

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.

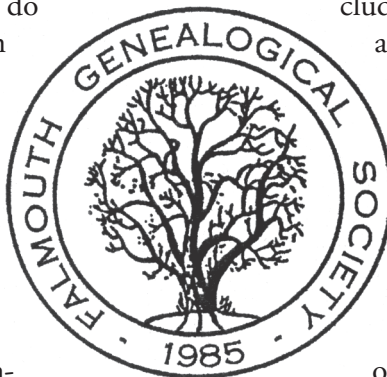
Falmouth Genealogical Society CHALLENGES OF RESEARCHING WOMEN

APRIL 12, 2014 PROGRAM PRESENTED BY ALICE PLOUCHARD STELZER

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

The invisibility of women in the records genealogists consult presents a challenge to researchers. Few early documents refer to women, and those that do often omit their full names. Often women are referred to as "wife" or "daughter" of the man who is the principal subject of the document.

The research approach that Alice Stelzer recommends is to "follow the men" and examine probate records, wills, inventories, and settlement agreements for insights into family relationships and possible names of family members of the deceased. Property in America was usually divided among surviving children, and the widow had the right to one-third of her husband's estate during her lifetime, if she did not remarry. It was rare



for a woman to own property in her own name. Family members are often named in probate documents, including married surnames of daughters. However, attention must be paid to references to "in laws," as their relationship to family members was often different in the past.

Few 17th and 18th century women left wills. Surviving wills may reveal the literacy level of the testator, including whether she signed her name or used an "X." Probate records can also help establish death dates of family members. Finding exact or even approximate death dates for women can be difficult.

Early estate inventories can give insight into family wealth and possessions. For example, since cloth was not produced

Calendar of Meetings for 2014

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

July 12 - *Tracing Your Family Health History*, Carol Bosworth

(Carol is a Worcester County RN and an instructor at Quinsigamond Community College.)

August 9 - *Writing a Genealogical Sketch*, Ralph Wadleigh

September 13 - *Workshop for Beginners*, a panel discussion

October 11 - *Organizing a Family Reunion*, Donna Walcovy

November 8 - *Immigration Research*, Rhonda McClure of NEHGS (Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Wianno Ave., Osterville)

December 13 - Annual Food Fest and Holiday Party



Speaker, Alice Stelzer (showing her book) with members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

in America until well into the 18th century, great value was placed on imported clothing, and household linens are often listed, evaluated, and sometimes described in detail.

Original wills and other probate records are usually kept in official county repositories. Personal or family copies have often been lost. In many European countries it is necessary to know the parish of death to find original or digitized probate records.

Ms. Stelzer is the author of *Female Adventurers who Helped Colonize Massachusetts and Connecticut*, wherein she created brief biographies of twelve women based on records she located and analyzed. She encourages others to trace the histories of women in their families, as well. See David Burt's review of Ms Stelzer's book on page 23 of this newsletter.

For keeping track of probate records being digitized consult Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter at <http://blog.eogn.com> and Michael Leclerc's blog at <http://blog.mocavo.com>.

Many onsite and digitized wills can be found on NEHGS' web site <http://americanancestors.org>.

For wills in the United States: www.archives.gov.

For English wills drawn up since 1858 consult: http://www.familyrelatives.com/information/info_detail.php?id=109

For Irish wills: http://www.familyrelatives.com/search/search_irishwills.php

For Quaker wills: http://familyrelatives.com/search/search_quakers.php



LOYALIST MIGRATIONS LEAVING & RETURNING TO THE STATES

MAY 10, 2014, PROGRAM PRESENTED BY CHIEF
PAUL BUNNELL, UE

Paul was so grateful to return to his Genealogical Society beginnings at Falmouth. He began his talk on how the American loyalists were affected after the end of The American Revolution in 1783. Detailed statistics, dates, and numbers were presented which explained how 150,000 loyalist soldiers, their families, and refugees were removed from the United States. Many new homes were carved out by these fleeing loyalists in England, Bermuda, Bahamas, Sierra Leone, Jamaica, Dominica, Islands of St. Vincent, and mainly in Canada.

Support from the British for these loyalists fell short; very little material support and nearly no compensation for all their losses in the States was delivered. Saint John City (Parr Town), Nova Scotia, (later to be New Brunswick) became a city of 10,000 tents with many starving loyalists, little food, and the rich stealing from the small garden patches the farmers grew. Around 1786 in New Brunswick, unhappiness over unfair land grants nearly led that province to become the 14th state in the U.S. Instead, it became the Loyalist Province with Saint John City becoming the Loyalist city.

Black loyalists got their freedom for serving the King, but their rewards were nothing close to what their white counterparts received. This led to riots in Shelburne, Nova Scotia. Until the 1790's, when hard negotiations with England were finally successful, the Blacks were given a few ships to sail to their new life in Sierra Leone, Africa. This proved a bigger disaster for them with 90% of them dying there of disease or starvation.

From 1830 to 1860, many of the descendants of the loyalists returned to the U.S., seeking new lands, jobs, and opportunities. After 1784, many loyalists themselves snuck back into the States, not to their home towns, but they came across and settled just over the border in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and also New York and Michigan.



Jerry Luby and Paul Bunnell

Paul ended his talk by listing the names of many Cape Cod loyalists and where they ended up, as well as other Cape engagements and historical notes. He also outlined some notorious loyalists who stood out.



FGS JUNE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

President Ralph Wadleigh opened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Reading of the minutes of the 2013 Annual Meeting was dispensed with by general agreement.

Treasurer Ed Shibata reported approximately \$5,500 in the checking account and CD's for \$4,000 and \$5,000. Dues for the current year are now due. The Society presented Ed a gift in thanks for his nine years of service as treasurer and membership chair.

Library Chair Jan Zlatev reported that there were about 1/3 fewer clients in 2013-2014 than in the previous year for research assistance at the library on Tuesday afternoons. FGS continues to pay part of the yearly fees for Ancestry and Heritage Quest to be available on library computers.

A Publicity chair is needed.

Donna Walcovy needs volunteers to honor veterans of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 buried in Oak Grove Cemetery, by researching their biographies.

Past officers of FGS, present at the meeting included Eleanor Baldic, Robert Rice, and Joyce Pendery.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
PRESENTED AT JUNE 2014
ANNUAL MEETING

Ralph Wadleigh

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Today brings an end to my term as President. With your new, about to be elected President, Mary Barry, I am confident in the future of our society. Mary will be a great leader thanks to her organizational skills and the support of our energetic board of directors. Without a doubt, the Society will continue to provide educational, research, and social support to area genealogists and family historians.

Looking over the past five years, we accomplished a number of significant things. Most importantly we survived in a world where a number of other similar societies have dropped from the scene. We published an index of the obituaries from *The Falmouth Enterprise* from 1960 to 2012, we continued to work on the cemetery transcription project, we invited a number of important genealogical speakers to Falmouth, we continued to support and benefit from NERGC, and we maintained and even grew our sound financial condition. We also assisted numerous folks at our Tuesday afternoon help session here at the library. The one, somewhat frustrating, unfinished task is the introduction of a new website, but work is again underway on that project.

I want to express my thanks to all the members of the Board of Directors who served with me. I could not have carried on without your guidance and support. I also want to thank our faithful members who come to our meetings. Their attendance proves that we are doing something of worth.

Finally, I am pleased to report that I will continue to serve on the Board as Program Chair. Hopefully we will continue to attract noteworthy speakers and a wide variety of topics.

Thank you again for allowing me to be your leader and representative for the past five years.

Ralph



Ralph Wadleigh and Mary Barry

FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, JUNE 2014 – JUNE 2015

OFFICERS

President	Mary Barry	Secretary/Clerk	Dottie Priest
1st Vice President	Open	Treasurer	Gerard Luby
2nd Vice President	Richard Harbison		

DIRECTORS

Library	Jan Zlatev	Publications	David Burt
Membership	Ray Howe	Publicity	Marianne Shafer
NERGC Representative	Phyllis Day	Website	Jeramie Hammond
Newsletter	Joyce Pendery	At Large	Robert Chase
Nominating	Donna Walcovy	At Large	Joan Croce
Program	Ralph Wadleigh	At Large	Susan Hutchinson

BOOK REVIEWS

Hite, Richard: *Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends*. The author is State Records Coordinator of the Rhode Island State Archives and started his own family genealogy in 1979, working with his father. The book is available through CLAMS.

Hite explains how to avoid the pitfalls of believing family legends as truth. Just because your surname is that of someone famous, it does not follow that you are related. We are all told to start with ourselves and work backwards, but sometimes family stories claim an ancestor who is not really yours. Getting sidetracked keeps you from finding the true story of “your” family.

Sustainable Genealogy has 11 chapters, each dealing with a specific topic that can lead the researcher astray. The first chapter is on oral history, the stories told about your ancestors, and the errors that creep into these tales as they are passed on. Hite also tells about “written” oral histories which are published in county or family histories (usually with no documentation). Even a primary source such as a death certificate may be wrong if the person giving the information is not familiar with the deceased.

Other chapters deal with ethnic origins of surnames and maiden names of female ancestors. The author points out that claims to relationships to royalty or wealth are difficult to prove. Claims of Native American ancestry are usually unfounded. Only in certain geographical parts of the US is this a feasible choice. In Canada there is more of a chance of having a Native American ancestor. Some researchers unable to find a maiden name “decide” the ancestor was Native American and this information gets printed in a family history.

Military service of an ancestor is another area open to misinformation. Great-uncle John may have served in a war, but he was a private, not a major. Check birthdates and dates of supposed service. Sometimes the veteran is of a different generation or not a direct ancestor.

Hite writes about using DNA to help solve some questions of ancestry. He uses many examples from his own family history showing how “facts” can change over time in retelling. There is a lot of “food for thought” in this book.

Jan Zlatev

Stelzer, Alice Plouchard: *Female Adventurers, The Women who Helped Colonize Massachusetts and Connecticut*. 2013 Merriack Media, ISBN 978-1-939166-21-0.

Alice Stelzer gave an interesting talk to the Falmouth Genealogical Society on April 12, and had a number of her books to sell. I picked one up because since my father came from Connecticut, I am practically sure that I am related to some of these women if not most of them.

As she did in her talk, the author explains the frustrating fact that colonial women are not treated the same as the men in the records that are kept. More often than not, the maiden name of a woman is totally missing from the records, and hence it becomes very difficult to trace the maternal line. Unfazed by this inconvenient fact, the author manages to cull enough information about a dozen women to paint vivid pictures of their lives and the difficulties they encountered.

The result is a series of stories based on facts in the record, but filled in with plausible conjecture based on what the author knows about the conditions of the times. This is a history of colonial women, and the resulting picture is one of true heroism. While the men of the period showed great strength of character, the women are often the unsung heroines, sometimes as the wives of two or more of the men, and the mothers of many in a tremendous period of our New England History.

Probably from a genealogist’s point of view the most valuable thing is the extensive set of notes and bibliography following each chapter.

C. David Burt

Woodard, Colin: *American Nations – A History of the Eleven Rival Regional Cultures of North America*, Viking – Penguin Books, New York, 2011.

This broadly brushed cultural history of North America takes the reader from the first European arrivals right up to the present day and presents a thesis of why today’s political structures are the product of seeds sown centuries ago when immigrants of different cultures came to America. The eleven nations discussed are First Nation, New France, Yankeedom, New Netherlands, Tidewater, Greater Appalachia, Deep South, El Norte, Midlands, Far West and Left Coast. Each nation is shown to have a particular set of values, some shared and some opposed. The friction and

competition between the values and goals of each nation are evident in both historic and current events.

Most interesting to the genealogist is the concise reporting on the origin and make up of each nation, especially with respect to the importation and establishment of their respective values here in the United States. Each nation is covered by a founding chapter. Reading the details makes it possible to place immigrants in broad historical perspectives.

For example, Woodard writes: "Greater Appalachia started as a civilization without a government." It was peopled by Borderlanders, a "clan-based warrior culture from the borderlands of the British Empire." New Netherland was "an unabashedly commercial settlement with little concern for either social cohesion or the creation of a model society."

If one has a particular ancestor who immigrated as part of or into one of these nations, it is possible to begin to understand what that individual may have valued as part of his or her social/economic environment. This book is a good choice for family historians and is available through CLAMS.

Ralph Wadleigh



THE HIRAM HALL FAMILY OF NORTH FALMOUTH

By Charlet Roskovich

[Editor's note: Discover how Charlet's act of genealogical kindness turned into a significant find for someone she did not know.]

In February 2014, I volunteered to take a FindAGrave (www.findagrave.com) photo of the Hiram Hall headstone in the North Falmouth Cemetery for "Joyce" who lives in Texas. When I saw that two of the Hall children died in 1904 at very young ages (7 and 3 years old), I became curious and wondered if it was due to influenza or a horrible accident. My husband, Ed, knew where the Hall family had lived, so in addition to the photo of the headstone, I took a photo of the Hall house, currently owned by George and Barbara Hampson. Barbara Hampson shared the obituary for young Marjorie and Walter Hall, which reads:

The Falmouth Enterprise, October 8, 1904: "Very sad event occurred in the village this past week. Hiram F. Hall's three children were taken very sick and poisoned by eating horse chestnuts. One child [Marjorie] aged 7 died at 10:25 a.m. Monday and Walter at 10:45 p.m. Funeral in the church on Thursday."

After that, I decided to find out why their son, Norman Hall, died at age 20. His very long obituary states, in part:

The Falmouth Enterprise, February 14, 1920: "The Community was greatly saddened on Wednesday, Feb. 14th, to learn of the death of Norman Francis Hall, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram F. Hall, which occurred that day at the Relief Hospital, Cambridge, with pneumonia following an attack of the influenza. At the outset of his illness, while at the home of his uncle in Watertown, his mother was sent for to help care for him. Soon after Mrs. Hall's arrival she contracted the prevalent epidemic and both were removed to the hospital....The deceased was in his 20th year, born in this village Feb. 24th 1899. He graduated from Lawrence High School in the Class of 1919. [Many biographical details follow.] Owing to the lack of train service, his remains were not able to arrive until Monday. The funeral was held that day from the village church.... Internment was in the family lot... A small sister with his parents, to whom the deepest sympathy is extended, are the close surviving relatives."

Hiram F. Hall's obituary was in *The Falmouth Enterprise* on June 11, 1948. It states, in part:

"For many years prominent in the church and social life of North Falmouth, Hiram Frederick Hall died yesterday at Tobey Hospital after an illness of five days. Mr. Hall was 78 this past January. He was born in North Falmouth, the son of John W. Hall and Mary P. Nye Hall and had lived there all his life....He is survived by his wife, Ada C. Hall, a sister, Mrs. Bertha E. Wright, both of North Falmouth and one daughter, Mrs. Robert H. Potts of Cobleskill, N.Y. The funeral will be held Monday in the North Falmouth Congregational Church at 2 p.m. The Rev. Phillip Adams Job will officiate. Internment will be in North Falmouth Cemetery."

And lastly, part of the obituary of Ada C. Hall, from *The Falmouth Enterprise*, April 10, 1953:

"Mrs. Ada C. Hall, 76, life-long resident of North Falmouth, died Wednesday at the home of her daughter,

Mrs. Vera Potts, in Cobleskill, N.Y., after a long illness. She had lived with her daughter since the death of her husband, Hiram F. Hall, in 1948, when she sold her North Falmouth home to Frank Oglivie of Newton to move to Cobleskill. Born in Cataumet in January 1877, Mrs. Hall was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Chadwick. She attended Cataumet school and was wed on New Years Eve, 1897, at Cataumet Methodist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Hall celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1947 at a community Reception.... One son, Norman, died in 1920 of influenza.... [Note no mention of two children who died in 1904.] Survivors include Mrs. Potts and a granddaughter, Ellen Louise Potts; two sisters, Mrs. Myra Merritt of Cataumet and Mrs. Estelle Elliott of Woods Hole; a brother James F. Chadwick of Cataumet, and several nieces and nephews.

Charlet continues: "Luckily, Ada and Hiram Hall had a fourth child who survived, Vera (Hall) Potts, born in 1910. At least one horse chestnut tree stands on Old Main Road near the four corners. It makes one wonder how many other children ate poisonous horse chestnuts that fell from those trees in North Falmouth and are also buried in the cemetery."

[Editor's Note: Charlet's account of her curiosity and additional research shows how much genealogical, personal, and community information can be found in obituaries - in this case, covering members of four generation of a North Falmouth family, plus many details about the community and life there.]



MEMBERS: We need your contributions for the Newsletter! A book review, such as those by Ralph, David, and Jan in this issue; a description of research you have done, like Charlet's article; a web site you love; how you met cousins online, etc., etc. etc. You can send them anytime to the Editor.



DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS

Digitized versions of many newspapers, including *The Falmouth Enterprise* from 1896 to 1962, are available online. Google the newspaper name, or enter the email address, such as www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org and on their home page, look for the digital archive link.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

#443: Jean E. Whitten of Marston Mills, MA. Jean is researching Britten in New Brunswick/Nova Scotia in 1780-90; Pierce in Bridgewater/Middleboro before 1775; Geggate in Falmouth in the 1790's; and Fish in Falmouth/Sandwich in 1750-1800.

#444: Paco de la Fuente of Tallahassee, FL. He is researching Lewis. George arrived in 1632 and his grandparents Arthur R. and Grace Hall Lewis, etc., are buried in the family plot at Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth.



JOHN COLLETTA TO SPEAK IN BREWSTER, Saturday, August 2, 2014

Cape Cod Genealogical is sponsoring a special presentation on Saturday, August 2nd, at Brewster Ladies Library, featuring well known genealogist and author John Colletta. John, a professional genealogist, is the author of several books on genealogy and family history research and an instructor at the Boston University Summer Genealogical Institute. Long-time members may remember that John was the featured speaker at the 2003 Falmouth Genealogical Society Conference held at Seacrest Resort.

From 10:30 a.m. to noon, John will speak on 'Putting Your Ancestors in Historical Context,' and from 1:30 to 3:30 he will conduct a workshop on "Writing Your Family History." The fee for each lecture is \$15 if paid by June 30; after that it is \$20. To register, send your check made out to CCGS, with indication of which lecture(s) you will attend, along with you name and mail or email address to CCGS, Box 1394, Harwich, MA 02645.

FGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership dues for fiscal year FY15 (June 2014 through May 2015) of \$20.00 per year is due on June 1, 2014. Kindly remit your check made payable to Falmouth Genealogical Society P.O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA. 02536-2107 or bring your check to the next monthly meeting.