

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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

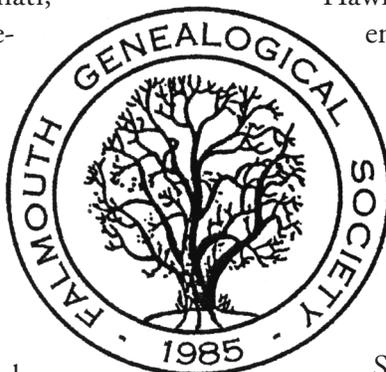
Falmouth Genealogical Society

ONE FAMILY'S ENCOUNTER WITH AMERICAN HISTORY

Program presented by Alfred Knight at the July 13, 2013, meeting

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

A Wadleigh family friend, Alfred Crocker Knight of Greenwich, Connecticut, Mayflower descendant, son of Barnstable County's former Probate Judge A.C. Knight, and member of the Society of the Cincinnati, presented a talk that brought together the genealogy of his coastal Massachusetts family and events in American history during the past four centuries. In other words, he placed his family in historical context! His principal sources were a genealogy that a family member prepared years ago, *The Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick and *Albion's Seed* by David Hackett Fisher for 17th century history, his ancestor Gideon Hawley's diary and letters, 1754-1804 from the Congregational Library, as well as resources at Sturgis Library and family records.



The speaker brought to life nine generations of his family, beginning with 1620 Mayflower passengers Stephen Hopkins and Edward Winslow, followed by the Bourne, Hawley, and Crocker families of Cape Cod, and ending with the 20th century Knight and Crocker families.

Early contacts and relationships between his family and Native Americans were one focus of the talk. Edward Winslow established a peaceful relationship with Indian Chief Massasoit and members of his tribe that endured until their deaths. Seventeenth-century family members who were involved in efforts to convert Indians to Christianity included Reverend Richard Bourne who came to the Mashpee area in 1670 to lead a Praying

Calendar of Meetings for 2013

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

Sept. 14: Maureen Taylor: Identifying and Dating Family Photographs

Oct. 12: Connie Reik: Researching Your Civil War Veteran in Federal Publications and Documents

Nov. 16: David Lambert of NEHGS: Two lectures on Forging Broken Links and Closing Gaps in Genealogical Research. Joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society held at St. Peter's Church, Osterville.
(Note: this is the 3rd Saturday of the month.)

Dec. 14: Annual Holiday Food Fest: bring your favorite sweets and recipes from antique cookbooks.

Jan. 11: What's New On The Web?

Feb. 8: Lewis White: The Portuguese in Falmouth.

Indian Church. In 1758 the Society for the Preservation of the Gospel assigned Reverend Gideon Hawley, a Congregational clergyman, to establish a church for Indians at Mashpee. He served there for almost fifty years, supporting rights and education for the Mashpee Indians.

In 1739, Knight's ancestor Ebenezer Crocker built today's oldest Cotuit house, on Route 28, near Route 30. Another of the old Crocker houses is the present Cahoon Museum, built by ancestor Zenas in 1782.

Members of the Crocker family participated in major migrations. Zenas³ Crocker sailed around the Horn to California for the Gold Rush of 1849. He remained there as a successful merchant until 1861, when he returned to Cape Cod. His son Zenas⁴ Crocker migrated to the Dakota Territory, married there and built a hardware store before returning to Cape Cod. An early 20th century Crocker was an innovative and reform-minded sheriff of Barnstable County.

Al Knight concluded his presentation with descriptions of 20th century military service by members of his family: wars in which they fought, their military experiences, their awards, and their fates.

He explained that the past of his family is saved in traces like memorial plaques, Cape Cod place names, and craftsmanship seen in buildings, judicial decisions, and surgeon-mended bodies of soldiers. His family's actions are one tiny thread in the enormous fabric of American history.

REVIEWER'S AFTERWORD

After Al Knight's talk, I recalled that many professional genealogists propose that the ultimate goal of amateur genealogists should be placing their ancestors in historical context, as our speaker so admirably did.

Genealogists point out that there are at least three levels of genealogical research. The first is to search vital and church records to determine birth, marriage, and death dates and places for ancestors and to create family trees. The second level involves searching for biographical information about ancestors: the work they did, an idea of their economic level, what it was like where they lived, moves they made, public roles they held, and family experiences that were of interest (either positively or

negatively). This information can be found in local and county land and probate records and histories, published genealogies, family letters, and newspaper articles and obituaries. The third level is to place ancestors and their experiences into the "big picture" or into a broad historical context. Detailed time lines can show major events that occurred during our ancestors' lifetimes; scholarly histories, such as those Al Knight consulted, can provide information about people and events and historical trends and analysis.

For those of us whose ancestors were farmers or immigrants of the 19th or 20th centuries, going to level three may seem pointless or even hopeless. Yet, major events such as European wars and the Potato Famine or personal events, such as pressure from earlier immigrants to join them in the new country, are of significance in our family histories and can serve as starting points.

Dig as deep as you can!

BOOK REVIEW

by Joyce Pendery, CG

French Genealogy from Afar: Being Basic Procedures and Suggested First Steps in Research via the New Electronic Technology and Method of Communication Known as the Internet...as Presented on the French Genealogy Blog, by Anne Morddel. Self-published by the author. Order by sending an email to amerigen@yahoo.com; \$26.

Anne Morddel has been interested in genealogy since she was fourteen. Living in France for the last ten years, she has focused on French genealogy. She founded her web site "The French Genealogy Blog" in 2009. Many sections of this book are updated and enlarged blog articles. I met Anne in Paris in 2012 and know how serious she is. If you have French ancestry, you may find the help you need on one or more of the Internet sites she discusses. While the Table of Contents is detailed, there is no index. Anne writes in a conversational, tongue-in-cheek manner. Like many self-published authors, she did not consult an editor!

Anne provides some assistance in figuring out common French genealogical terms for those who do not know French. Reading the handwriting is a different issue. Patience, practice, and persistence are the answers for successful research in French records! She also explains that knowing where your ancestors were born, married,

and died is essential, as French vital records are kept on the communal level. Copies of most records from communal archives are sent to departmental (like county) archives, but there are no indexes. To deal with this “Location, Location, Location” problem Anne offers a number of web sites that may offer clues or even cite locations, before you delve into the online resources. For example, there is a web site that lists the names and brief biographies of everyone who lost their head during the French Revolution. Another lists the names and

communities of members of many different occupational groups that required registration of all workers in that field. Even family recipes, drinks, and clothing may offer clues as to place of origin.

If you would like to look at this book before you buy it, send me an email at jspendery@gmail.com and I will bring it on Tuesday afternoon or to a monthly meeting. Meanwhile, if you have French ancestry, do read “The French Genealogy Blog” at amerigen@yahoo.com.



FGS Monthly Meeting Aug 10, 2013

Tales of Our Ancestors

Reviewed by Ralph Wadleigh

Dottie Clark Davison, spoke of uncovering the truth about the Cronk Family Fortune. The story goes that three brothers came to American from Holland in 1742. Two brothers, Jacob and James established themselves and eventually fought in the Revolution against the British. A third brother, Caspar, was a Loyalist and returned to Holland during the war. In Holland he became successful and supposedly amassed a fortune. Upon his death, he willed that after 100 years the accumulated assets would be divided among all the heirs. In 1902, certain heirs located in the United States organized to claim the fortune, but alas research in Holland revealed nothing. Dottie's research led her to correspondence from Walter Cronkite who had heard of this same story. It turns out that it was all started by a rogue genealogist, hoping to extort funds from Cronk/Cronkite heirs. Too bad, Dottie!!

Lorraine Nagy, spoke about her adopted daughter, Catherine's, Cherokee ancestry. She related how she came to a FGS Tuesday session armed only with a name, Cora Sansing Pugh, and a year of death. With Jan Zlatev's help, a date and place of death was determined and a death certificate was obtained. This led to a chain of discovery including Cora's husband and parents. Lorraine will be traveling to Alabama later this year with Catherine and her birth mother, and plans to share her findings with Cora's living descendants.

Lockwood Rianhard, related how he had been researching his grandparents ancestries and had discovered in online family trees a line of descent from the great Cape Cod Sachem, Iyannough, whose son John had supposedly married Priscilla Bearse. Knowing that online family trees need to be treated cautiously, Lockwood attempted to verify this fact through Barnstable County records. This he was unable to do. However, through further study, he learned that intermarriage between Native Americans and colonists in Early New England was extremely rare and mostly due to the capture of white settlers, who, if they stayed with their abductors, entered into familial relationships without the benefit of Christian marriage. Iyannough and his initial descendants were not found in Barnstable records as marrying outside their tribe. So, another hoax!

Janet Burt Chalmers 1944-2013

by C. David Burt



Janet with her husband Stephen Chalmers

My sister Janet served as editor of the Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter from 2004 to 2012, a year before her death when she asked me to take over. I had done some preliminary genealogical work on our family tree and when Janet became interested in it, I gladly let her take over. She did remarkable work making contacts with living descendants of our relatives, including the Provincetown Burts on the maternal side of our family, on whom she reported in December of 2011. She also extended the family tree considerably through research on the internet.

Janet was born in Boston on September 28, 1944, grew up in Waban, attended The Beaver Country Day School, Centenary College, and the University of Wisconsin. She spent summers in Falmouth and became an avid sailor in the Quissett Yacht Club. She married Stephen Chalmers, another Quissett sailor, in 1969. They have two children and five grandchildren. Janet worked with her husband for many years in their business The Village Printer, and she volunteered her skills to edit the FGS Newsletter.

As a sailor, Janet excelled, winning local and regional championships. She gave up actively racing in the Quissett races because she was embarrassed about winning practically everything, and she dedicated herself to the race committee. She did the write-ups of the races for *The Falmouth Enterprise*, and they were so entertaining and well written that the Enterprise offered her job as

a reporter and feature writer. She served as a flag officer of the Quissett Yacht club from 1996-2002, serving as Commodore in 2001-2002. She continued running the races until the year before she died.

Janet was interested in tracing the maternal line of our family. Fortunately we had some records that our maternal grandmother, Gertrude Littlefield Mahady, had saved, tracing our ancestry to Elder, William Brewster of the Mayflower. Because genealogists will be interested in this, here is the female line from my records:

Abigail Young, m. John Treat 6 Dec 1716

Rachel Treat Mulford, b. 5 Nov 1725, m. Joseph Cobb
19 Mar 1750

Tamsin Cobb, b 31 Jan 1757, d 22 Nov 1794,
m. Daniel Lombard 15 Apr 1779

Tamsin Lombard, b 12 Jun 1785, m. Samuel Small
15 Dec 1803

Rosetta Small, b. 23 Mar 1817, d. 1892,
m. John Graham Burt 23 Apr 1817

Mary E. Burt, b. 23 Oct 1838, d. 8 Feb 1924,
m. Joshua Owen Littlefield 13 May 1861

Alice Gertrude Littlefield, b. 1 Apr 1875, d. 11 Jan 1960,
m. Edward F. Mahady 21 Nov 1900

Alice Gertrude Mahady, b. 5 Nov 1910. d. 24 Sep
1991, m. Charles E. Burt 25 Nov 1937

Janet Lee Burt. b. 28 Sep 1944, d. 30 May 2013,
m. Stephen Chalmers 3 May 1969

MINUTES OF THE FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

8 June 2013

Before the annual meeting, visitors were welcomed and reports of the Chairman of the Library Committee Jan Zlatev, Treasurer Ed Shibata, and Program Chairman Ralph Wadleigh were presented.

At 10:19 a.m., the Annual Meeting was called to order by President Ralph Wadleigh. Jan Zlatev read the

minutes for last year's Annual Meeting. Donna Walcovy moved to accept the minutes as read, and the motion was passed unanimously.

Donna Walcovy, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that an unnamed person had agreed to accept nomination as President for one year, provided that the duties would be shared by the First Vice President, and that no one had agreed to accept nomination for the position of Secretary.

This report was followed by a request from President Ralph Wadleigh for nominations from the floor. No nominations were forthcoming from the floor for President or Secretary, but Gerald Luby said he would be willing to run for Treasurer next year (2014), provided that the current Treasurer, Ed Shibata, would be willing to train him during 2013. This was agreed. Further, during the course of floor discussion, Dottie Priestley volunteered to be nominated as Secretary, and Mary Barry volunteered to be nominated as First Vice President, sharing duties for 2013 with the current President, Ralph Wadleigh, who would continue in office until June 2014. There was some discussion concerning the positions of NERGC Representative and Program Committee Chairman, but no volunteers made themselves available.

Based on the floor discussion, the following slate of candidates was proposed:

President – Ralph Wadleigh

First Vice President – Mary Barry

Second Vice President – Richard Harbison

Secretary – Dottie Priestley

Treasurer – Ed Shibata, who will train Gerald Luby

Editor, Newsletter – David Burt

Chairman, Library Committee – Janice Zlatev

Chairman, Publications Committee – Robert Chase

Chairman, Publicity Committee – Mary Ann Shafer

Chairmen, Program Committee – Ralph Wadleigh and Mary Barry

NERGC Representative – open

Members of the Board at Large – Joyce Pendery (General Advice), Jeramie Hammond

(Website), Gerald Luby (Budget and Finance)

When the above slate of Board Members was proposed, Maggie Rioux moved to elect the entire list of candidates. This motion was seconded by John Checklick, and passed unanimously.

Following the election of the Board, Richard Harbison announced that he planned to teach his class on internet genealogy in the Fall of 2013; members discussed GenealogyInTime, a service that gives information on recently digitized web content; a number of other free resources on the Internet; and problems with military records, particularly those relating the Civil War.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Harbison, Acting Secretary for the Falmouth Genealogical Society

NOVEMBER JOINT MEETING WITH CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

November 16, 2013, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA

Our traditional November joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2013 from 10:00 – 1:00 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Wianno Avenue, Osterville. To carpool, meet in the Gus Canty parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

David Lambert, Chief Genealogist at NEHGS, will present two talks under one title: "Forging Broken Links – Closing Gaps in Genealogical Research." Topics David will cover include adoptions, orphans, name changes, transferring children between families, guardianships, and dispersions of children during events such as the Holocaust.

An optional Lobster roll luncheon can be purchased separately for \$10. Details will follow.

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:

#435: Dottie & Mac Davidson of Cotuit, researching Cronk of New York State and Simpson of DE and PA, both in the 1800's.

#436: Robert & Evelyn Barker of East Falmouth, researching Barker in KY/VA and Brooklyn, Long Island, NY from 1730 to 1975; Bethel in Spring Valley/Nyack, NY and IL from 1630 to 1930; Lycke in Bayshore, NY, from 1890; Bartels on Long Island, NY, from 1900; and Lessels in Brooklyn and Long Island, NY, from 1890.

#437: Jeremiah A. Whitaker of Mashpee, researching Whitaker in Ulster County and NY, Friedman in Hungary before 1900, Koller in Austria before 1900, and McGoldrick before 1875.

#438: Lois Parker of West Falmouth, researching Joswig of Ungerberg, Germany, 1925.

#439: Donna Nascimento of East Falmouth, researching York, Cheney, and Boston of Maine, 1700-1800.

#440: Bernadette C. Brown of Falmouth, researching Brown of Bristol County, MA, in the 1830's, Andrews of Gloucester, RI, in the 1760's; Muller of Rosbach, Bavaria, and Germany in the 1780's; O'Day of Limerick, Ireland, in the 1840's; and Crotty of Ireland in the 1820's.

#441: Alice Borden of Mashpee, researching Leven, Steinberg, Sagowitz, Lepinsky, Rubinovits, all in Lithuania/Russia in the late 1800's.

#442: Charles B. Cooper & Sara E. Bysse of East Falmouth, researching Bysse of the United Kingdom (UK); Long of Northern Ireland; Cook and Prosser of the UK or Ireland; Maiseloff (phonetic) of Galicia or Belarus; Geyser (phonetic) of Ukraine or Galicia; and Meyer (phonetic) of the Koblenz area of Germany, all in the 18th and 19th centuries.