- The name of the country or state
- Your ancestor's most recent residence
- Not in existence anymore
- A translation
- Too small to have records of its own
- Simply incorrect

3) Follow a guide for more detailed suggestions. One of the best is the German Research Outline (www.familysearch.org – choose “forms, maps, and guides” then “Research Outlines.” Also try Tracing Immigrant Origins by Genealogy Research Associates at <http://www.genealogy.com/uni-immi.html>.

THE RECORDS HURDLE

Now that you have a town name, you need to locate records. How?

1) Find where your ancestors went to church. Not every town had its own church. You must find out what parish included your ancestors' hometown. Historical gazetteers can help.

- Look in **Meyers Orts und Vekehrs Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs** which covers Germany as it existed from 1871 to 1918. It will tell where the town was located and if it had a church. The gazetteer is available even without a subscription through www.ancestry.com as well as at many genealogy libraries. FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) has a guide called “How to Use the Meyers Gazetteer” available online under Step-by-step guides. If the town doesn't have a church, you must consult a local gazetteer.
- **Other options.** <http://www.progenealogists.com/germany/mecklenburg/intro.htm>. Not all, but many, German states are included on this fabulous website. Choose a state, then scroll down the towns listed in alphabetical order to find the parish names. You can find a map at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/> and other information at <http://gov.genealogy.net/>.

2) Find microfilmed copies of the records. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has many of the German parish records available on microfilm. For a small fee, you can order these to your local family history center to use. Check the Family History Library Catalogue online at www.familysearch.org (choose library and then FHLC).

3) Check other online records. There are many immigration sources available online, but there are few German parish records online. Expect this to change in the future. For now, try a search on Google. Some family lineage books are online at <http://www.online-ofb.de/>.

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Jumping Over Hurdles Handout

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4) **Write a letter.** If you can't find the records any other way, you can write a letter asking for information.

- **Translate it into German.** This is the easy part. You can use a letter-writing guide (some are available at www.familysearch.org under "forms, maps, and guides"). Include a donation and return envelope with postage for best results.
- **Locate the address.** This can be more involved. Different states do things differently. For parish records, you should try writing to the local church first. Look up the postal code online at <http://www.deutschepost.de> (choose "English," then "postal code search."). There are other types of archives with different types of records. Consult a research guide for more information.

THE LANGUAGE HURDLE

How's your German? Not quite up to fluent yet? Don't worry. Fluency isn't required for genealogy research. But, some knowledge of the language is. Some resources can help.

- 1) **Become familiar with the records.** It's a lot easier to make sense of the records if you know what to expect and what kind of information is usually included.
 - **Read introductory material.** Try the Germany Research Outline (at www.familysearch.org) or German Church Books by Kenneth Smith.
 - **Learn the format.** Parish records generally follow predictable patterns. They are often in tables or at least in paragraphs with consistent formats.
- 2) **Find a translation resource.** There are several options.
 - **Consult a genealogy word list.** You can find one through www.familysearch.org by choosing "forms, maps, and guides" on the side, then "Word Lists." You'll find both a German and a Latin word list here.
 - **Use an online translation service.** Several, such as www.freetranslation.com, are available. These work well for single words, not so well for longer phrases.
 - **Buy a good dictionary.** The best is The German-English Genealogical Dictionary by Ernest Thode.
- 3) **Draw on outside assistance.** Have a genealogy friend look at it with you. If you visit a research library with experts in the geographic region in which your ancestors lived, ask for their help. For more complicated documents, hire a professional.

THE HANDWRITING HURDLE

The final hurdle, handwriting, often combines with language to make a double hurdle. There's no magic solution for working with handwriting, but you can do it! You'll need patience and practice to get over this hurdle.

- 1) **Understand the script.** The Gothic script was used in Germany until 1941. During this time, people used a consistent handwriting method very different from what we know. Learn how the letters were made so you can recognize them. Try the "Handwriting Guide: German Gothic" Research Guide available through www.familysearch.org.

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Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



After the ceremonies for the reopening of the renovated Falmouth Public Library on Sunday March 16th, it was back to business for the library on Monday the 17th. On Tuesday afternoon, March 18th, from 2-4 p.m., members of Falmouth

Genealogical Society were back offering help to those seeking information on their ancestors. There were two terminals facing the reference desk which were available for Ancestry.com and the area behind the reference desk had been set aside for the use of the FGS members who were there to help. The Society has purchased a laptop for the help sessions and it will be stored in the reference area.

The first Tuesday was busy in the genealogy area of the reference department, but most people were doing independent research. The two low units of shelving were crowded. The low units were planned to offer a surface

for looking at materials without having to carry them to a table. With the greater than usual number of people, this was a small problem as people spread materials on the top to read them and others tried to access the books on the shelves below.

Two shelves of space were set aside for the FGS collection of materials. Our collection of periodicals can be shelved there. After consulting with the Head of Reference and Library Director, FGS was offered the opportunity to have our books accessioned and filed into the library collection. Some of our collection was weeded as being obsolete as newer resources have become available. The FGS collection of CD-ROMS can be stored in a locked cabinet behind the reference desk as well as other materials we want to have available.

The genealogy area is bright and open feeling. The area behind the reference desk works well for meeting with people and access to the genealogy and local history sections is close at hand. Tutorial rooms can also be reserved if we anticipate a need for them.



Jumping Over Hurdles Handout

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2) **Don't get frustrated.** Try some of these strategies instead:

- Take it one letter at a time.
- Look for context clues.
- Recognize the pattern.
- Find the letter elsewhere.
- Use a magnifying glass.
- Locate a better copy of the record (if one exists).

3) **Get help.** If you get stuck on a word or two, take the document to a friend or to a genealogy group and see if someone can help you. For more complex documents, consider hiring someone.

A few other German resources to know:

- Genealogy.net <http://www.genealogienetz.de/genealogy.html>
- *The German Research Companion* by Shirley Reimer
- Germany GenWeb <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman/>

DNA Confirms That We Are All Brothers and Sisters

Don't Despair If You Get A Lot of Other Surname Matches

by Bob Rice

The simplest YDNA analysis is often for 12 so-called markers. They are markers that identify small pieces of our DNA. These pieces repeated many times are found in NON GENE areas of our very large DNA molecule. For example ATAATAATAATA, where A= adenine and T= thymine, two of the bases in DNA. The number reported by each marker is the number of repeats of that marker. So in the above it would be 4 repeats of ATA.

When DNA testing companies such as FTDNA report results of DNA analysis they also report the names and emails of people previously tested whose results match, if that person signed an agreement to that effect. Most people do sign because they want to know who matches in the hopes that it will be a long-lost relative or descendant of a common ancestor. As new results are available any matches to your haplotype are also announced.

The trouble is that many, sometimes all, of the matches are from males with completely different surnames. FTDNA reports near matches as well such as 11/12 or 10/12. Some 12 markers of YDNA are so common that a great many matches are made. My own 12 marker matches are with 78 men with different surnames and not one with Rice! When the match is near like -1 (11/12) I begin to pick up other Rices. Now, the genealogy of the descendants of Edmund Rice has been published since 1858 with additional books up to 1985 and I am actually in the latter. So what is going on?

Well, in my case I have a single mutation from the reconstructed haplotype of Edmund Rice, our founder in the USA. And this mutation occurs in the first 12 markers so only other male Rices in my family branch will appear as exact matches. We know our lineages well enough that in many cases we can go to our computer database (130,000+ names) and find a male in my Rice branch line that should have the same mutation. We did that and a male Rice cousin exactly matches me. Actually finding mutations allows us to **discover** lineage branch points by mutations. In my case the branch was already known and the DNA analysis confirmed. In other cases the branching discovered via DNA can be investigated by conventional genealogy for details.

I became responsible for one male's YDNA by helping at the Falmouth Public Library. Two sisters found an uncle willing to have his DNA analyzed and one came to the library looking for help. The one sister who approached us did not have a computer so I ended up being their email contact. As a result I get each and every update of their uncle's DNA analysis, both Y and mt!! He now has **1301 EXACT** matches of other surnames for 12 markers. They also had his mtDNA done and there he has only 880 exact matches! So what is going on?

Our DNA is inherited from our ancestors back in time before surnames were necessary as well as in genealogical time. Population geneticists have been tracing the movement of people who lived thousands of years ago for several decades first with blood types but then with DNA. They don't normally use the same markers that we do for genealogy but there is an overlap. One particular set of markers (haplotype) that the population geneticists came across is the Atlantic Modal that has six different markers. These were found to be extremely common among men in Atlantic Europe and particularly in the British Isles and the Iberian Peninsula reaching 33% of men in Portugal. FTDNA and most other labs include five of these six markers in the first 12 that they analyze. There are also other sets of markers common to other groups; for example, those derived from Genghis Khan, or Neills of Northwest Ireland.

As far as genealogy goes 12 markers are NOT SUFFICIENT to delineate most surnames. The easy solution is to analyze more markers. At 25 markers I begin to pick up other Rice males and many fewer other surnames. For other reasons we have gone to more than 70 markers in my case and at 67 markers the other Edmund Rice descendant males and I are matching at 65/67 because I picked up another mutant. If we had further analyzed YDNA from my closer cousin first mentioned above, that match should be 67/67 or 66/67 if he has another mutation. When the paper genealogy is well known then the first 12 is often sufficient.

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But where the conventional genealogy is not well known some people are going crazy trying to find genealogical connections. The two sisters haven't been heard from for some time. One of them does now have a computer and should be getting all the same reports I continue to get. They were counseled about the vast response back when it was only a few hundred matches. **We have to remember that DNA is so powerful in identifying our deep biological connections that conventional genealogy is left behind.** These matches are real. They are not mistakes in chemical analyses. They are probably not all results of paternal mishap either. They simply reflect a biological connection back before genealogy is possible like 1,000 or more years. In the Rice case for the male line we only know back to 1594 for certain. Surnames for common folk were not used until, say 1200AD for the earliest. More likely 1300 AD.

The message for genealogists is that 12 marker matches with other surnames without good genealogy connecting them usually will be a waste of time to explore. If you suspect name changes in the past or "hanky panky" for certain of your ancestors then by all means investigate. A far better response would be to order more markers to be analyzed. The additional cost will be worth it up to a point. So far in the Edmund Rice DNA project no one has had to go to 67 markers but in Rice families other than Edmund's some few are going that far. Usually 37 markers are enough to clear out the other surnames. Of course if you have posted your haplotype for some years and no one of your surname has matched then more markers probably won't help.

However, there are a few cases that are partially contradictory to what was just stated. One involves Rice and another surname. It is from a group of Rice males who have not been able to fit into any of the twelve Rice families established so far. One of these family researchers found another surname family with identical or nearly identical markers. The origin of this Rice family appeared to be in Virginia in the late 1700s in the same county as the other surname. At this writing three of the other surname nearly matches with two Rices. The question is which of the two surnames was the original? But remember sufficient normal genealogy had been done on both families before the DNA was analyzed. The

original branch Rice haplotype remained on our unassigned list for five years before he found his first match so patience is required.

For years various spiritual advisors have taught that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. The reason is now clear for we are all connected via our DNA!

All the above is not meant to discourage, in fact, recent success with an umbilical line and mtDNA analyses should encourage more people to research their own. Some years ago two males of the Edmund Rice Association discovered that their own umbilical lineages ended up at the same woman living in Sudbury, MA in the early 1600s. One of these men was not named Rice but was from a female Rice line and his umbilical ended with Agnes Bent. Mine ended with her sister Martha Bent born ca 1643 at Sudbury, MA the town that the Rices along with fifty or more other English settlers founded in 1638. The mother (also named Martha) of the two and others had married John Bent in England.

At the time we did the conventional umbilical genealogy neither of us was certain of our research. In my case starting with my mother who came from a Scottish family that settled in St. Lawrence County, New York in the early to mid 1800s it just seemed highly unlikely that her umbilical lineage would go back to Sudbury 1638 especially since she had married my father whose lineage did go there. I don't like coincidences and Upper New York State is notorious in genealogical circles as being something akin to the "Black Hole of Genealogy."

The other man's umbilical line behaved properly by remaining in New England all the time. But after several years of checking each woman's genealogical data I decided that the main weakness in my line that went from Lisbon, NY to Sudbury, MA was in a museum in Lewis County, NY adjacent to St. Lawrence County. I had been told via email that a museum there had notebooks prepared by a descendant of Almira Stoddard, my great great grandmother. The trouble was there were a number of Almira Stoddards in New York State at that time. Last summer my son and I drove up to Lowville,

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NY where the Lewis County Historian's office was now located. A telephone call to her had not been fruitful for she knew nothing about a Stoddard notebook. When I got there, however, there was a Crawford notebook filled with numerous surnames and it included Stoddard and at the correct notebook number (4) and page (12). A woman by the name of Crawford had included many Stoddards in her research of vital records, wills, and deeds. The information confirmed that this Almira Stoddard was my ancestor and supplemented the fact that a census had Almira's sister living with them in Lisbon, NY where and when they should have been.

My mtDNA had already been analyzed so I told my counterpart in the Rice association and he submitted his. We were on pins and needles, so to speak, for the weeks it took for his analysis. When it came we had **identical** mtDNA thus proving that each of our conventional genealogies was correct. Thus chemical analysis confirmed

the conventional searching for records of each woman's vital data in town clerk's offices and courthouses, in U.S. Censuses, wills, and all the other places we have to dig into. To me this verification is exciting and brings a new dimension to genealogy. The beauty of it is that both sexes can develop their umbilical lineage because mothers give their mitochondrial DNA to both males and females. Both types of evidence go together for one alone may leave a question especially with umbilical genealogy. We have since started an mtDNA geographical group centered on surnames from Colonial Sudbury

and immediately found a non-Rice surname participant.

When YDNA was first introduced to genealogy in 2000 many genealogists were unhappy that men's YDNA was the only real use in assisting conventional genealogy. Yet Professor Sykes' book emphasized mtDNA and quite artificially promoted the division of Eve's descendants into mythical seven daughters. Sykes used mtDNA because he was not engaged in genealogy but population genetics and mtDNA survives over much longer

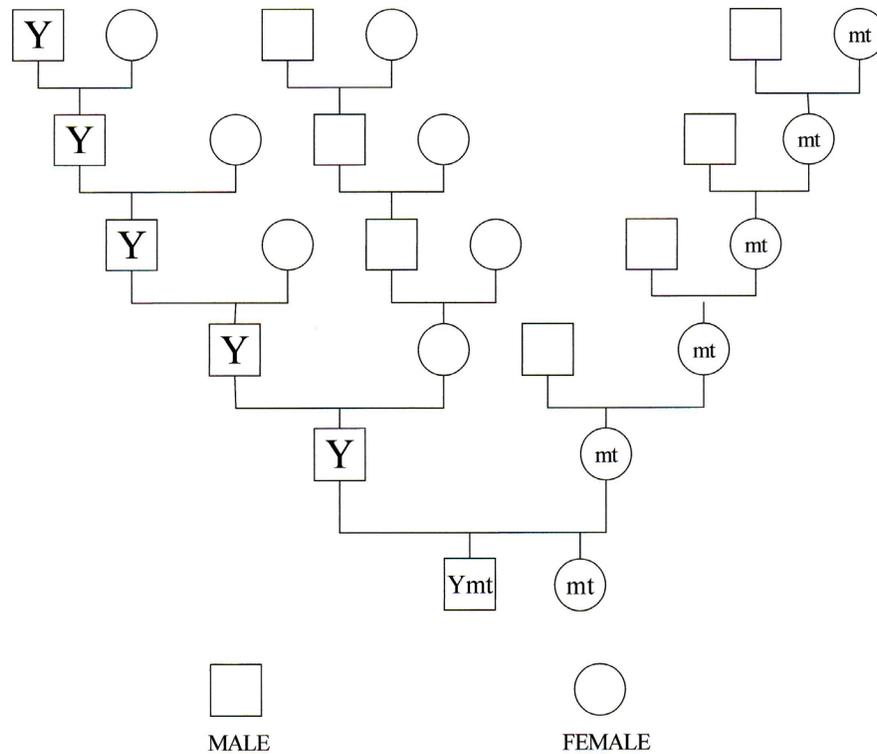
time periods (hundreds of thousand years) than YDNA . The result was some confusion and many people ended up by ordering mtDNA and then were disappointed that all they got was a tenuous connection to one of Sykes' seven daughters. Many of us counseled people to ignore mtDNA for genealogical purposes but now there has been enough mtDNA results reported and available (FTDNA lists 61, 937 mtDNA results at this writing) so we really can get important genealogy

but only by comparison ,i.e., matching two or more mtDNA results with conventional umbilical genealogy.

We do know the line of Edmund Rice's first wife back to about 1450 and if we could find a live female descendant in her umbilical line (mother to daughter, to daughter, to daughter, etc.) it would be great. Three of us have looked hard and we have not been able to find a living descendant mostly because the records for females just are not as good as for males even in Massachusetts.

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Transmission of DNA according to sex



Swedish Church Records

by Janice Zlatev

I have recently purchased a one-year subscription to www.genline.com. This is an online database for the Swedish church records. Genline has digitized the Mormon microfilms for Swedish church records and put them online. They are the same records that you can see by ordering the microfilms at the Family History Center, but an advantage is the ability to access them whenever you want.

Another plus is the opportunity to move from one parish to another or from one time period to another without ordering and waiting for a new film. I have found one ancestor who moved four times in about 10 years and each move would have meant another film. I find myself moving back and forth in the records to trace an ancestor.



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Others may have more luck.

Actually mitochondrial DNA that is found as a circle or plasmid is analyzed in three complexities, HVR1, HVR2, and the complete sequence of 16,569 base pairs. HyperVariable Region 1 is the initial analysis and is considered low resolution, HVR2 increases the resolution and the complete or Mega has also just been used to verify conventional umbilical genealogy¹.

All of us can use both YDNA and mtDNA to help delineate the only two small bits of our DNA presently possible for analysis. The great bulk of DNA is still not available to us. All the chromosomes from all our ancestors may contribute to our total DNA content but only these two small bits can be reliably analyzed for genealogy at present.

The chart on page 9 shows how both sexes obtain YDNA for males and mtDNA for both male and female. Note that only one **other** genetic path among many is shown. Only Y and mt are useable.

1. Ann Powers Turner, MD, *My "Marginal" Mega mtDNA Match*, New England Ancestors, Fall 2007.

The same as with the microfilms, you need to know the parish for an ancestor in order to use the database. There is no index to personal names. To know the farm in the parish is a distinct advantage as some parishes run to over 500 images. From 1860 to about 1895 there is a record of births by province which is then broken down by years and then by parish.

If anyone is interested in trying Genline, I could bring my laptop to the Tuesday afternoon helps sessions at the library. Please let me know if you are interested.

My email address is janicez2@hotmail.com.



CCGS Invites FGS Members

To Upcoming Events

from David Martin, Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Wednesday, May 21 – Bus Trip to Boston for genealogists, stopping at Histgen, BPL, State House Library, Congregational Library on Beacon Street, and Boston Athenaeum. \$35 round trip, departing from Sagamore parking lot at a bit after 8 pm and returning around 5pm.

Saturday, Sept. 27 – Special Workshop with Maureen Taylor on Identifying and Preserving Old Photographs (I realize FGS has had her previously but perhaps there are some that might like to join in anyway). Workshop is 10am to 2pm; cost for FGS and CCGS members is \$25, and for non-members of either society it is \$35. At Brewster Ladies Library

Saturday, Oct. 4 – Follow-up Special Workshop on hands-on practice in preserving photographs and family artifacts, using Picasa software and Fototagger, and related areas; workshop will be 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Cost is \$10 for FGS and CCGS members and \$15 for others. At Brewster Ladies Library.

I'll be at the May FGS meeting and would like to give a special open invitation to FGS members to come to hear our regular monthly speaker on Wednesday, May 14 – Kay Mayhew talking about Vineyard genealogy, which I know is of interest. No cost since it's a regular program.

Genealogy in France

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Over the years, I have talked with several FGS members about researching French ancestors. Since my husband and I each had French ancestors (his were Huguenots and mine were Alsatians), I have visited four research centers in France for personal research: a genealogy library in Paris on rue Turbigo (now closed); municipal and library archives in Vitre, Brittany; municipal archives in Mulhouse, Alsace; and the Departmental Family History Center for the Upper Rhine area in Guebwiller, Alsace (where there are almost no indexes). Needless to say, reading French is essential at these archives. Much to my disappointment, I was not able to identify our ancestors in any of the records I looked at.

Curious about how the profession of genealogy is organized in France, I recently arranged to meet in Paris with Myriam Provence, Vice President of the “La Chambre Syndicale des Genealogistes et Heraldistes de France” (Trade Society for the Profession of Genealogist and Heraldist in France). The Society’s purpose is to group together professional genealogists to defend the interests of members and the profession and to guarantee a quality product for clients through rigorous controls of members’ work.

I wondered how the French Chambre Syndicale des Genealogistes compared to the American Board for Certification of Genealogists. I learned there are some similarities and many differences. While qualifications for membership and admission requirements are somewhat similar, and members of both groups must adhere to professional standards and a genealogist’s code, the French process for admission is more stringent. Applicants must already be historians, and their dossiers must be passed by nine judges instead of three, as for the American BCG. The French government has, since 1981, formally recognized genealogy as one of the French liberal professions with stated requirements for membership, purposes, rules, and regulations, setting it apart from American genealogy.

Most chamber members focus on family history research, and a few also specialize in heraldry. After receiving a research request, the French genealogist carefully prepares a research plan and estimate of time, specifies

details and conditions for the research, and provides a contract to be signed by both parties. Other chamber members specialize in establishing the identity of heirs and lines of lawful succession for inheritance purposes, as well as locating identified, but missing, heirs. The conditions of work, as well as terms and methods of payment for inheritance specialists are determined in a different way.

Admission to many French archives, especially in Paris, is limited and strictly regulated, and in some cases, is available only to professional genealogists who must obtain permission for each visit in advance. Often, the number of records they can consult during a morning or afternoon (of course the archives are closed during the lunch break) is also limited. Myriam said she can sometimes only call for three records each half day. (This requires figuring out where to productively spend the next two or three hours until the archives reopen after lunch.) Most vital records from the past 100 years are also closed to all but professional researchers to protect privacy.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has microfilmed many French parish and other records. A few unique French records are available only on microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, so she and other French genealogists occasionally go there to see those particular French records that they can not see at home!

Because members of the Chambre Syndicale des Genealogistes are considered French professionals, they are subject to the same taxes as other professional workers in France. This means they add the TVA (Value Added Tax) of 19.6% to their bills and pay an additional 40% of their income in other taxes such as family allowances, medical insurance and complements, social security taxes, insurance, etc., etc. And then they pay French income tax on any profits. This means that in Paris, hourly fees can be around \$90 (60 Euros), half days \$250 (180 Euros), and full days \$450 (305 Euros). Fees are lower in the provinces or for nonprofessional genealogical researchers.

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There are, of course, many nonprofessional genealogists in France. They can be located through one of the local or regional associations. I concluded that any American with French ancestry should begin by using microfilms from the LDS Family History Library, and only, if that fails, look around for a genealogist in France.

For more information concerning La Chambre Syndicale des Genealogistes and Heraldistes de France, (mailing address only) 231 rue Saint-Honore, 75001 Paris, France, Telephone/Fax from U.S.: 011-331-42-60-02-04

Email: allain.chapellier@wanadoo.fr

Web site: www.csghf.org

The web site lists members of the chamber, alphabetically and by region, with contact information.

For more information about French genealogists and genealogy:

www.bibgen.org

This is the web site for the defunct library in Paris which still has an organization and volunteer members. The text is in English as well as French. Through this web site, you can ask questions and do a bit of searching. At the bottom of the home page, clicking on "Links" will bring up a list of genealogical organizations and



Three FGS Officers Up For Reelection At Annual Meeting

The Falmouth Genealogical Society nominating committee consisting of Janet B. Chalmers, chair; Ron Church and Betsey King propose the following slate of officers to be elected at the June 14, 2008 meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:

Vice President: Ralph Wadleigh

Second Vice President: Janice Zlatev

Treasurer: Ed Shibata

web sites that focus on French genealogy in France and elsewhere.

<http://membres.lycos.fr/numa/assgensurnet.html>

Scroll down the page to "Les associations et unions regionales" and you will find 8 pages of regional associations and unions in France and elsewhere. Click on any of them to go to their web site.



Don't Miss Our "Swap Meeting" on June 14th

FGS will hold a genealogical garage or yard benefit sale on Saturday, June 14, at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave. as a new and exciting part of the club's Annual Meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring some genealogical related things, books, brochures, blank forms, maps, research guides, magazines, photographs, software, CDs, office supplies and equipment, that they no longer want or need. Meeting attendees may browse and choose whatever they want and if they have found something valuable to them, they put a donation in the FGS poor box. Whatever is left over gets recycled. The swap has three benefits: the donor cleans out an office or basement or garage, the receiver gets something that may be of use and everyone has a good social time! Maybe if some folks don't have anything to bring for exchange, they could bring a couple of canned goods which we could give to the Falmouth Service Center.



Letter

from Marge Gibson

I just ran across an interesting website you might like to include in the newsletter since these orphan records are so hard to find. It even includes a site for the British children who were sent as servants to Canada. One of the FGS members a few years ago had an ancestor taken from her home in Eng. and sent to Canada. Some of these children weren't really orphans. The site has some good links – take a look at it.. It is www.olivetreenealogy.com/orphans/

I miss our meetings – Marge