

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 25 Number 2
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536
www.falgen.org

November 2013 - January 2014

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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.

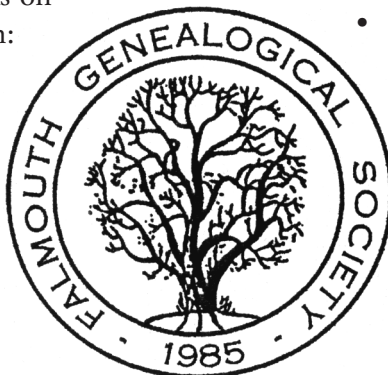
Falmouth Genealogical Society

IDENTIFYING AND DATING FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS

Program presented by Maureen A. Taylor at the September 14, 2013, meeting

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, C.G.

A large audience gathered on September 14th to hear Maureen A. Taylor's talk on "Identifying and Dating Family Photographs." An international lecturer, Maureen is also the author of many articles and books on photo identification. According to Maureen: "A family photograph collection is more than a random collection of images: each one is a story worth saving." Maureen showed many historic photos and described their significant characteristics that aid in dating photos. She talked about how to solve photo mysteries yourself by following these guidelines:



owned it before you and before they did? Has anyone supplied identifications? WHO was the photographer and WHERE was he located?

- WHAT are the subjects wearing? WHAT type of photo is it? WHAT do you know about the image?
- WHERE was the photo taken?
- WHEN was the photo taken?
- WHY was the photo taken: for a special event or reason: wedding, reunion, funeral?

Questions to ask and try to answer include:

- WHO were the subjects of the photo? WHO

Then you add up the clues:

- THE TYPE OF PHOTO helps determine the date the photo was taken – from the earliest daguerreotypes of

Calendar of Meetings for 2013-2014

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

Dec. 14: Annual Holdiday Food Fest - at Falmouth Senior Center

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

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

Mar. 8: Mary Ellen Grogan: Researching your Irish Roots

Apr. 12: Alice Stelzer: Women

May 10: Paul Bunnell: Loyalist Migrations

June 14: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

the 1830's to Brownie photos of the 20th century to recent digital photos.

- THE PHOTOGRAPHER helps determine the date and place the photo was taken.
- GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH helps predict who the subjects might have been.
- COSTUMES AND HAIR STYLES offer the most important clues for dating photos.
- INTERNAL EVIDENCE may help determine relationships, events, locations. Alas, captions written on historic photos are often wrong!

If you can't identify a photo, show the photo to as many relatives as possible and post it on the Internet. Advertise your family on a message board or in a query column with details about the photo.

Maureen shared information about many photo projects that she is working on, including preparing albums of photos of Revolutionary War veterans in their old age and a documentary about their lives.

You can contact Maureen and sign up for her free e-newsletter on www.photodetective.com and you can watch Maureen solve cases on www.vimeo.com/photodetective or @photodetective on Twitter.



Maureen Taylor and Alice Batchelor

Mystery Photo

Do any FGS members recognize this family? Someone left it at last month's Maureen Taylor meeting and we want to return it. Please speak to Ralph Wadleigh or Ed Shibata.



CONTRASTING GERMAN MIGRATIONS and GERMAN FOR GENEALOGISTS

Two lectures presented by James M. Beidler,
September 21, 2013,

at Brewster Ladies' Library

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Before a room-full of Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Society members, Pennsylvanian James M. Beidler presented two lectures on German genealogy on Saturday morning, September 21, 2013. In his first lecture, Mr. Beidler discussed the differences between 18th and 19th century German immigrants. In the second lecture he discussed German for genealogists and how to learn or find the language basics necessary for working with documents written in German.

During the 17th century, very few Germans immigrated to North America. Eighteenth-century German immigrants are dubbed "Pennsylvania Germans," as many of them arrived in or passed through that colony on their

route west. About 80,000 German speaking immigrants came to America during the 1700's. Most came from the Palatinate, Saarland, Baden, Wuertemberg, or Alsace areas, all in southwestern Germany. Some also came from adjoining Switzerland. The majority traveled up the Rhine River to the port of Rotterdam and disembarked in Philadelphia.

Most of these early German immigrants were Protestants: Lutheran, Reformed, or sectarian Mennonite, Moravian, or Amish who sought religious freedom. Many had to buy their economic freedom from some type of serfdom, or they revolted against partible inheritance that reduced the size of land holdings each generation. The majority were poorly educated peasants, farmers or village residents, some of whom were indentured and all of whom wanted to acquire land.

During the 19th century and up to World War I, over 5 million Germans immigrated to North America. They became known as "German Americans," and the majority came from northern and eastern Germany: Saxony, Pomerania, Brandenburg, and Bavaria. Most embarked at Bremen or Hamburg and went to New York, Baltimore, or the upper Midwest and Texas, via the port of New Orleans.

These immigrants were about equally divided between Catholics and Protestants. They were looking for business opportunities, increased class mobility, fewer marriage restrictions, and avoidance of military service. In addition to farmers, some were tradesmen or businessmen with better education.

Church records are one of the best sources of information on the births, marriages, and deaths of these immigrants, in both the old and new countries. Lutherans, Catholics, and Moravians kept the best records. Anabaptists and Evangelicals did not practice infant baptism.

The speaker's Bibliography included:

- Filby, P. William and Ira A. Glazier, editors. *Germans to America: Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports, 1850-1897*.
- Hacker, Werner. *Eighteenth Century Register of Emigrants from Southwest Germany to America and Other Countries* (Apolla, PA: Closson Press, 1994).

- Jones, Henry A. Jr. *The Palatine Families of New York: A Study of the German Immigrants Who Arrived in Colonial New York in 1710*, 2 vols. (Universal City, CA: H.Z. Jones, 1985). Jones has written additional books that extend his study.
 - Schenk, Trudy and Ruth Froelke. *Wuerttemberg Emigration Index*, 8 vols. (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1986-).
 - Strassburger, Ralph B. and William J. Hinke. *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, 3 vol. (Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1992).
 - Web sites, include www.familysearch.org; www.ellisland.org; Hamburg passenger lists at <http://international.hamburg.de/> (click on "English," then on "LinkToYourRoots;" National Archives passenger lists at www.archives.gov/index.html (click on "Research Room").
- Reading these records, written in German, can be challenging and requires some basic vocabulary and knowledge of printed, script, and hand-written German. Mr. Beidler provided a list of words and abbreviations found in German records; he showed examples of different types of records and writing; and he provided a bibliography that included:
- Humphrey, John T. *Finding Your German Ancestors: A Practical Guide for Genealogists* (Pennsylvania Genealogy Books, \$19.95).
 - Thode, Ernest. *German-English Genealogical Dictionary* (Genealogical Publishing Co., \$29.95).
 - Bentz, Edna M. *If I Can, You Can: Decipher Germanic Records* (self-published, \$17.25).
 - Web sites, including: www.Babelfish.yahoo.com (Babel Fish Text Translation); LEO Deutsch-Englisch-Woerterbush (German-English Dictionary) at www.dict.leo.org; or use Google Translator.



FORGING BROKEN LINKS CLOSING GAPS IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

Double Presentation to Falmouth Genealogical Society and Cape Cod Genealogical Society
by David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist,
New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston

Osterville, November 16, 2013;
reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

DAVID LAMBERT has an encyclopedic knowledge of genealogical resources helpful in solving genealogical dead ends. His expertise was evident during his double presentation to members and guests at the 6th Annual Joint Meeting of the Falmouth and Cape Cod Genealogical Societies held at St. Peter's Church in Osterville on Saturday, November 16, 2013.

David began with the topic of finding adoption records: original, amended, corrected, with name changes, or with a missing parent, suggesting illegitimacy. Information can vary according to the record date and location. There were few adoption records before the Civil War, and many adoption records are closed for up to 100 years. Adoption can be a delicate topic, as some adoptees are unaware of their status.

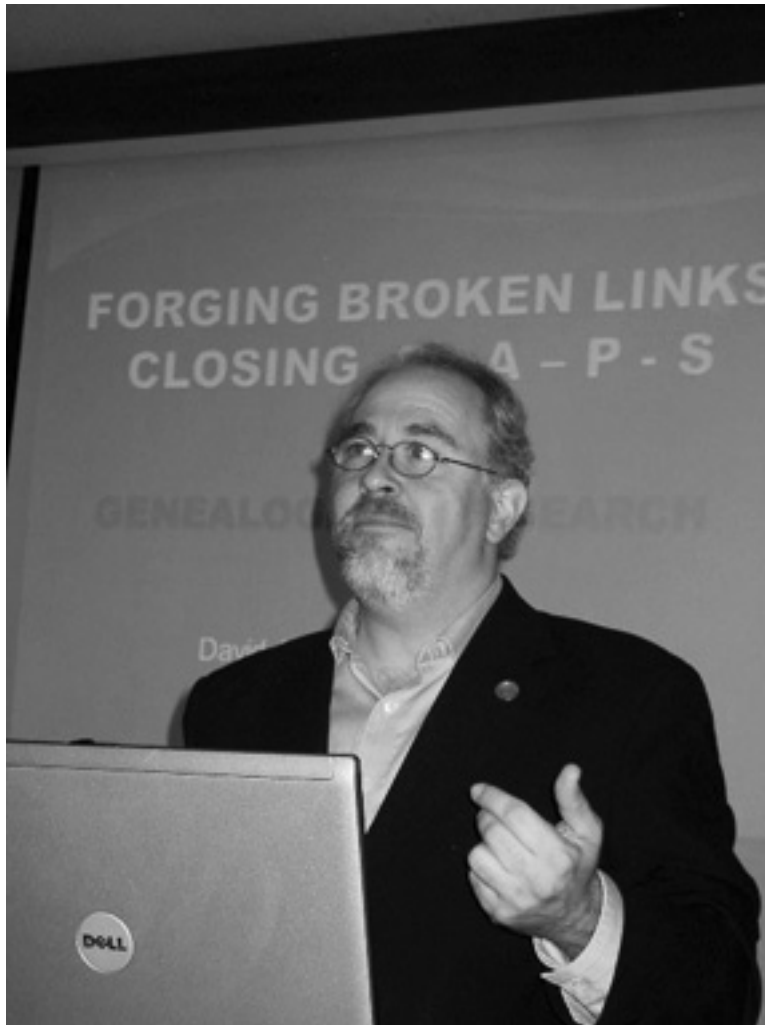
Both adoption and guardianship records can sometimes be found in the original dockets of probate files. Online indexes to probate indexes and files are available for many states. Guardianship records can be for young, old, incapacitated, and mentally ill persons and among other information, they may include accountings of expenses for personal care. Sometimes

children were transferred between families without filing of legal documents, and orphans who were siblings were sometimes separated and sent to different families or to orphanages. Sources of information about guardianships and adoptions might also be found in diaries, letters, obituaries, newspaper articles, and divorce proceedings.

Clues for locating orphans may be found in probate records, guardianships, military pension files, census records, obituaries, court cases, newspapers, and orphanage records. The majority of Orphan Trains, destined for the west, originated in New York and Boston from 1854 to 1929. Due to high infant mortality rates, families often welcomed orphans as foster children. Orphans traveling on Catholic orphan trains were given to Catholic families. Non-Catholic orphans were often picked out upon arrival to help with work and family chores with both positive and negative results. Cyndi's List web site has information on Orphan Trains, and the web site for the National Orphan Train Complex in Concordia, Kansas, is [www.](http://www.orphantraindepot.org)

www.orphantraindepot.org.

World events, including wars, genocides, fleeing refugees, famines, and natural disasters also led to the dispersion of



children. While more difficult to trace, some information may be found at the United Nations International Refugee Organization and in U.S. National Archives files Record Group 59, covering the years 1939-1945.

David proposed that everyone put themselves under a microscope through DNA testing. The long-established web site he suggests is www.familytreedna.com. David explained the main types of tests: Y-DNA for males, MtDNA for females, Autosomal DNA to determine evidence of non-European DNA (for example, American Indian ancestry), and the SNP test that analyzes particular markers within surname groups.

David concluded by talking about unusual genealogical sources that may provide clues or even direct information that will help forge broken links or close gaps. These include coffin plates that contain birth and death information, hand written cook books and recipe cards that show hand writing and can indicate recipe preferences and possibly suggest areas of origin, address books, account books, family samplers, birth date books, wedding gift books, funeral books, old checks, tax bills, old telephone books, and letters and postcards with messages and postmarks on stamps that establish dates.

The moral of the story is that we should never overlook or throw away any possible source of family information!

Informative Website reported by Ralph Wadleigh

Are you having trouble keeping up with the constant changes on the web? Perhaps you are interested in database additions or changes in certain geographic areas you follow. If so, you should take a look at the weekly *Genealogy in Time Magazine Newsletter*. This free newsletter arrives weekly in your email and consists normally of two parts, first an interesting article on a genealogical related subject and second a list of all the websites that had new data posted during the past week. So, for example, if you are interested in finding out about new data on Ireland, you would have learned about two new items in the 9 November 2013 issue. More importantly, the issues are archived so you can review several issues at one sitting. A plus to the site are two search engines that you will want to try. To get started, just go to www.genealogyintime.com. You'll be glad you did!

Library News from Janice Zlatev

Falmouth Genealogical Society member Lockwood Rianhard has donated a book to the Falmouth Public Library. The title is: *Female Index to Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England* by James Savage, compiled by Paty Barthell Myers. Lockwood had noticed, while doing his own research, that the library did not own this book. This title is currently in cataloging at the library.

BEYOND PENSION FILES! DISCOVER YOUR CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS IN FEDERAL PUBLICATIONS AND DOCUMENTS

Program presented by Connie Reik at the October 12, 2013, meeting

Reviewed by Susan Hutchinson

Connie Reik, Research and Instruction Librarian for History and Government Publications Coordinator at Tisch Library, Tufts University, spoke about using Congressional and other governmental agencies' publications to gather and supplement information about Civil War ancestors. She presented an extensive bibliography including numerous website references.

Connie began by pointing out that the first step in researching a Civil War ancestor is to "know" your soldier. This includes the full name of the person (and his spouse's name), full date of birth, place of birth, and residence before and after the conflict. Both the 1910 and 1930 U.S. censuses have questions on military service. The 1890 U.S. Census's Veterans' Schedule for states beginning with letters K-W is available on Ancestry.com [Note: Most of the 1890 Census burned accidentally.]

The next steps in researching a Civil War ancestor are to find out which branch of the service he was in, whether he was in the regular army or a state volunteer unit, and whether he was an officer or an enlisted man. She also mentioned that some people served as "contractors" who contributed to the war effort. It was also common for a soldier to pay a substitute to take his place!



Marianne Shafer and Connie Reik

The National Archives has many publications that will help in this area. Several that she recommended are:

- Plante, Trevor K. Military Service Records at the National Archives: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/ref-info-papers/rip109.pdf>
- National Archives and Records Administration. Finding Information of Personal Participation in the Civil War: <http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/civil-war/resources/research-brochure.pdf>
- National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors Database: <http://nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

Many other Federal publications will enable a researcher to gather information on an ancestor's regiment and any campaigns and battles in which he participated. At this point, Ms. Reik mentioned the advantage of using online commercial versions of the U.S. Congressional Serial Set. This set is available from the Boston Public Library via an e-card. Many volumes of this set have been scanned by Google, so do a Google search for the people involved to determine the names that are available online.

In addition, there are many U.S. Agency/Dept. Publications which are a vast source of information. These include:

- List of Pensioners on the Roll, January 1, 1883 (U.S. Pension Bureau)
- The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (U.S. War Dept., Gov. Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 1894)
- Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion (U.S. Naval War Records Office, Gov. Printing Office, 1894.)

During this fascinating presentation, Mr. Reik showed us that by using additional websites such as for the National Park Service, Centers for Military History, "How To" guides, and online databases, we can actually trace our ancestors through the entire Civil War while researching the War itself.



David Martin at the Joint Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies meeting on November 16th.