

# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

## 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.*

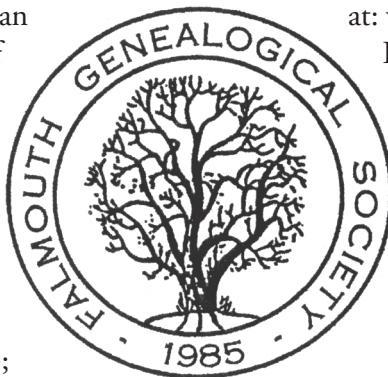
## Falmouth Genealogical Society

### President's Report

Ralph Wadleigh – January 12, 2013

NERGC's fourth Librarians' and Teachers' Day will be held on Wednesday, 17 April 2013 at the Radisson Hotel Manchester in conjunction with the Twelfth New England Regional Genealogical Conference. The day will be devoted to showing attendees how genealogy can enhance curricula, attract new patrons, and highlight collections. Librarians' and Teachers' Day provides the opportunity for professionals to learn how genealogy can serve them in their dual roles as curators of their unique collections and as ambassadors of genealogy resources for their schools and libraries. All librarians and teachers who work with family history patrons or genealogy-related research materials will benefit from this special event. Sessions include Getting Patrons Started in Genealogy by Christine Sharbrough, MSLIS, CG;

Creating Digital Collections for Genealogists by D. Joshua Taylor; ProQuest Information and Learning by William Forsyth; Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors by Lisa Alzo; and What Genealogists Wish Librarians Knew by Marianne B. Marcussen. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes lunch compliments of ProQuest. For information about each session, see the full conference brochure at: [www.nergc.org/Program.html](http://www.nergc.org/Program.html). To register for Librarians' and Teachers' Day -- or the entire Twelfth New England Regional Genealogical Conference, go to [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org) and click on "Registration".



Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph Wadleigh, President

## Calendar of Meetings for 2013

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- Jan 12: Michael Brophy: Paddy on the Net - Irish Internet Genealogy
- Feb 9: Artifact Day: members bring in a family artifact and discuss the ancestor who originally owned it. (need four volunteers!)
- Mar 9: Laura Prescott - Using Timelines to Solve Genealogical Problems.
- Apr 13: TBD
- May 11: Lori Lyn Price: Internet Genealogy In Your PJ's
- Jun 8: TBD
- Jul 13: Al Knight: A Personal History featuring the Crocker Family of Cotuit
- Aug 10: Tales of Our Ancestors - Members give a presentation on a featured ancestor. (Need three volunteers!)

## Program Notes From Meetings

Reviewed by Joyce Pendery, CG

### *A Genealogist's Adventures Before and During a Research Trip to Portugal* Allan Moniz Lecture presented October 13, 2012

Al Moniz began his talk by telling how he met with his sister several years ago to discuss learning more about their family history and to divide research responsibilities. After deciding to focus on their mother's side of the family, Al related what they subsequently learned about the origins of the Figuerido family in Portugal and their life in the Falmouth area. Al soon learned what many genealogists discover about their immigrant ancestors: that family names were not as anticipated because pronunciation and naming patterns are different in some European countries, that different names were arbitrarily assigned to immigrant ancestors at Ellis Island, and that the immigrant often stated the place of origin as the largest town or city in the area rather than their small native village.

Al and his sister contacted family members for information about their family. Although some did not respond to their inquiries, an uncle provided the place of origin. They found family photos at one cousin's as well as a family tree compiled by a deceased cousin. Other family members had stories to tell.

From *The Book of Falmouth*, Al knew that most Falmouth Portuguese came from the Azores and Cape Verde Islands, that some came from Continental Portugal, and that there was a cultural rift between immigrants from the islands and from the continent. Al talked to members of the other side of his family and to his uncle, who said

Al's ancestors did not come from Lisbon as they claimed and as was noted in obituaries, but from a village in the former Beira Alta Province in the highlands of north central Portugal.

Passenger lists were very helpful for comparing origins and destinations, especially when Al looked at variation of spellings and different surnames. He discovered that one ancestor had sailed from Porto to Liverpool

in a ship with a cargo of wine, and then continued to New York. He eventually found the names of other Portuguese immigrants next to the names of his immigrant ancestors who had all listed Falmouth as their destination.

Although his ancestors came to Falmouth before 1910, Al could find no Falmouth vital or census records for his an-

cestors until the 1940 census. He did finally find World War I draft records and family records at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Woods Hole, proof that they lived in the area.

After spending about three years learning as much as possible about his family from family members and in American records, Al went to Portugal to visit the native village his family and to continue his quest there, where he met villagers who knew of his ancestors and where he found additional family information not available in this country.



## AFTERTHOUGHTS BY JOYCE

As well as enthusiastically recounting his fascinating quest to learn about his Portuguese ancestors in Falmouth and in Portugal, Al Moniz also followed the methodology that professional genealogists recommend for such a research project:

- Check for various spellings of surnames and given names, as well as naming patterns and the possibility of name changes, common in many European countries and at ports of entry into the U.S.

- Contact family members, beginning with the oldest, to ask what they know about family members.
- Check passenger arrival lists under all possible surnames and spelling variations.
- Look for primary records first: birth, marriage, and death records. Then look for census records, cemetery records, information in city directories, newspaper obituaries, and local histories.
- Plan a trip to visit the ancestral home only after you have completed as much research as possible in the U.S. and know your destination.

## *It's a Small World After All and Immigrant Research Strategies*

Two lectures presented by Marcia Iannizzi Melnyk

November 10, 2012, Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Professional genealogist Marcia I. Melnyk presented back-to-back lectures at the annual joint meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society and Cape Cod Genealogical Society held on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at St. Peter's Church in Osterville. A delicious lobster roll lunch followed the program. Copies of Marcia's extensive, detailed handouts for these lectures may be downloaded by contacting Ed Shibata at [www.eis\\_42@verizon.net](mailto:www.eis_42@verizon.net).

The focus of "It's a Small World After All" was the using the Internet, the World Wide Web, e-mail, computerized databases, and research CD-ROMS for genealogy. These resources have changed the way genealogists work and are helpful in starting and filling out the bare bones of your family tree. However, not everything from these sources is accurate or even true, and it is necessary to verify all information in primary sources,

if possible. Marcia provided advice and precautions for posting personal information on the Internet, as well as emphasizing what is important to remember when using the internet, online databases, and CD ROMS.



In her presentation on "Immigrant Research Strategies," Marcia explained how immigrant and ethnic research differs from general genealogical research, in particular regarding name changes and spellings. She presented a list of strategies for more effective ethnic research that included doing "Cluster Genealogy," Surname Searches, joining Ethnic Genealogical So-

cieties, buying books specific to your areas of research, and using Internet sources that list various overseas areas and places.



## *FGS Annual Holliday Food Fest* On Saturday, December 8 1912



FGS has established a tradition of members preparing and sharing favorite family holiday foods and their recipes, with those attending the December meeting. Members are also invited to talk a bit about the ancestors who used the recipes. As usual, a wide variety of dishes reflected geographical areas of origin of ancestors, including Japan, northwest California, Sweden, Germany, and New England. Several members also brought favorite family cook books and explained their connection to their family history.

Cape Cod Times food columnist Gwenn Friss attended the meeting and wrote a feature article for the December 19, 2012, issue of the paper entitled “Genealogical soci-

ety hosts a holiday repast.” Gwenn explained why Janice Zlatev’s family prepared pig-shaped cookies at Christmas and how Ed Shibata’s Japanese grandparents adapted their sushi recipes to ingredients available in New Mexico. Nancy Hayward brought spritz cookies shaped by her mother’s old Mirro cookie press. David Burt wondered why his mother’s recipe, written in translated Katherine Gibbs school shorthand, did not turn out perfectly. And Marianne Shafer brought her grandmother’s 1887 “White House Cookbook” that was actually a manual for running a household, as well as a recipe book.

Needless to say, no one left the meeting hungry!

## *Paddy on the Net: Irish Genealogy Databases*

Presented by Michael Brophy at the January 12 2013 FGS Meeting

Professional genealogist and heir tracer Michael Brophy presented a very informative talk on searching Irish genealogy websites to find information on Irish ancestors. The number of such websites has significantly increased in recent years, and the variety of information offered has expanded. As usual with Irish research, the more you know about where your ancestors lived in Ireland, the more likely you will be to find significant information. In-depth stateside research should precede any genealogy research trip to Ireland. These websites may provide the information you need!



Michael explained that while two of the best of the following nine websites he discussed are paid websites, the free websites also offer valuable information.

1. [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie), a new, paid website (one of the best) offers for the first time online Irish Land and Estate Records. Therein you can find lists of Irish estates, the names of their owner-landlords, and names of their tenants, plus some information about the rented property, as well as Griffith's valuation.

2. [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie), the paid website of the Irish Family History Foundation, offers transcribed birth/baptism, marriage, and death records, remaining 19th century census records, and complete 1901 and 1911 censuses. They also have incomplete collections of other types of Irish records.

3. [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie), website of the Irish National Archives in Dublin, offers complete 1901 and 1911 census records with actual images, plus many other digitized records from their collections.

4. [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie), website of the Irish National Library in

Dublin, has a section entitled "Sources," with over 180,000 manuscript sources for Irish history, many finding aids, and much more.

5. [www.proni.ie](http://www.proni.ie), website for the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, has an online database of freeholders (voters) from the 18th and 19th centuries, 19th and 20th century street directories, and more.

6. [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) is sponsored by the Irish government to help promote tourism by offering county church records from counties Carlow, Cork, Dublin, and

Kerry, with more counties to come.

7. [www.seanruad.com](http://www.seanruad.com) features the digitized 1851 index to Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies. From smallest to largest units, Ireland is divided into Townlands, Counties, Baronies, Civil Parishes, Poor Law Unions, and Provinces. The more detailed information you have about where your ancestors lived, the more successful will your search be.

8. [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) is a good guide to Griffith's Primary Valuation, the 1847-1864 effort to list and value all Irish property and to list all landlords and their tenants. Maps are included.

9. [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) is a research guide to research sources, history, and travel information for Ireland's 32 counties – 6 in the North and 26 in Eire.

Copies of Michael's handouts with more detailed information about these web sites and other sources for Irish research are available by emailing Ralph Wadleigh at [whplar@comcast.net](mailto:whplar@comcast.net). Michael Brophy may be contacted at [mbrophy@brophygen.com](mailto:mbrophy@brophygen.com) or at [www.brophygen.com](http://www.brophygen.com).

## Brief Notes

Book Review: *Mrs. Adams in Winter* by Michael O'Brien, Pub. By Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2010

Here's an interesting book for those who like travelogues with historical overtones. It is February 1815 and Mrs. Louisa Catherine Adams is about to leave St. Petersburg, Russia and travel overland to meet her husband, John Quincy Adams in Paris where he has been engaged in negotiating the end to the War of 1812. She will be riding in a horse drawn conveyance originally equipped with runners but convertible to wheels, accompanied by her young son, Charles Francis Adams, and two household retainers. This is not your usual road trip. Researched extensively from letters and her personal diary, the story unfolds over both frozen and thawed terrain, describing the post system in place during that time, the struggle with exchange rates, political boundaries and the various risks facing a traveler in the destitute places ravaged by the Napoleonic wars. She travels through the Russian held Baltic provinces, into modern Poland, Germany and finally France. By the end of her journey she encounters a final level of drama as she races Napoleon, just escaped from Elbe, to Paris.

In addition to the travel aspect of the story, the reader will gain a new perspective of John Quincy Adams, especially his allegiance to country and to his family, his, not so much hers. Also of note are the descriptions of Louisa's relationships with the rulers in Russia and Prussia and how these interacted with her husband's responsibilities as an American diplomat. This is not a genealogical book per se, but if you have ancestors who lived in Eastern Europe in the early 19th century or if you are interested in the presidential Adams family, you will find this an interesting read. It is available on CLAMS.

Submitted by Ralph Wadleigh

It's not too late to make plans to attend the New England Regional Genealogical Conference to be held in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 17-21, 2013. It is a superlative way to absorb ways to sharpen your genealogical research, purchase genealogical books and other materials and make new friends. You can learn all the details at [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org). Check it out!

NERGC Chairs, Society Delegates, Society Presidents,

I am looking for raffle items for my Volunteer Raffle. In 2011 we had lots of raffle items and I am hoping for even more for 2013. As you know this raffle is a way to say Thank You to volunteers.

Some suggested items which are popular are:

Membership  
Magazine subscription  
Flash Drive  
Book Store gift card  
Coffee gift card (Dunkins, Starbucks, etc)  
Books  
Software  
Archival folder or protects  
New England items (maple syrup was a hit in 2011)

You can either bring your item to the next meeting or the first day of the conference but let me know in advance so I can plan accordingly.

Thanks,  
Christine  
NERGC 2013 Volunteer Chair

## New Members

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

#426: Edward Enos Jr. of East Falmouth, MA, researching Bumpus of Wareham and Viera of the Azores.

#427: Sharon Mulcahy of East Falmouth, MA, researching Baum of Prussia, Schenk of Germany in the 1880s, Stoneman of Canada in the 1880s, Haggerty of Ireland in the 1730s, and Mulcahy of Ireland.

#428: Louise A. Bailey of Falmouth, MA, researching Allen in New England since 1620.