

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

February – April 2007

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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

Holdings of the American French Genealogical Library

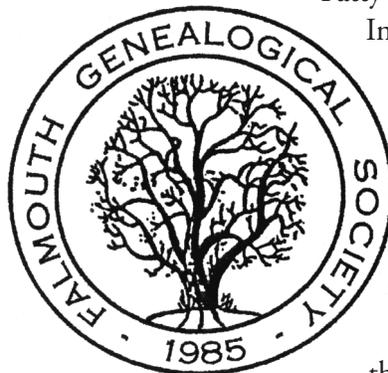
Talk presented by Patty Locke – November 11

by John M. Caspole

Patty Locke, who runs the research department at the American French Library in Woonsocket, RI, now in its 27th year of operation, spoke about the abundant resources available at this library about an hour away from Falmouth. The library is located in Woonsocket at 78 Earle Street West and is open Monday 11 to 4, Tuesday 1 to 9 and Saturday 10 to 4. More information can be found at its website www.afgs.org.

The AFGS has a large holding of parish books (reportories) and is constantly working to acquire more. It has more than 10,000 volumes of repertoires (marriage records), genealogies, biographies

and histories, as well as genealogical journals and publications of regional, national and international scope.



Patty spoke about the “Blue Drouin.” The Drouin Institute (l’Institut Généalogique Drouin) was a very prestigious institution. It was located for many years in Montréal, PQ and was the gold standard for genealogical research. In 1937, The Drouin Institute began a project to microfilm church and civil records and continued it until 1942. During that time, teams of people went to all the villages, towns and cities in the Province of Quebec and French speaking parts of Ontario, New Brunswick and even the United States.

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Calendar of Meetings for 2007

Saturdays, 10 a.m, Falmouth Senior Center, Dillingham Avenue*

- Feb. 10 Internet Genealogy Workshop
- March 10 Walter Hickey – What’s New at NARA?
- April 14 Barbara Jean Mathews, CG – Writing Your Family History
- May 12 Tales of Our Ancestors – Member Stories
- June 9 Annual Meeting – Midge Frazel – The Ellis Island Experience
- July 14 Summer Genealogy Workshop

*****Meeting Place Change*****

While the Renovation of the Falmouth Public Library is underway our meetings are being held at the Falmouth Senior Center on Dillingham Ave., Falmouth. Our Tuesday afternoon help sessions are at the Cataumet LDS Family History Center on County Road from 2 to 4 p.m.

Women in the Seventeenth Century

Presented by Marge Gibson – December 9

At the December meeting Marjorie Gibson's topic was "Life for Women in 17th Century New England." She discussed the status of women, their daily living, laws of inheritance, marriage, divorce and witches.

Women were raised to obey their fathers and then their husbands at all times. It was believed that intellectual exercise would overtax their weak minds; however, they were taught to read the Bible but rarely to write. A woman was supposed to be submissive, charitable, virtuous and modest; women had to sit with their small children, apart from the men in the meetinghouse. Most women did live under these restrictions which is why it is so difficult to learn about them except from court records which should always be searched.

If a husband's status was lower than his wife's, his became hers after marriage. Women did not work; however, if a man was away or deceased, the wife might carry on his business, such as running the farm or possibly a tavern. Whatever money or goods a woman brought to her marriage belonged to her husband, and when her husband died she was only entitled to one-third of the property. She could not sell it as it was to go to her children or step-children at her death. Consequently, widows soon remarried as they usually had no means of support and widowers needed someone to care for them, their children and their households. Occasionally a man might agree to a prenuptial contract which entitled his wife to her own money and property that she had prior to marriage.

Unmarried young men and women had to live with a family and abide by the family rules. The punishment for adultery could be fines, banishment, whippings, having an "A" branded on the forehead, or in a few cases death by hanging. Sometimes the cause of a wife's infidelity was a husband's abuse or neglect. Although divorce was condemned, it was permitted in cases of adultery, incest, impotence or desertion if the spouse was absent for seven years. The latter was so that a woman could remarry which would prevent her family from becoming a town charge.

In "A Search for Power: The Weaker Sex in Seventeenth Century New England," author Kyle Koehler stated

that between 1620-1699 there were 129 petitions for divorce; 139 women innkeepers and liquor sellers; and about 315 persons, mostly women, accused of witchcraft. In addition, there were 112 men and 141 women captured by Indians, and 56 men and women who committed suicide from 1620 to 1709. Also, from 1620 to 1700 there were 35 women suspected of killing their children, mostly infants. One woman killed herself when she found she was pregnant with her 20th child. Clearly, 17th century New England was a very difficult and stressful place in which to live and maybe the reason so many early colonists returned to England.



Genealogical Workshop – January 12

This workshop is primarily for beginners but it often is an opportunity for anyone who has a problem in his or her research to ask any one of the more experienced members if they know of a possible solution. We break up to small groups, by ethnic groupings, using experienced members as facilitators, and by software or computer issues for those with problems associated with using these products. We find that the open discussion of any problem often generates more than one solution.



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The result was a fabulous collection of primary source records including births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials ranging from the founding dates of a parish or town until 1940. In 1997 the American copyright for the film and the International copyrights for the books were purchased by The American French Genealogical Society of Rhode Island.

The Red Drouin books (now on CD) cover 1608-1760. Red Drouin contains abstracts of marriage records from Quebec. It lists bride, groom, parents, date of marriage and place of marriage. On marriage of first person who came to Canada, place of origin is also listed. The Petite Drouin is an overlap of the Red and Blue Drouins.

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From the President

John M. Caspole

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New England Regional Genealogical Conference April 26-30 at Hartford, Connecticut

NERGC Program Highlights

Why attend a genealogical conference? Presentations and lectures by experts give you an opportunity to learn more about all aspects of genealogy. The eight separate tracks at New England CONNECTIONS are organized around these themes: Ethnic Genealogy, Federal Records at the National Archives, Genealogical Techniques, New England Research, Records and Sources, Skills and Methodology (how to manage your research), Technology, Writing and Documents. The lectures themselves range from introductory topics to more specialized sessions such as Megan Smolenyak's presentation, "Trace Your Roots With DNA." See the full program at <http://www.nergc.org/2007/program2007.htm>.

NERGC Hotel News:

Hartford Marriott Downtown (<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/BDLDT>) is at the Convention Center, 200 Columbus Boulevard, Hartford, CT. There are plenty of hotel rooms at the Conference Hotel for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights – April 26, 27, 28. Book as many nights as you can at the Conference



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The King's Daughter is an intricately detailed depiction of the women who landed in Quebec between 1663 and 1673. Nearly 1,000 women were recruited by King Louis XIV to go to New France to marry and populate the colony. Most persons of French-Canadian ancestry can trace their lineage to many of these early settlers.

Patty's presentation was very comprehensive and interesting; so is the website and you can get a full description of all their resources. If I had French Canadian roots, I'd be sure to join AFGS.

Hotel; don't be left out of activities by being off-site during the evening hours. We want to fill our originally guaranteed rooms, and preferably the entire hotel, for the conference period. Those wishing to arrive a day early for Librarians' Day (April 25), or to settle in early for the conference which begins in earnest on Thursday should know that if you call the Marriott reservations center and request a room for Wednesday through Saturday nights, they'll tell you they are "full." What they mean is that only Wednesday is full! There is plenty of room on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights at our special conference rate, and you need to persevere. For more information about the Conference, go to www.nergc.org.

Family History Center at Cataumet

Now Open every Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm.

After a brief break for the holidays our experts are staffing this center on Tuesday afternoons taking advantage of the great equipment and ordering microfilms from Salt Lake City center. Take your problem there and get help or expand your search capabilities accessing Ancestry.com.

North Falmouth Cemetery – News of Local Interest

The North Falmouth Cemetery Association (NFCA) oversees the old cemetery behind the N.F. Congregational Church. Longtime NFCA member and N.F. Village Assoc. historian Bill Dunkle prepared detailed layout drawings back in the 1990s. Such intricate works are extremely valuable, but not always adequately updated. Another person had done considerable work to put much of the lot ownership and burial info into an Excel worksheet. Thankfully, Steve Molyneau, the new project manager for NFCA, has these two valuable resources, but much needs to be done to update and clear up the records.

The Chair of the NFCA would like us to be able to digitize our plot layouts, with the goal to make updating the

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Bookends

Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



The holidays may have brought some of you new genealogical books. I was happy to have received two: *Genealogical Writing in the 21st Century* by Michael J. LeClerc and Henry Hoff, and *New Englanders in the 1600's* by Martin E. Hollick. The first will help me

record some of the research I've accumulated in a way that will help my family will understand and appreciate it! The second may help uncover some new names and generations in the early colonial years. We will suggest them for additions to the Falmouth Public Library.

Speaking of the Falmouth Public Library, we are looking for some volunteers to expand our Tuesday afternoon sessions so we can cover both the Family History Center in Cataumet and the Falmouth Public Library. If you would like to help, please call 508-548-3408. Our earlier issues with Cataumet have been resolved. We are being helped by an excellent church volunteer who is doing everything she can to acquire not just LDS microfilms, but also good computers, readers and printers. Anyone who has not searched the LDS films of original records should come see on a Tuesday.

On a more important and more immediate note, please do not throw out those Christmas cards without reading them closely. I find that mine are a treasure trove of important family data. For instance one card had the note, "I'm spending Christmas with my daughter Molly and new husband Dave in Chicago. They were married last August." Well, as family historian and record keeper, don't you want to contact the sender and find out Dave's name, birth information and the date and place of their wedding? Of course you do!

Another popular card is the annual family photo greeting. These can be saved (archived) by writing the names of the family members shown and the year on the back

of the card. A manila file with the family surname is a good place for these. These family photos can also be scanned and saved into your genealogical database if it supports photos. Family letters should also be saved, as over the years they track the family's activities and places of residences. Sometimes family migrations occur right before our eyes! We just don't call them that! Hopefully the letter will state why a move was made. There, now we've just found a way to clean up after Christmas and contribute to the family history files!



From the President

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records faster and easier. Steve doesn't really see a way of doing so without purchasing an expensive software program such as AutoCad for plot sales, availabilities, ownerships, burials, etc. He would also like to find some spreadsheet-type program that would not only allow compiling the info, but also popping out sets of data such as available plots and owned plots pending future use. Steve is looking for a free application that might be helpful, but has not found a wide variety for sale. Steve says, "I certainly don't have up to \$500 or more to buy one! Anyone got a suggestion?"

Helpful Publications

There are lots of genealogical printed publications available: *New England Ancestors*, *NEHGS Register*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Ancestry Magazine* to name a few. You never know what you can learn from one to another. Unfortunately *Heritage Quest Magazine* went under several months ago but, as Marge Gibson reported in our Nov-Jan newsletter, it was taken over and now is back as *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. The current issue for Jan/Feb 2007 contains interesting articles on using historic maps, The Conquest of Ireland, Norwegian Naming System, Genline-Swedish records online, and a listing of Genealogical Societies and Libraries and other articles. Every issue seems to be getting better.

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Plan to Attend This Wonderful Event: The New England Regional Genealogical Conference April 26–29 in Hartford

If you haven't done so already, consider attending this wonderful genealogical conference in April. For all the information about the upcoming event in Hartford, visit the NERGC Web page at <http://www.nergc.org/2007/ezine.htm>. More information is posted on the NERGC Blog, <http://www.nergc.org/2007/ezine.htm>.

The web page has lots of information, ranging from the conference schedule, bios and pictures of the speakers,

a floorplan of the Exhibit Hall, a list of exhibitors, and more. The Blog is up-to-date thanks to Jeannie Sherman of the Connecticut State Library staff. Try posting a comment "just for fun."

The full program brochure as well as the two page "flyer" are available in .pdf format on the NERGC web page, www.nergc.org and can be printed out.

Wanted: Stories for the Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter

As editor, I depend on contributions from members to create an interesting newsletter. To date, I've been very pleased to find stories and tips emailed to me that I can share with our members. Please consider sharing your breakthroughs and brick walls. Let us know what you're obsessing over this month. You will find lots of kindred spirits reading the newsletter who will enjoy your triumphs and tribulations and maybe respond with a tip.

Here's some of what's been keeping me going this month: I discovered in the 1841-1910 MA vital records recently posted on newenglandancestors.org that my gg-grandfather, Ivory Littlefield (b. 1809) remarried in Boston after my gg-grandmother Mary Ann Littlefield died. Similarly, I discovered that my gg-grandmother Ellen (Murphy) Carr remarried after my gg-grandfather Timothy Carr died. Even more exciting was opening an email from a recently-found cousin containing a picture of her great-grandmother who was the older sister of my grandfather, Edward F. Mahady, plus a picture of my grandfather and his funeral program which I already had. I've had such positive experiences finding cousins online. Not only are they instant friends but great resources.

Please email stories to me to share in the newsletter. Many thanks, Janet

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From the President

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Nova Scotia Vital Records

The following was copied from NEHGS eNews No. 300, December 13, 2006, On-Line Genealogist and is a potential resource for those with Nova Scotia ancestors. Question: Does NEHGS have vital records for Nova Scotia for the 1920s to the 1930s? Answer: NEHGS does not own microfilm or digital images of vital records that late into the twentieth century. In the near future Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management will be releasing twentieth-century records of deaths (1908-1955) and marriages (1912-1930) on their website. Birth records will be released after the passing of one hundred years (e.g., 1908 births will be released in

2008, etc.). NEHGS does have microfilm of Nova Scotia Births and Deaths 1864-1877, and marriages from 1864 to about 1912. We look forward to the release of the twentieth-century databases. To find out more go to <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/vitalstats/>. For later vital records (Births after October 1, 1908; Marriages 1931 to the present; Deaths 1956 to the present), contact <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/vstat/>.

Welcome to a New Member

Our membership chairman and treasurer Ed Shibata informs us that Robert H. Wilcox just joined the Falmouth Genealogical Society to become member #354. He is researching Carroll of Ireland, Wilcoxson of England, Gassin of France, McQuade of Ireland, and Moag of Ireland.

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