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# 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.*

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## Program Notes From Meetings

### *Joint Meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies*

Two lectures presented by Michael J. Leclerc, E-News Editor, NEHGS – November 13, 2010

### *Across the USA Migrations and their Genealogical Significance*

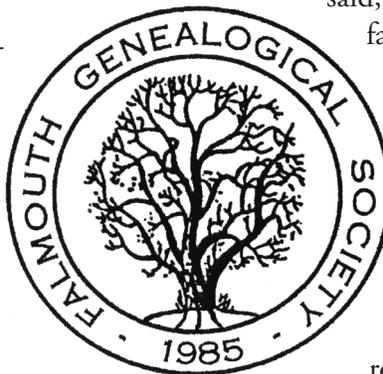
by Janet Burt Chalmers

New England Historical and Genealogical Society's E-News Editor Michael J. Leclerc was the featured speaker at the annual joint meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth genealogical societies on Saturday, November 13 in Barnstable. He presented two informative lectures to the large crowd of Cape genealogists.

The first talk, titled "Across the USA – Migrations and their Genealogical Significance," focused first on why New Englanders should care about migrations out of New England, and then on routes our ancestors took and how to track them.

Michael noted that Massachusetts has lots of marriage records but very few birth and death records. He sug-

gested that not finding a death record might not mean an ancestor's death was not published; it might mean that an ancestor had moved west. and died there. He said, "No one roams alone!" and told us that families moved in big clumps with their cousins and neighbors following a minister.



He showed us maps of migration routes which gave clues about where people came from. He mentioned the Kings Highway ordered by King Charles, the Boston Post Road, and roads in Quebec were made of logs. He said that Colonial roads in 1750 offered options for settlement and expansion as did Indians boundaries being pushed north in 1768. He said that after the Revolution the western boundary of Massachusetts included Wis-

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## Calendar of Meetings for 2011

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 12 | Richard Harbison – Technology Workshop                                  |
| Mar. 12 | Donna Walcovy and others – What's New on Falgen.org                     |
| Apr. 9  | NO MEETING Come to NERGC in Springfield                                 |
| May 14  | Leslie Huber speaking on the "Journey Takers" the migration experience. |
| Jun. 11 | Marianne Schafer – Compiling an Anecdotal Record.                       |

## Migrations Across the USA

*Continued from page 1*

consin and Illinois south to Mississippi. He said that states ceded their western land to the federal government so they could redistribute it.

Michael suggested looking at the histories of an area of interest. He noted that names of states and boundaries often changed making searching censuses sometimes confusing. The state of Franklin existed in 1784-1788 where part of Tennessee is now, and Vermont became a state in 1791. Land categories in 1790 included Bounty land (lands going to be given away for military service), Indian reservations, and land that was going to be opened up for settlement. He said that Ohio was settled by Connecticut, Massachusetts and Virginia, becoming the Connecticut Western Reserve, the Virginia Military District, and The Fire Lands, replacing houses that burned in New England. He said Massachusetts didn't need to deed land in Ohio because it had a lot of land to give away in Maine.

He talked about the Michigan Survey and Toledo War, the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, and the Lewis & Clark Expedition in 1804. Following the Louisiana Purchase the size of the United States had doubled. Louis and

Clark explored Louisiana and then went all the way west to the Pacific Ocean.

During the 1820s people went into unexplored country. Free states and slave states formed. 1825 marked the opening up of the Erie Canal beginning the 1825-1860 great era of canals. The New York Road paralleled the Erie Canal extending to where settlements were.

With the invention of the John Deere Plow in 1830 and the development of roads farmers had increased motivation to go west. In the 1940s whole towns of New Englanders were in Wisconsin and Michigan. The California Gold Rush of 1849 saw New Englanders going west to get rich.

The expansion of the railroads westward opened new towns. With easier and faster transportation there was loads of development in the 1850s and '60s, mostly in the upper midwest. The center of the population of the US had moved west to Missouri between 1870 and 1890.

Michael closed his talk by telling his audience, "Keep your eyes and minds open to find missing ancestors."



## *Latest Developments in Internet Genealogy*

Michael Leclerc's second lecture to the joint meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth genealogical societies was on Internet Genealogy. He distributed a hand-out listing the following websites that he recommended researchers check out.

Cyndi's List – the first step in researching a new place Wikis

- Wikipedia
- Encyclopedia of Genealogy
- Research Wiki

Blogs

- Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter
- Maureen Taylor
- American Ancestors' Daily Genealogist
- GeneaBloggers
- Internet Archive
- Way Back Machine

American Libraries

Podcasts

- Genealogy Gems

- Dear Myrtle

- iTunes

Online Indexes

- World Archives Project – Ancestry

- Worldwide Indexing – FamilySearch

Genealogical Societies

- Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society

- NEHGS – AmericanAncestors.org

Social Networking

- Facebook

- Geni.com

FamilySearch.org

Google

## Annual Holiday Food Festival – December 11, 2010

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Before FGS members shared favorite holiday recipes and foods, Joyce Pendery talked about “Ancestral Treasures: Recipes and Cookbooks:” and their history. According to Wikipedia, written recipes date back to about 1500 BC in Babylonia. Early recipes were tailored to the needs of cooks who prepared foods for large groups, not families. The earliest American “family” cookbooks date from the end of the 18th century. Many of the early cook book authors were New Englanders, led by Amelia Simmons who published one of the first American cookbooks at Hartford, CT, in 1796.



Joyce S. Pendery, CG, talks about recipes and cook books. Photo by Janet Chalmers.

Until the mid to late 19th century cooking was an inexact science with recipes calling for a drop, a bit, a sprinkling, a handful, or a spoonful or glassful of each ingredient or to “stir and add flour until thick.” The number of servings, size of pan, oven temperature, and time to cook were rarely stated. “Pour into pan and cook until done in a hot oven” was the usual instruction.

Many 19th century cookbooks were actually complete household manuals of which cooking was one part. Lydia Marie Child’s *The Frugal American Housewife*, the

most influential cookbook of the day, went through 33 editions from 1829 to 1870. Catharine Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe specialized in mixing moral and household advice with cooking. Joyce showed several 19th and early 20th century cookbooks from her collection.

The late 19th century movement toward scientific cookery was developed at the Boston Cooking School. Not only did they advocate accurate measuring of all ingredients and testing of recipes, they also emphasized balanced meals, nutrition, and daily dietary requirements.

*Fannie Farmer’s Boston Cooking-School Cook Book* of 1896, and still

in print, was the culmination of this movement.

Our ancestors brought many of our favorite family recipes when they immigrated to America, perhaps written down or else recreated here from memory. Some of these recipes found their way onto small index cards that fit perfectly in “recipe boxes.” Ethnic cookbooks also became popular in the 20th century, as well as specialized cookbooks of many types. Ethnic or domestic, scientific or not, we enjoy our family recipes decades and even centuries after they were first prepared.



## *Transcription of Letter Written by Edward Butler Swift to His Father, Jabez Swift, Who Was in California in Search of Gold*

*While several members treated the FGS gathering to favorite baked goods made from their ancestors' recipes at the December 11 meeting, David S. Martin treated members to a taste of daily life in 1849 Falmouth by reading a special letter written by his ancestor Edward Butler Swift to his father who was in California searching for gold.*

Jabez Swift, b. March 1805 in Woods Hole; d. 13 Sep 1849 in California

Edward Butler Swift, b. June 1834; d. May 1869

Cover addressed to

Mr. Jabez Swift  
San Francisco, California

Falmouth May 18, 1849

Dear Father,

These few lines are the sum and substance of a letter I wrote you a week ago by Mr. Whitmore, which you may possibly get; although I think it very doubtful. I will explain to you what I mean. Last Tuesday was the day on which Mr. W\_\_ was to leave Falmouth for Plymouth from whence he was to proceed to California. Accordingly several letters were sent by him, one for you among them. The next morning Mrs. Susan Nye was found to be missing; soon it was suspected that Mr. W\_\_ was the means of her absence; search was instantly made when she was found in Sandwich having arrived at that place three minutes too late for the cars. It was found that Thos. Bunker had been hired to carry her there by Mr. Whitmore. Nothing as I know of has been heard from Mr. W\_\_ since. The affair has caused considerable talk, as it is a rare thing for Falmouth. Whether he will go to California or not is unknown to me. He may have the kindness to forward the letters if not.

This finds me in good health as well as Mother, Billy, Sis, and all our friends. Grandmother Swift died two weeks ago. Uncle Joseph was at the funeral. We have

received five letters from you since you left Falmouth. We had a letter last night, and this morning I went up to Quisset to carry it.

I suppose you are in the land of gold by this time, and have seen the waters of the Sacramento. Since you left, mother's health has improved much. Willie likes living to Quisset very much. As for little May, she grows very fast and she has got to be a great girl. She can walk all around the room by the aid of the chairs and walls. She seems very glad to see me whenever I go up there, and will cry when I am obliged to go.

We are glad to hear that you are getting along as well as you are. I suppose you would like to know what we have been doing since you have been gone.

We got clear of the cow in the first place. Next we hired the house to the U.S. Glass Company at a good price for Mr. Edward Haines to live in. We reserved two rooms in which to put our furniture. We hired some of the furniture also. We were obliged to move out of our house in a week after it was engaged, so you may think we had to work quite sharp. We sold our provisions that we thought would not remain good. We next sold our horse to Mr. John Webster for 50 dollars; he likes him very well except the use he makes of his tongue. The wagon and harness have not been sold yet. The salt has been sold and shipped. Mr. Haines bought our wood, pork, etc. He seems to be a very clever man. The Glass Factory thrives under its new agent, Capt. Dillingham. Capt. Elijah Swift has been very sick with but little hope of recovery; it is not probable he will ever get out again.

There is nothing new here except Mr. Whitmore's case which is the all absorbing topic of conversation. You must write us often and let us know how you are getting along. I long to see you and to hear of all the strange things you have seen. People are inquiring all about you and how you get along. Our friends all join with me in sending their love.

from your affectionate son, E.B. Swift

# From Contact to Call Number – January 8, 2011

Presented by Timothy Salls, Manager of Manuscript Collection, NEHGS

by Susan Hutchinson

Tim Salls, Manager of Manuscript Collections at the NEHGS, Boston, presented a well-organized and fascinating lecture on the process of donating genealogical collections to NEHGS. His lecture followed the entire donation process, from the initial contact by the donor, processing the materials, producing finding aids and catalogs, to eventually adding the collection to the library resources and making it available to the public.

After initial contact with a donor, NEHGS surveys the collection to get a general overview and then transports it to Boston. There, documents are examined, identified and sorted, and surname charts are created. Tim gave many practical tips on how to organize and preserve documents. He stressed the importance of creating a 'Guide' to all materials. He included a great deal of practical information on preservation, use of archival materials, and dealing with damaged documents. The following links to recommended sites for archival materials are included.

## Vendors of Archival Supplies

Archival Products. PO Box 1413, Des Moines IA 50317.  
(800) 526-5640. <http://www.archival.com>

Archivart. 40 Eisenhower Drive, Paramus NJ 07652.  
(800) 804-8428. <http://www.archivart.com>

Conservation Resources International, Inc. 5532 Port Royal Road, Springfield VA 22151. (800) 634-6932.  
<http://www.conservationresources.com/Main/S%20CATALOG/default.htm>

Gaylord : Archival storage materials and supplies. PO Box 4901, Syracuse NY 13221-4901. (800) 448-6160.  
<http://www.gaylord.com>

Hollinger Metal Edge Corporation. 9401 Northwest Drive, Fredericksburg VA 22408. (800)634-0491.  
<http://www.hollingermetaledge.com/>

Light Impressions. PO Box 2100, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. (800) 828-6216. <http://www.lightimpression-direct.com>

Paige Company. Corporate Office, 400 Kelby Street, Fort Lee NJ 07024. (800) 662-6937. Local shipping from

AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IL, MD, MA, NJ, OH, TX, & WA. <http://www.paigecompany.com/productcatalog.shtml>

University Products, Inc.. 517 Main Street, PO Box 101, Holyoke MA 01041-0101. (800) 628-1912. <http://www.universityproducts.com>

Tim then proceeded to describe how the material/information is cataloged and integrated into the library data base systems so that they are easily accessible to researchers. Tim also spoke about individual guides, and how to search for them on the internet.

The remainder of the program was devoted to discussion about what types of materials are of interest to NEHGS (no family Bibles after 1750, thank you!). While NEHGS may not have an interest in a genealogical collection, he did point out that there are many local groups, colleges and universities that might like to receive a collection of materials. Tim stressed, that anyone interested in making a donation should find out if the collection will be available to the public. There have been instances where institutions have termed these collections "private," and have denied access— even to descendants!



Members chat following Tim's program. Photo by Ralph Wadleigh.

## Gramps, My Best Friend When I Was A Kid

by Donna Walcovy

Robert Lawrence Walcovic

B: 20 May 1896: Port Kennedy, Montgomery Co., PA

D: 7 Oct 1973: Royersford, Montgomery Co., PA

Gramps was born in a town that no longer exists, Port Kennedy, PA. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania took the land to develop Valley Forge State Park. Yes, that Valley Forge! When I was a kid my grandmother would drive over there and show me the one wall still standing on the farm where Gramps was born.

Gramps was a great athlete; he played semi-pro baseball and football for Conshohocken, PA. He was also a very famous Barrel Jumper. When the Schuylkill River froze in the winter the young men of Conshohocken would have ice skating contests and jump beer barrels on their ice skates. Gramps was always the winner. I have the ice skates he wore. As a kid, each winter Gramps would take me to the Ice Skate Exchange to turn in my old skates and find new (used) skates for me. He'd never let the man sharpen my skates. Gramps preferred to sharpen my skates himself. There were no barrels to jump so Gramps taught me speed skating. I was good.

Gramps was known as Bobby Ice in Conshohocken, PA. He delivered ice for his brother-in-law. In 1990 when I began my genealogical efforts I went to Conshohocken, my Irish cousin, Joe Collins was the President. Joe told me the Mayor of Conshohocken – an honorary title – there was no Mayor, would be visiting that day. I asked the fellow if Conshohocken meant: Hills, Mills and Beautiful Girls as Gramps had always told me. The fellow laughed, and asked who my grandfather was? Bob Walcovic I said. He responded “Bobby Ice, I knew him well!” The saying about the hills, etc. was developed by the borough of Conshohocken for a 15 minute radio program they sponsored in the 1920s.

Gramps enlisted for the World War and was sent to France. He was a handsome fellow. I remember he told me a story about a village they found that was completely underground. I thought this was a dream, but never forgot. My first visit to Europe in 1990 was to the Netherlands where I toured the old Roman Salt mines and the local village was moved, underground, for both World Wars.



Gramps in his WW I Uniform

I also have Gramps' dog tags from WWI. They look very different from what my father, his son, wore in WWII.

Gramps was in the Cavalry and he was the blacksmith for his unit. He carried a huge U-shaped scar on his forehead and I asked him, what happened. He was shoeing a mule and the mule kicked him in the head.

Gramps was one of 25 men from Conshohocken who enlisted in WW I. I have a photograph of all 25 men standing in front of a church. All 25 men returned home, alive. For the 25th anniversary of their enlistment date all the men reassembled in front of the church for another picture. Again, all 25 were alive. I have that photograph, too.

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## From the President

Ralph Wadleigh

whplar@comcast.net

### Greetings

Are any of you having trouble finishing your genealogy? Well, I hope not. That's something that will never happen! The main reason is that over 12 generations you have 1024 great-great-great-great- great- great- great-great-grandparents! And that is only the direct lines! Most of us feel fortunate if we can identify and prove eight great-grandparents! At any rate don't despair. Come to library on Tuesday afternoons at 2PM and see if any of our resident experts can lend a hand!

We're making progress on the Falmouth Obituary Index. The years 1980 to 1989 have been read and are being entered into an excel spreadsheet. As soon as that's done, they will be added to the website. Our goal is to index the full run of the *Falmouth Enterprise* beginning in 1896. There are about 75 microfilm rolls to go. If thirty-five of us volunteered to read two rolls each, we could finish the job in a year! Wow! If this sounds like something you'd like to do – it benefits all Falmouth

researchers – let me know at whplar@comcast.net. I'll show you the ropes!

Ten of us have signed up for the New England Regional Genealogical Conference being held in Springfield April 7-10, 2011. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, network and just enjoy the company of fellow researchers. Anyone who has attended one of these conferences makes it a point to sign up again. Information can be found at [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org). Or ask me all about it. Your Society is a charter member of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. A successful conference means a financial gain for FGS. Registrants who sign up before Feb. 15, 2011 get a price break. Don't delay! FGS Speakers Donna Walcovy and Marianne Shafer want to see you in the audience!

Finally, please let me know if you have any ideas to make FGS work better for you and others. FGS exists to help you! Don't be shy.



### Gramps, My Best Friend

*Continued from page 6*

After the War Gramps was one of the first men hired for a new fire station in Conshohocken, The Spring Mill Fire Company, and rose to Chief with only a 6th grade education.



Dog Tags for Robert L. Walcovic, WW 1.

Gramps retired from the fire company and moved to Brigantine, NJ for his retirement. He started his own business as a carpenter. I vividly remember his truck! It was an old Telephone Company truck he painted foam green. He paid, in 1952 \$500.00 for the truck. I have the receipt. As a kid I used to drive the truck, first sitting on Gramps' lap and as I grew

in my teens, I drove it alone, with Gramps in the passenger seat.

During the summers when I visited Gramps in my early teens he taught me how to play golf. To make sure my golf clubs were the proper size for me he cut down his wooden shafted golf clubs to fit me. Since I haven't grown taller (OK, I've grown wider) I can still use the clubs.



Gramps' Fire Chief badge..

I just signed up to play in a Golf Tournament with The American Business Women Association, Cape Cod chapter in July. I will be using those very special gold clubs.

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Janice Zlatev, Chair



The second season of the NBC series *Who Do You Think You Are?* starts Feb 4, 2011 with a new slate of celebrities. I just finished reading the companion book to the series by Megan Smolenyak, chief genealogical consultant to the series. The book is *Who Do You*

*Think You Are? : the Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History.*

Ms. Smolenyak starts off with recommendations for preparing for your own ancestor search by checking what family papers are available and by talking with older relatives. Try to record your visit either on video

or audio rather than note taking as it allows for more interaction with your relative. A risk to starting without preparation is to find yourself researching the wrong family tree.

She then goes on to write about the huge amount of information that is now available online, but cautions that this is only a small portion of what is available. Megan devotes a chapter each to censuses, vital records, military records, and then to “crossing the pond”.

Much of the information and sources is probably familiar to those who have been researching for a time, but she does offer lots of leads to finding possible sources new to the reader. The book is a valuable resource for information to the “newbies” as the author refers to beginners, but I think almost anyone can find some idea that is helpful.



## Book Review

*Strangers and Pilgrims Travellers and Sojourners, Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation* by Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs. (General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Plymouth, MA, 2007).

by *Ralph Wadleigh*

This is a masterful, superbly researched account of those English Separatists who chose exile in Holland and eventually decided to sail to North America on the *Mayflower*. It explains the reasons for leaving their English homes, why Leiden was selected as a place of exile, and how Leiden eventually became a place that no longer suited their needs. Finally it shows how the Leiden experience influenced the development of Plymouth Colony.

Bangs is a first rate scholar. To present this account, he read seemingly every original source available. The appendix and bibliography take up a fourth of the volume's 894 pages and the footnotes are fully developed

and add much to the text. The Pilgrims' life in Leiden is described in full detail. Their living conditions, their work, their religious life, their interaction with the general populace, the effect of local politics; all is brought to light. The minute discussions of the theological differences between the different separatist groups are somewhat difficult to understand, and the reader can at times become impatient with the level of detail presented, but the benefits of the research presented far outweigh these reservations.

In the final chapter, Bangs explains how the Leiden experience brought several important concepts to Plymouth. Among these were civil marriage, a tolerance and forbearance towards the Native Americans, innovative architectural design, and a methodology of working together with the other colonies, patterned after the Dutch political system. This work is worthy of study by anyone with a *Mayflower* connection or an interest in 17th century Europe's social and political turmoil.