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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol 16 Number 1  
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www.falgen.org

## Newsletter

January - February 2004

President: John M. Caspole  
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers  
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

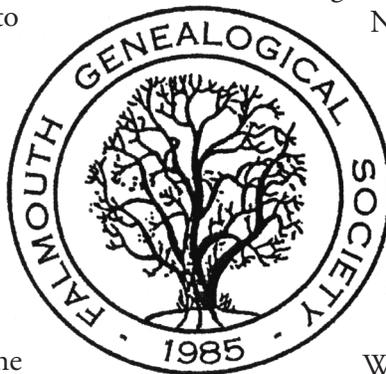
*The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six times a year  
and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.*

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## New England Regional Genealogical Conference 2003

by Joyce Pendery

FGS members who attended NERGC 2003 at Sea Crest Conference Center from November 6-9 know it was a sell out event! Attendance exceeded the conference organizer's highest expectations. As a result, meals were sold out before the conference began, and many were turned away from the lectures they really wanted to hear because the rooms filled so quickly. On Saturday morning, one lecturer even repeated her two most popular lectures. Dick Eastman wrote a glowing account of the conference in his newsletter. The only thing he forgot to mention was the Saturday evening view of the lunar eclipse over Old Silver Beach and Buzzard's Bay, enjoyed by a number of diners who slipped out of the dining hall for a few minutes at just the right time.



Attendees came from all over the country. One man drove from Texas, bringing along a large suitcase filled with old photographs to be looked at during the photo workshop! He ended up with a separate consultation

with the lecturer and was apparently very happy with what he learned. Twin sisters who came from Kansas and Oklahoma surprised several people who talked to one and then turned around to see the other.

Several of the lecturers, although based in New England, are nationally known, and their lectures at NERGC were very well attended, as were the lectures of the key note speakers. Experts and those interested in DNA research enjoyed hearing Bennett Greenspan and Tom Roderick. The Computer Track drew large audiences at each session. Four of the NERGC computer track lecturers will present lectures at GenTech in St. Louis in January 2004. Our own Donna Walcovy gave the Falmouth Genealogical Society's sponsored lecture on "Irish Web Sites."

To fulfill their requirement of twenty hours of volunteer service during the conference, FGS also staffed the Hospitality Desk in the lobby during the conference. It

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## Calendar of Meetings for 2004

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

January 10	Workshop – Getting Started
February 14	Genealogy via Internet
March 13	Mayflower Descendants – Bette Innes Bradway, Historian General, Mayflower Society (rescheduled from December 13)
April 10	DNA – Bob Rice, FGS
May 8	Migrations Out of Mass. – David Dearborn, FASG, NEHGS
June 12	Annual Meeting, Another Approach – Marge Gibson, FGS

# Program Notes on Society Meeting December 13

## *How to Find a Woman's Maiden Name*

by John Caspole

The scheduled speaker for this date, the Executive director of the Mayflower Society, had to attend a funeral and will be rescheduled in the spring. In her place we utilized an excellent video presentation produced by the New England Historic Genealogical Society featuring David Dearborn speaking on *How to Find a Woman's Maiden Name*.

The time and place in which a person lived can affect the resources available and can be the causes of "blackwalls" (seemingly empty space with no apparent information). The US census began in 1790 and anyone living here before then will be hard to track. Land records are most important in tracking a woman's maiden name. The War of 1812 and the Civil War provide us with pension records. The applicant for a pension had to file volumes of papers to be granted the pension.

### **Record Sources and Strategies:**

- Work from the known to the unknown.
- Look for the marriage record itself that may provide additional information.
- The marriage may never have been recorded and she may have had a previous marriage or remarried after her spouse's death. It was not common for women to be listed in early censuses nor be permitted to own property. However, when her husband died she became the head of household and could enter into legal contracts. Who would she turn to in time of crisis? – Blood relatives who just might be witnesses to sureties or bonds.
- Learn all possible about the woman's husband, his education, occupation(s) military service, etc.
- Put together a chronology or time line of important events happening in that era.
- Look for alternative records. Church records (try to determine the religion of the family), birth records, newspapers (often published marriage records), private records or journals (yes, look for samplers

often done in needlepoint or cross stitch), gravestones (might reveal wife's maiden name) and US Census, death records (which might show a woman's maiden name when there was a child's death), divorce records (may give a clue where to find the maiden name and the marriage place), court, probate (look for probate index) and land, widow's veteran pensions.

- Use published indexes and finding aids. Mr. Dearborn suggested the following:

The International Genealogy Index (IGI) Published by the LDS Church and available at local family History Centers and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

The American Genealogy Biographical Index (ABGI): Available through the Godfrey Library in Middletown Connecticut.

The Every Name Index from NEHGS that lists all names in the NEHGS REGISTER.

Periodical Source Index (PERSI) published by the Fort Wayne and Allen County Library in Indiana. (Look for instances of family name.)

Torrey's *New England Marriages prior to 1700* – FGS has on CD in our genealogy section.

County Histories also known as mugbooks which were a commercial venture.

Use the NEHGS library and their Manuscripts, Local libraries, local Historic Societies and catalogs on the web as the National Union Catalog.

Family Bibles: Many old family bibles have been deposited in local libraries and NEHGS. Search where the family may have lived to discover them. Broaden out the search by finding out about all the children of that couple. May be that one of them or their descendants might have an old Bible.

This is a synopsis of his presentation. He cited many examples using his research on his own family lines to demonstrate how things are found.

## Cemetery Project Report

by John Caspole

In the fall of 2002 we began this project, to record all the gravestones in Falmouth's Cemeteries and publish them first on our website and perhaps as a book. We are moving slowly as a few volunteers are doing the outdoor work on good days in spring and fall. We want the results of this project to be accurate and therefore a reliable reference for researchers. We hope that during January, February and March when you are stuck indoors you can help us with some of the easy tasks such as entering the data. You can do it when and where you want. Help will be only an e-mail or phone call away. Please call or contact Donna Walcovy and volunteer some time. She would not only appreciate it but it would recognize the important efforts she has made in leading this project. I will, will you?

## NERGC

*Continued from page 1*

was a convenient place for members to meet, and we answered many inquiries about where to eat, where to find an ATM, and where to find lobster or pub music or the nearest Christmas Tree Shop.

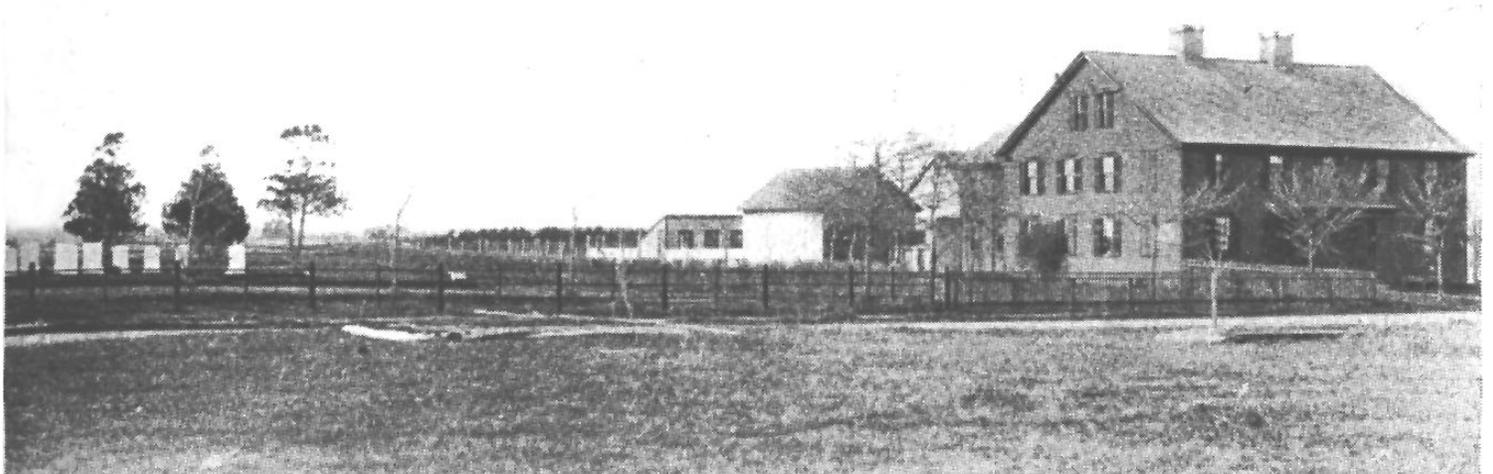
The next NERGC Conference will be held at the Holiday Inn in Portland, Maine from March 31-April 3, 2005. The last Portland Conference held there was also a great success, so mark your calendars now, and begin making plans to be there.

## Thank you from the Town

*Town Administrator Robert L. Whritenour Jr. wrote the following letter on September 30, 2003 to John Caspole, president of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:*

“On behalf of the Board of Selectmen, Park Director Brian Dale and the Historical Commission, I want to thank you for helping with the gravestone restoration project at the town's Old Burying Ground last August.

“When Brian and I stopped by the cemetery, our restoration experts Jim and Minie Fannin told me how much they appreciated the interest and dedication of the volunteers who were working with them. With you[r] continued support I am sure we can continue to improve the condition of the old stones in the cemetery. I hope we can count on you[r] help when the Fannins return next spring.”



The Woods Hole Historical Collection used this photograph of the Old Methodist Cemetery and Falmouth Poor House in its Winter 2004 issue of *Sprintsail*, a journal of the history of Falmouth and vicinity edited by Mary Lou Smith and published by the WHHC. Working on the journal's feature story on the Falmouth Poor House, the *Sprintsail* editorial board was delighted to find this picture on the Cemetery Project page of Donna Wolcovy's Falmouth Genealogical Society web site. Donna found the photograph in *Falmouth By the Sea*, originally published by the Falmouth Board of Trade and Industry in 1896, and reprinted with additions by the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce in 1976. Since the article focuses mainly on the Poor House, the *Sprintsail* board has asked Donna to write an article about the Old Methodist Cemetery for an upcoming issue.

# Three Sisters from Stanstead, Suffolk, England

*One of the three ended up marrying a man from Barnstable, MA, but that's ahead of the story.*

by Bob Rice

A majority of English immigrants to New England came from East Anglia, England which includes Suffolk and Essex Counties. Gov. John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony was from Groton on the southern edge of Suffolk very near Essex County but his family had been in Hitcham a few miles north and only three miles from Stanstead. Stanstead is a very small village even today. All the towns mentioned were wool towns where herding sheep to producing cloth were important cottage industries. Constable painted mostly scenes from this area also known as the Stour River Valley. John Winthrop led a large fleet to Boston in 1630 beginning the Great Migration that resulted in more than 20,000 English to leave England by 1643. Most came to New England.

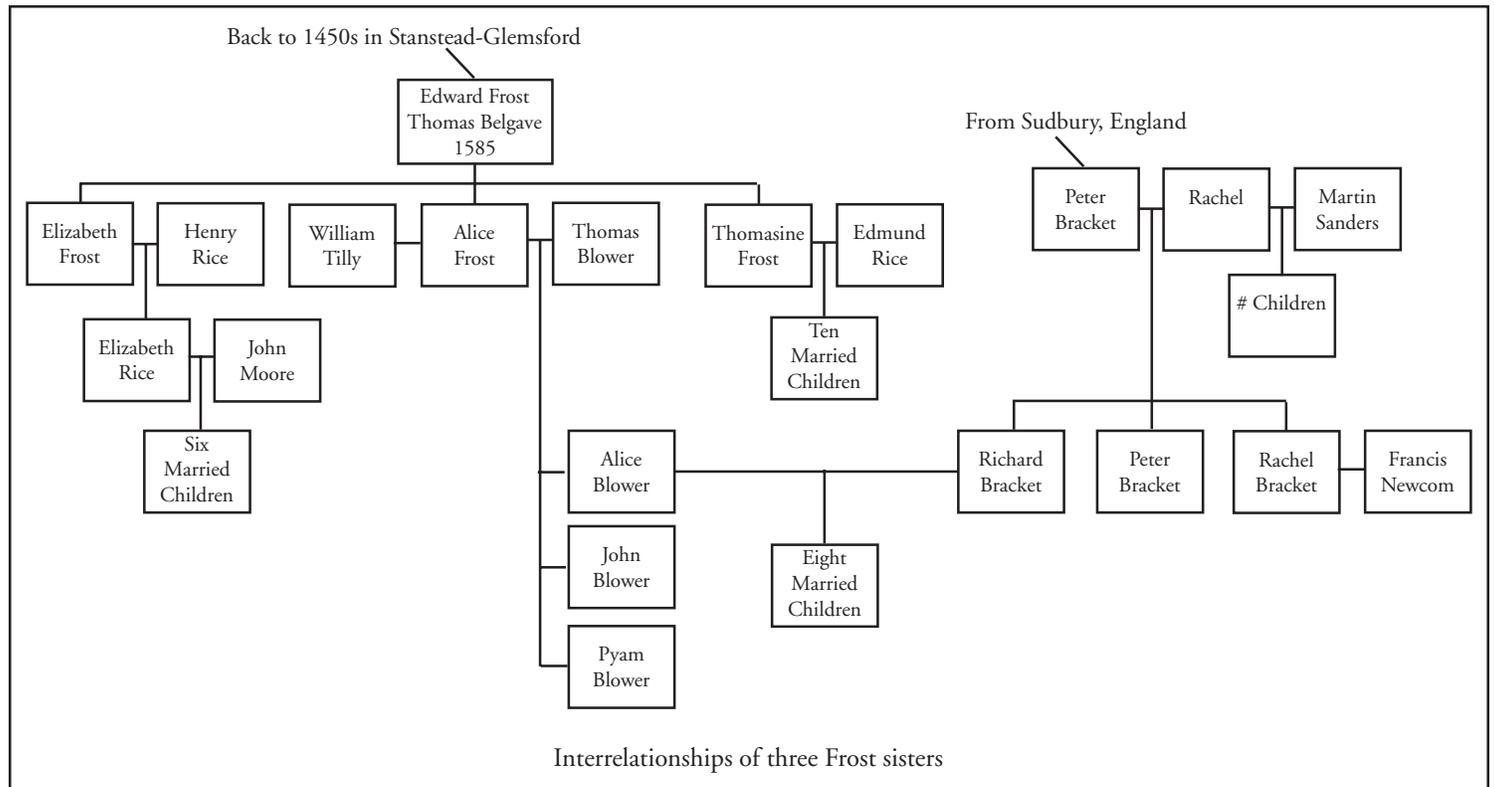
The Frost sisters came from a family that had roots in Stanstead and Glemsford (1 mile apart) back to at least 1450. The eldest, Elizabeth Frost, married Henry Rice (probable brother to Edmund Rice) at Stanstead in 1605. Alice Frost married Thomas Blower at Stanstead

in 1612 and Thomasine Frost married Edmund Rice at Bury St. Edmund in 1618<sup>1</sup>.

Thomas Blower came to Boston in 1635. He may or may not have come with his wife and family but his wife was here in 1640 when she married as her second husband, William Tilly of Barnstable, Massachusetts. Thomas Blower owed Nathaniel Lufkin of Hitcham, Suffolk, England 24 pounds and Lufkin wrote to Gov. John Winthrop complaining about it and said that Edmund Rice and one other man now in New England knew all about it. Unfortunately for Lufkin, Blower was probably dead before the letter arrived in Boston<sup>2</sup>.

Edmund Rice settled in Sudbury, Massachusetts before 1639 with his wife, Thomasine (Frost) and family and promptly became a Selectman and Deputy to the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Although he served as Deputy for at least five sessions

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## *Some of My Possible Distant Relatives*

*by John Peri*

The surname Peri is not common in the United States and not too common elsewhere. My own Peri ancestry comes from a grandfather who came to California in the 19th century from Ticino, Switzerland. I knew that before becoming Swiss my Peri ancestors had come, before 1500, from Como, Italy, where they had been prominent in the late 12th century. Most Peris now in Italy are concentrated in the North, usually in Piedmonte and Lombardy, where the family name apparently originated. Curiously, however, a small cluster of Peri families is also found in Sicily, mainly in Palermo and Corleone (places where the Mafia is most prominent).

Intrigued by this finding, and with an Elderhostel trip to Sicily in the offing, I began looking at early Sicilian history and discovered that in 1237 AD Frederick II of Swabia, the Holy Roman Emperor, brought a number

of Lombard Ghibellines to Sicily to garrison his castles there. It is recorded that in 1282 AD the citizens of Corleone most active in the “Sicilian Vespers,” the revolt that drove the French from Sicily, spoke a dialect coming from Bergamo or Brescia in Lombardy, both cities near Como where Peri families lived. Additional evidence exists to show that Bergamo was the origin of some of the Lombards that came to Sicily.

Lombards were also brought to Sicily even earlier under the Norman rule. Lombards in Palermo and Corleone were active not only in the Sicilian Vespers. Their descendants were later also very much involved in the Mafia (as well as in anti-Mafia roles). Incentives for emigration were apparently somewhat greater for Sicilian Peris than for those in the North, and today many Peris in the USA seem to have come from Sicily.

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### **Three Frost Sisters**

*Continued from page 4*

and as Judge of Small Causes three times there is no evidence that he was a pal to John Winthrop and other Gentlemen of the colony. Edmund was a yeoman or farmer who owned land (he owned the largest acreage in Sudbury) and as such was not entitled to be called Mister<sup>3</sup>. On the roster of the General Court in 1640 he was one of 13 among 43 who had neither Mister nor military titles<sup>4</sup>.

Elizabeth Frost Rice who had married Henry (who was either Edmund’s older brother or his father) married Philemon Whale in 1622 after Henry’s death and immigrated to Sudbury, Massachusetts.

Alice (Frost) Blower had a daughter with her first husband Thomas Blower also named Alice (bap. 1615) who had married Richard Bracket in London 1633/4. Richard’s mother had married Martin Sander as her second husband and they along with numerous relatives arrived in Boston in 1635.

The above families contained more than forty immi-

grants to New England. Furthermore they represent **“the largest kinship network as yet uncovered among the participants of the Great Migration...”**<sup>2</sup>

It is also interesting that this group included members of the Plymouth Colony that, of course, was separate from the Massachusetts Bay Colony at that time.

Back to Alice (Frost) (Blower) Tilly. She became a well-known midwife in the Braintree-Dorchester-Boston area and was embroiled in some unknown controversy from which women of that area petitioned and secured her release from confinement<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> See [edmund-rice.org](http://edmund-rice.org).

<sup>2</sup> Anderson, Robert Charles, G. Sanborn and M. Sanborn, *The Great Migration*, NEHGS, Boston (1999) I, pp 338-339.

<sup>3</sup> Sumner Chilton Powell, *Puritan Village*, Wesleyan, Middletown, CT (1963) p. 21.

<sup>4</sup> Shurtleff, Nathaniel B., records of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, I, p 301.

<sup>5</sup> Anderson, Robert Charles, G. Sanborn and M. Sanborn, *The Great Migration Begins*, NEHGS, Boston (1995) I, pp 203-206.

## Online Tips

by Marge Gibson

While at the Nov. Conference, I discovered that the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT, has some excellent resources online, and for only \$35 per year to subscribe. Among other things they have online digital copies of most of the Mass. vital records to 1850 (additional ones are being added); 2,500 published New England town histories; about 20,000 digitized books; African-American Biographical Database and 19th Century Newspaper Collection; the New York Times from 1851-2001; more than 2,000 New York digital titles; for Ireland - Griffith's Valuation, Ordnance Survey Maps, Lewis' Topographical Dictionary, plus many other Irish records; the US 19th Century Newspaper Collection and the complete 1790 - 1930 US census. In addition, you receive 'The Godfrey Quarterly' The Oct. 2003 issue includes articles on 13 Irish Databases recently added; the library receives important early Army Death Register; 10 rare 18th century published genealogies online; plus other articles. See [www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org) on how to join.

Heritage Quest Magazine, which our Society subscribes to, is located in our section of the Falmouth Library. Every issue has some very good articles which will help you in your research and shouldn't be missed. The following are excerpts are from March/April 2002 issue:

- "The Tax Man Cometh, Again... and Again... and...". Tax records contain a treasure trove of both genealogical and historical information. In 1862, the North raised some of its revenue through luxury and income taxes, the latter was set at 3% on income above \$600 and 5% on income over \$10,000. Soon after, the rates were raised. Other wars were also financed through taxation. In addition to taxes, this article also discusses the California gold fields; the golden age of radio; war rationing with a photo of a war ration book; researching Civil War units and how to research in inner cities.
- 1787 Virginia Tax lists; the Ellis Island and immigration; American citizenship; the 1860 U.S. census index.
- The Burrow and the Bubonic Plague – A Home Sweet Home? This article gives a short history of the bubonic plague.
- Bureaucratic Black Holes - adopted child, lost and found.
- Details in tax records, how to locate and use them.
- Probate Property - Finding Your Pioneer Ancestor Through Legal Paper-Trails. It gives a list of 11 types of courts which handled probate processes.

- Improved Access to Customs Passenger Lists. These were mandatory lists. Also discussed are the completeness of indexes, early immigration statistics, passenger list publications and electronic publications.
- Researching in Boston – about all research repositories to be found there.

Regular articles in each issue include adoptions, German, Scandinavian and Jewish research. The July/August issue includes the following articles:

- Getting the Big Picture of the Past Through Newspapers.
- Looking at Maps.
- Immigration Sources and Strategies: Compiled sources in the ancestral country.
- Our Changing Times: Getting Googled. It includes some of the most popular search engines.
- Slave soldiers in the Continental Army.
- More about Digital Cameras – includes how a digital camera can help a genealogist; how to use a digital camera to copy microfilm, microfiche. Also, how to photograph a computer monitor, old photos and how to improve and edit the quality of old pictures.
- The Journal of John Christopher Eager, Part 1, 12 May 1861 - 15 May 1863. This previously unpublished journal covers his two enlistments in the Union Army during the Civil War, and has some very interesting photos.

### NEHGS NEWS

The New England Historic Genealogical Society research library on Newbury Street in Boston is now open on Sunday afternoons from noon to 5 p.m. There is no fee for members but a \$15.00 fee for non-members.

One of the benefits of membership is the NEHGS website [NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org) that contains a searchable database of about 8 million names. New databases are being added each day. Some of the many databases are: *Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax* (useful for tracking movement of individuals between the 1790 and 1800 censuses), *Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries Database Index* (contains transcriptions from stones and histories of cemeteries), *The Settlers of The Beekman Patent* (data on 1300 families that once lived in the Beekman Patent in Dutchess County, NY in and after 1697).

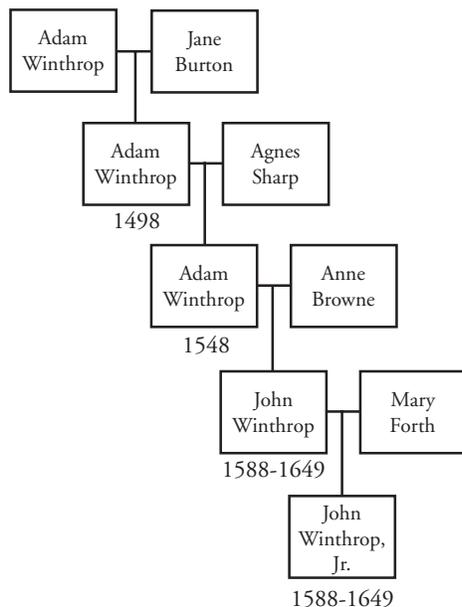
## Book Review

### John Winthrop

#### First Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony

*Review by Bob Rice*

A new biography of Winthrop published 2003 is proving very interesting to me because of its detailed discussion of Suffolk County, England among other things. The author is Francis J. Bremer and he starts the Winthrop family at Lavenham, Suffolk 1498 with Adam Winthrop appropriately. He gives a genealogy down to John Winthrop, Jr. that includes four wives of John Winthrop, Sr. Like his father, John Jr. became a governor, but of Connecticut.



Pedigree of John Winthrop, Sr., first Governor of Massachusetts and his son who was a Governor of Connecticut.

However the book is history with many interpretations by the author. Bremer is also the editor of the Winthrop Papers for the Massachusetts Historical Society and a professor of history at Millersville University in Pennsylvania. He immersed himself in East Anglia over a period of many years of study and it shows.

Early chapters carry the family from wool merchants in Lavenham to lawyers in London. Groton and Boxford on the extreme southern edge of Suffolk County are

discussed as well as the country of south Essex County after John Winthrop married his first wife, Mary Forth. A great deal of discussion and commentary centers around John Winthrop's Puritanism which Bremer refers to as "godly" and which probably reflects the future governor's spirituality at the time.

The physical structure of Groton Manor House and its history (Adam Winthrop purchased it 1544) are dealt with in detail. A supplemental pamphlet originally intended for his Internet site has many photos of the interior structure. The author sent me a copy after I attempted to get the details from his URL unsuccessfully. Present day descendants of Winthrop have kept the adjacent church and Manor House in excellent shape. (On a brief visit to Groton in 2002 my son and I were quickly asked by locals if we were Winthrop descendants. We are not but our ancestors come from Stanstead a few miles northwest of Groton.)

Bremer makes a good case for the Stour River Valley concentration of "godly" in the later part of the sixteenth and the beginning of the seventeenth century being the origin of the great migration of Puritans to New England. Not that all came from there for some 12,000 English left between 1630 and 1640. Bremer makes the case for the Puritan dissatisfaction being the strongest there. They became increasingly disturbed when King Charles I allowed his new Catholic wife to have Mass in the castle. The Puritans had previously fretted because the Church of England continued certain Catholic practices such as kissing the cross and wearing surplices. The differences were more fundamental and Bremer explains the details.

Throughout the book emphasis is placed on Winthrop's spirituality although he was not trained as a minister. The theme of "The City on The Hill" is carried through to the settlement of Massachusetts Bay Colony. The preparation to leave England including the logistics of the many ships and emigrants occupies Chapter 8 and roughly the last half of the volume deals with events in

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## Possible Distant Relatives

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I had always thought that there was no relation between these Sicilian Peris and my own family, but I now think that a distant connection may indeed exist. Perhaps, with the investment of a few hundred dollars for DNA analyses, Y chromosome studies might prove this connection. It would make an interesting research project. I have – as yet – no documented Scottish ancestry, but I do have a high regard for thrift. I therefore do not intend to pursue this matter further. Even if related, we really haven't kept in touch with our possible Sicilian relatives!

The possibility of my actually having distant Scottish relatives cannot be ruled out. In 1525, after the battle of Pavia was lost by Francis I, a company of Scottish archers in his employ were attempting to return from Italy to France. They found their return blocked by snow in an Alpine pass and – being resourceful – went out and caught some of the local girls and started a village near what later became the Swiss border. This village, called Gurro, still exists and has a museum with Scottish kilts and other items. It is located only about 15 miles from the Swiss village where my Peri ancestors spent the last 500 years. I can't prove a connection, but go figure!

## New Acquisitions in Library

*Vital Records of Springfield, Massachusetts to 1850, Vol. 1-4.* Springfield, Mass. founded in 1641, was the first settlement in the western part of Massachusetts. This CD contains not only the town vital records but also information from twenty-one cemeteries, ten churches, eleven newspapers, state vital records, the records of Judge John Pynchon and the private records of John S. Edwards. It includes birth, baptism, marriage, death and burial records created within the original town of Springfield Towns which were formerly part of Springfield include Agawam, Chicopee, Longmeadow, Ludlow, West Springfield and Wilbraham. The history, importance, location, custody, condition and significant features of various documents and cemeteries are discussed. This is a useful resource for anyone researching ancestors from that area.

## John Winthrop

*Continued from page 7*

New England. Winthrop's interpretation of many of these latter happenings have been sketchily known from *Winthrop's Journal* and Bremer attempts to flesh out important problems from Winthrop's viewpoint where he can.

He describes the first settlements of Salem, Boston, Charlestown, and Cambridge and covers political problems Winthrop had particularly with Thomas Dudley and theological disputes involving many including Anne Hutchinson, of course, but actually the entire book is filled with theological problems.

For a born Unitarian the heavy emphasis of Puritan Theology was sometimes onerous but since Unitarianism in America evolved from Congregationalism it retains a certain fascination. However, anyone interested in the origin of New England can benefit from the author's fine scholarship and descriptions particularly of East Anglia in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries.

There is no doubt that the first Governor was a Puritan and Bremer makes a compelling case that religious differences were the major impetus to emigrate. Land hunger touted by some as equally compelling is left for others to document. The author only covers Winthrop, Senior's life span that ended 1649. By 1690 or even before Puritanism had lost much of its power in America.

Bremer has authored or coauthored several books on Puritanism and Congregationalism that are currently listed on Amazon.com.

*John Winthrop* is 365 pages of text, 77 pages of end notes, with 12 plates plus an index. It is listed at \$39.95 but Amazon sells it for \$27.97.

The Falmouth Library according to CLAMS is scheduled to acquire it by 17 December 2003. Call Number 923.2744 Winthrop. Oxford Press 2003. ISBN 0-19-514913-0.

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## Newsletter

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## Program Notes From January and February Meetings

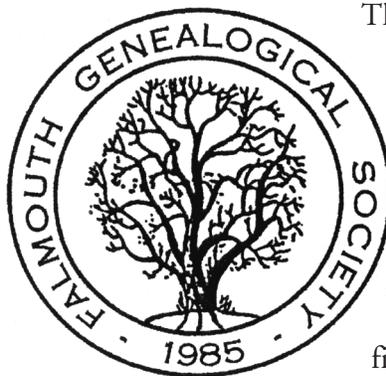
by John Caspole

FGS held its quarterly workshop meeting January 10 at which assistance was offered to members and guests in their genealogy research. Three of our guests left with smiles because they had found something they were searching for AND they joined the society.

The February 14 program was a panel consisting of experts Bob Rice, Joyce Pendery, John Peri and John Caspole. They discussed their favorite on-line web sites for genealogy research highlighting good and bad points of each with a few laughs along the way. This was followed by a live on-line demo of various websites.

Bob Rice pointed out at the start that there is a need in genealogical research for unimpeachable evidence. He noted that for the most part internet web sites did not provide this but often provided a lead or a trail to the location of the necessary documentation. It was cited that much of the data that can be found on the LDS International Genealogical Index (IGI) is transcribed

data, subject to illegible handwriting and misinterpretation; but does reference back to the original source film that can be ordered through a local Family History Center.



The panelists agreed that the Family Search site, Google searches, the New England Historic and Genealogical Society (NEHGS) site, including New England Ancestors, Otherdays.com for Irish research, Origins.Net for Scotch research, and 1837online for all vital records in England were top search sites. Genforum and Rootweb are particularly good sites to find other persons searching the same surnames you are. Contacting those persons often can lead to good additional information and bring families together.

Finally, Ancestry.com can be a great resource as it has spent much capital to index records to make it easier to search, BUT, it is an expensive proposition. It even has

*Continued on page 2*

### Calendar of Meetings for 2004

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

March 13	Mayflower Descendants – Bette Innes Bradway, Historian General, Mayflower Society (rescheduled from December 13)
April 10	DNA – Bob Rice, FGS
May 8	Migrations Out of Mass. – David Dearborn, FASG, NEHGS
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# *First Congregational Church of Falmouth Seeks Descendants of Founding Members and Ministers*

by John Caspole

The First Congregational Church of Falmouth, MA (at the Village Green) has begun its planning for its 300th anniversary celebration in 2008. The church was officially “gathered” in 1708 following decades of preaching in the community. Its first meeting house was originally located near Mill Road and later rebuilt there. About 1750 it was rebuilt on the Village Green. In 1857 it was moved to its present location across from the green and modernized. Its bell was made by Paul Revere in 1796. Katharine Lee Bates, who authored “America the Beautiful,” spent her childhood in

Falmouth where her father came to be minister of this church.

As part of the celebration the church is looking for descendants of any of its founding members. It is also looking for descendants of its former ministers. The descendants will be invited to various celebration events. Lists of the early founders and former ministers may be seen on the church’s web site, <http://firstcongfallmouth.org>. If you know of any descendant(s) of those listed, please pass the information to John Caspole, president of Falmouth Genealogical Society at [jcaspole@adelphia.net](mailto:jcaspole@adelphia.net).



## **Program Notes**

*Continued from page 1*

the capability of displaying actual pages of census data that can be printed out. While the cost can be up to \$200 a year, depending upon what you sign up for, that is substantially cheaper than a trip to Salt Lake City or to Europe, and faster too. This site is best used if you have a high speed internet connection. One caveat is that they make it difficult to terminate the service. A suggestion was made here to sign up a month or two before your credit card expires; then they can’t do an automatic renewal.

This was followed by a Q&A period. Several members commented that this was an excellent program.

Below is a list of URLs recommended for internet genealogy:

- <http://www.familysearch.org/> – free Mormon (LDS) very large.
- <http://www.1837online.com/Trace2web/> – UK records pay as you go <\$10/55
- [http://www.genealogy.com/index\\_a.html](http://www.genealogy.com/index_a.html) – FamilyTree Maker oriented \$40-80 \$70 to \$200/year
- <http://www.ancestry.com/> – A commercial megabusiness \$200/year 30+/mo.

- <http://www.usgenweb.com/> – free volunteer genealogy world wide
- <http://newenglandancestors.org/> – NEHGS library in Boston-\$75/yr Includes access to 150,000 volumes and over a million manuscripts and microfilms in Boston; 30,000 volumes by mail, plus on-line database.
- <http://www.google.com/> – free search engine, just type genealogy +++
- <http://genforum.genealogy.com/> – free surname genealogy postings
- <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/genealogy> –add surname or group
- <http://www.cyndislist.com/> – very large list free.
- [http://www.archives.ca/08/08\\_e.html](http://www.archives.ca/08/08_e.html) – CA census, but no vital records on line
- <http://www.origins.net> – Gate to English, Scottish and Irish origins starts 1847
- <http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk> – Scottish records \$10 for 30 pages/48 hrs
- <http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk> – records not on line but information.
- <http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca> – \$13.50/50 pages, mostly French

## Congratulations to Bob Carlson

by Marge Gibson

Many members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society will recall the excellent talk and slide show that Bob Carlson of Eastham presented to the Society a couple of years ago. Bob has made a wonderful contribution not only by including Cape Cod gravestones by town on his website, [www.capecodgravestones.com](http://www.capecodgravestones.com), but also by posting many photos as well. He is doing a very fine job of recording these stones, many of which will undoubtedly disappear, or at least become unreadable in the not too distant future.

Bob's website receives about 450 visitors per day and up to 700 on some days; he also receives a couple of emails a day. By January 2004 he has included over 22,000 names plus about 2300 photos with several hundred more to be added to this ongoing project.

Each year The Association for Gravestone Studies ([www.gravestonestudies.org](http://www.gravestonestudies.org)) honors one person for work in gravestone studies and cemetery conservation and presents him/her with the Oakley Certificate of Merit. Bob has been selected to receive this award at the 2004 AGS Conference in Danbury, Connecticut, for the considerable amount of work and effort he is

putting into this worthwhile project. He well deserves this award - congratulations Bob !



Hannah Shaw Paine's gravestone, dated July 24, 1713, the oldest gravestone in the Old Cemetery in North Truro, is featured on Bob Carlson's website, [www.capecodgravestones.com](http://www.capecodgravestones.com). The wife of Captain Thomas Paine, Hannah died in her 52nd year. Bob is a descendant of Hannah Shaw and Captain Thomas Paine.

## Website Was Boon To My Research

by Janet Burt Chalmers

After leaping with glad cries when I chanced upon Bob Carlson's Cape gravestone website two years ago, I studied his data and made a list of 38 direct ancestors whose gravestones I wanted to find and photograph in eight different cemeteries from Barnstable to Provincetown. My husband and I had wandered through the Old Cemetery in North Truro a couple of years earlier where we had reveled in seeing so many familiar names from my genealogy database. With a new digital camera in hand, I couldn't wait to go back.

First we headed to Provincetown Cemetery #2 to visit graves of my great-great grandparents John Burt and Rosetta Small and John's mother, Elizabeth Seaver. All the other gravestones we planned to visit marked the resting spots of Rosetta Small Burt's ancestors.

Armed with my list of Lombards, Cobbs, Smalls, Dyers, Freemans, Prences, Lewises, Youngs, Rogers, Paines, Shaws, Treats, Hopkins, Snows, Doanes, Lumpkins and Mayos we spent the rest of the day in Truro at three different cemeteries and found all the gravestones we had set out to photograph there, including Hannah Shaw Paine's. Most of the stones were legible, though several had deteriorated since my first visit.

Reluctantly, we had to head home with Eastham, Orleans, Brewster and Barnstable still to visit. A couple of weeks later we were back, tramping through snow in old Cape burial grounds. The only gravestone we searched for but couldn't find was that of Thomas Mayo (1650-1729) in the old cemetery in Orleans. What a wonderful time we had. Thank you, Bob!

## Share Stories of Your Stone Walls, Favorite Ancestors and Black Sheep

by John Caspole

It has been suggested that members contribute stories to this newsletter of their favorite ancestor, their black sheep ancestor or a stone wall they have encountered in their genealogical research. The articles do not have to be long. Hopefully you can prepare them on a computer and email them to Janet Chalmers, our editor, at [janetbchalmers@aol.com](mailto:janetbchalmers@aol.com). If you don't have a computer, type or write your story and we will input it for the newsletter. Here's my stonewall.

**Conrad Kespohl:** In the 1950s Piet Steemsa, a Dutchman and a public recorder (similar to a Town Clerk), researched his ancestors and drew up a fine chart. Copies of it traveled to relatives in Michigan and then on to my family in Massachusetts. We were delighted to receive it as we had no idea as to the origins of the family. Piet indicated that Conrad Kespohl was born in Jan 1789 at Lippe-Det. which was a principality of Germany (but no source attribution). He listed the spouse and her birth date, but not their marriage date or place. He also researched the births and deaths of their

children, including my great grandfather. Along the way he made copies of all available Dutch records equivalent to vital records. Death records then did not include place of birth nor parents' names. In that era it was customary for children to have two or more given names. When I located baptisms in that locality and time frame containing the name Conrad I could not be certain if that was the correct Conrad. His spouse's surname was given in the Dutch form and her given name was a Dutch nickname but she was apparently born in Bonn in the kingdom of Hanover. NO help there. I later learned from an email contact in Germany that the locality, Lippe-Det., did not stand for the City of Detmold in Lippe but the larger region of the Kingdom of Lippe with its capital in Detmold. That widened the search as in that context it included several parishes of evangelical churches. Having been to Salt Lake City and researched all the appropriate records there, it seems that the next step is a trip to Germany. Along the way I found about 25 spelling variations of the surname plus a lot of illegible handwriting. How will I ever be sure I find the correct Conrad?

## Cemetery Projects: Why Have Them?

by John Caspole

Somehow, down through the years and with the loss of their native tongue, an early 19<sup>th</sup> century cemetery at the First German Evangelical Protestant Church in Pittsburgh, PA was forgotten and eventually paved over for a parking lot in 1950. Sixteen years ago, a backhoe operator discovered the first of 727 graves ultimately to be discovered. All this comes from an article in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Folks with connections to the by-then-disbanded church gave their OK for the archaeologists, DNA experts and historians to survey the site and the bodies. They found that, over the years, the original church building was demolished, a new one built, and expansions were made to the new building which encroached and overlapped the cemetery. The experts think church members began to pass down less history to the children and new members; church records were lost or forgotten and the congregation began to speak

English. All this contributed to forgetting the location of the cemetery. The congregation held its last service in 1984. The next year the building was demolished. Recently the Reverend Douglas Patterson of Smithfield (PA) UCC led a service as all the remains were reburied. Scientists say life was hard and short for the immigrants reburied in late October. The women had an average life span of just over 34 years, and men 37 years. Over a third of them died of cholera or tuberculosis.

(From *United Church News*, Dec. 2003, Page A14)

### *Falmouth Genealogical Society Welcomes New Members*

Welcome to John Loan, Kevin Maloney, William Wilcox and John Gittings all of Falmouth and Dr. Ronald Lahti of So. Easton.

## Taverns and Inns



by Marge Gibson

Taverns, also called ordinaries, were not only for travelers but also for those in the community who used them as places to exchange news and opinions, for the sale of liquor, for entertainment and sociability. They

were considered such important establishments that in 1644 Connecticut ordered “one sufficient inhabitant” in each town to keep an ordinary, since “strangers were straitened” for want of entertainment. Inducements such as land grants, exemption from church rates or school taxes, or even pasturage for their cattle, were sometimes offered to someone willing to open an ordinary. Licenses were granted for taverns with the condition that they must be near the meetinghouses so at noon those in church would have a warm place to go before returning to the cold building for another sermon. Another frequent choice for a tavern location was near a ferry.

Tavern landlords were required to give the names of all strangers to the selectmen who could, if they felt it necessary, warn them to leave the town if they were considered detrimental to the community or might become a town charge. “Nor could the landlord ‘knowingly harbor in house, barn, or stable, any rogues, vagabonds, thieves, sturdy beggars, masterless men or women.’” Guests usually ate at the same table and slept in the same bed. Sometimes the landlord posted a verse describing his terms for payment. One was: “I’ve trusted many to my sorrow / Pay to-day. I’ll trust tomorrow.”

Since the early colonists drank little water in England, they brought malt with them to make their familiar ale and beer. However, it was not long before rum became a common liquor in New England.

Alice Morse Earle states that the earliest mention of rum that she found was “in the act of the General Court of Massachusetts in May, 1657, prohibiting the sale of

strong liquors whether knowne by the name of rumme, strong water, wine, brandy, etc. etc.” The traveler Josselyn wrote of it, terming it that “cursed liquor rhum, rumbullion or kill-devil.” It was “made of sugar canes distilled, a hot, hellish, and terrible liquor.” “Rumfustian was made of a quart of strong beer, a bottle of white wine or sherry, half a pint of gin, yolks of twelve eggs, orange peel, nutmeg, spice and sugar.”

Another popular American drink was flip, “made in a great pewter mug or earthen pitcher filled two-thirds full of strong beer, sweetened with sugar, molasses or dried pumpkin... and flavored with a ‘dash’ - about a gill - of New England rum.” Into this mixture was thrust a red hot iron poker which made the liquor foam and gave it the burnt, bitter taste so dearly loved from 1690 to 1850.

Cider was drunk by young and old at funerals, weddings, vestry meetings and church raisings; infants in arms drank mulled hard cider at night as did delicate women. Old men began the day with a quart or more before breakfast and all men working in the fields drank it in great draughts that were often liberally fortified with New England rum. The apple crop was so wholly devoted to the manufacture of cider that in the days of temperance reform at the beginning of the 1800s some zealots cut down large orchards of full-bearing trees, not conceiving any adequate use for apples except for cider making.

From the earliest days the tavern played a very important part in our social, political and military history. Visiting ministers who came to assist at religious services, or for the ordination of a new minister, were usually entertained at the tavern and sometimes a special beer was made for the occasion. In Connecticut the day might end with an “ordination ball” at the tavern. Among many other uses, taverns became recruiting offices for the military; the upper rooms were used as temporary jails, and sittings of the Courts were often held in them.

Source: Earle, Alice Morse, “Stage-Coach and Tavern Days,” New York, The Macmillan Company, 1905 (Pages 2, 3, 12, 13, 71, 100, 101, 109, 125, 82, 133, 170, 211)

## FYI

by Joyce Pendery

### Good News for Cape Cod Genealogists

Lucy Loomis, Director of the Sturgis Library in Barnstable, has recently announced that beginning immediately, the Sturgis Library will no longer charge non-residents a \$5.00 day-use fee for use of its Special Collections and Archives. This means genealogists will not have to pay to use the library's fine collection of Cape Cod and Massachusetts genealogical materials. There will be a suggested, but not required, donation for using the special collections. Be sure to call for hours before driving to Barnstable.

### Record Family Health History

While waiting to see my M.D. the other day (with no book to read), I noticed the Winter 2004 edition of the slim, free magazine *Healthy Lifestyle*. What caught my eye was the article, "Family Patterns: A Health History." That looked more interesting than articles on exercise or medical tests men should not avoid, and it was.

We all know that many diseases are hereditary, or so goes the old joke: "We all have something from our family, only if it's just a disease." It might be important in the future for ourselves, for our children, or for our grandchildren to know just what lies hidden in our family's medical history, at least hidden from family members who are too young to remember. I think of my paternal grandfather who died in his mid 50s shortly after having his gall bladder removed in a small Idaho hospital, and of my aunt, his youngest daughter, who used to have what she called "bilious attacks" after especially rich meals. Maybe that's why I avoid cream sauces. Those of us who are already "mature adults" have the advantage of being able to recall the medical problems and partial histories of one or two generations older than we are. We may even remember hearing stories about languishing Victorian ladies like my husband's grandmother or about my apparently more hearty maternal grandfather of the same age who went swimming at the YMCA almost every day until he was over 80.

The short article I read points out how you can learn about your family's health history:

- Make a list of everyone in your family back to your grandparents. (A cinch for us genealogists!)
- Include names, dates and places of birth, ethnic backgrounds, and present health. If deceased, note date and cause of death (from death certificate). Do they smoke? Are they active and do they exercise? Do they have allergies, asthma, or other problems? Include as many details as possible.
- Ask your relatives for information beyond your own knowledge. It might be easiest to make a short list of questions that they can answer in writing.
- For deceased relatives, try to get records from doctors or hospitals where they died. Get copies of their death certificates.

The important part is to record the information. You can go to the AMA's web site and print out a six-page form to fill in with medical information about yourself and your family members. The web site is [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2380-2844.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2380-2844.html).

### Good Winter Night Reading For Genealogists

Have you discovered the family history novels of New England author William Martin? My favorite three, recently published *Harvard Yard* (2003), *Back Bay* (1979), and *Cape Cod* (1991), recount the histories of mostly fictitious Massachusetts families from the 1620s to the 2000s. Martin knows his Massachusetts history and geography. The acknowledgments for *Cape Cod* include names many readers will recognize. He's always interesting, whether describing the HMS *Somerset* anchored in Provincetown Harbor, graduation in Harvard Yard in 1710 or 1910, the filling in of Back Bay or the Copley Place T Stop. On the other hand, he might discuss Milton's *Paradise Lost* or Shakespeare's *Love's Labours Lost*, or even the *Cape Cod Times*.

Every book has an historical mystery that provides suspense and keeps your interest. What I really like are the family drop charts in the front of each book that serve as road maps as he moves back and forth between generations, often juxtaposing what was long ago and what is today.

## Online Tips

by Marge Gibson

- The names of some of the men at The Great Swamp Fight at Kingston, RI in 1675 with such a great loss of life of the Indians is at [bigelowsociety.com/rod/battles.htm](http://bigelowsociety.com/rod/battles.htm). Also, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) and type in “The Great Swamp Fight” – there are many sites about this Dec. 19, 1675 battle. There were about 80 dead and wounded English who were carried during the night and in bitter cold 20 miles to Smith’s Castle in Wickford, RI, where many are buried. It still exists and is now a museum; it has a very interesting history.
- Names of many men by year who graduated from Harvard College from 1642 on are at [colonialancestors.com/harvard.htm](http://colonialancestors.com/harvard.htm).

The Nov/Dec issue of *Heritage Quest Magazine* has many pages on teaching kids genealogy both at home and in the classroom. Other articles include immigration sources and strategies for Pennsylvania German pioneers and the usual tips on how to do German, East European, Jewish and Scandinavian research. In addition, there are web sites to aid you in your search such as the following:

- Austria for the Catholic diocese directory - [www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/at.html](http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/country/at.html)
- Lutheran Church - [www.evangel.at](http://www.evangel.at)
- Croatia - [zagreb.arhiv.hr](http://zagreb.arhiv.hr)
- Czech Republic and Slovakia - [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)
- Hungary - [www.natarch.hu/mol\\_e.htm](http://www.natarch.hu/mol_e.htm)
- Poland (Galicia) [www.amen.pl/katalog/diecezje.html](http://www.amen.pl/katalog/diecezje.html), [www.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.eng.html](http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.eng.html) and [www.tchr.org/arch/eng/arch.html](http://www.tchr.org/arch/eng/arch.html)
- Romania - [www.geocities.com/ganglerj/letter.html](http://www.geocities.com/ganglerj/letter.html)
- Slovenia - [www.pokarh-mb.si/home.html](http://www.pokarh-mb.si/home.html). Other web sites are also included.

If you have family who lived in the Tennessee River Valley, you might like to see the article on grave location in the Tennessee River Valley where over 30,000 graves were relocated to make way for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

One ad in the magazine that might be of interest to you is from The Genealogy Printing Co. which will print your family history. See [www.genealogyprinting.com](http://www.genealogyprinting.com), or call 800-200-2782 for more information.

### No-Find No-Fee Offer from British Ancestors

*“I never thought I could obtain so much information at so little cost.”* – (JB, Connecticut)

UK-based researchers will search British archives for birth and marriage records of your English and Scottish ancestors (1813-1950). Also census, church, and other records. In most cases we can offer a no-find no-fee service--we find your ancestors or you pay nothing!

For a FREE e-mail consultation, visit <http://www.britishancestors.com/awn>

### TAG Index

I emailed The American Genealogist (TAG) to see if there is an index available for all issues. David L. Greene, FASG, coeditor and publisher of TAG sent the following reply:

There is a subject index to TAG through vol. 60 or 61 (we are now in vol. 78). It was done by a private individual and is now out of print, though available in most genealogical libraries. Picton Press has an every-name index for vols. 9 through 41– the Jacobus years – on CD-ROM.

Otherwise the best thing to use is PERSI, which indexes by subject all genealogical journals from 1847 to the present. It is available – on a fee basis – through Ancestry.com.

### Make the Card Catalog Work for You!

*Check out this really good [godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org) site which I am finding very worthwhile for only \$35 a year. Here is information sent me by Tom Kemp:*

The Godfrey Memorial Library spends a lot of time adding information directly into our online card catalog. In fact we add, on average, more than 800 items per week.

*Continued on page 8*

## Online Tips

*Continued from page 7*

Yes, you can find our books in the catalog (we have 20% of our book collection cataloged in our online catalog) but more importantly we are adding extra cataloging records, called “analytics” to our catalog. These analytics help you to locate genealogical data inside those books as well.

For example, we have many county histories in our collection. These are often multivolume works that include a volume of just biographical sketches. When we catalog these books we ALSO catalog every biographical sketch in the volumes. We have been adding thousands of these biographical index records and now have well over 10,000 of them in our online catalog.

You simply type in the name of the person/family that you are researching and quickly locate not only the published genealogies in our collection but also the biographical sketches of family members that have appeared in dozens of local histories and other resources in our library.

Please try it out. Let us know if you have a book that you would like us to index in our online card catalog and we'll move it to the head of the list.

You are welcome to search the online card catalog here in the library or from home. Our online library catalog is found at the top/center of our homepage: <<http://www.godfrey.org>>[www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org)

Thomas Jay Kemp, Godfrey Memorial Library  
134 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT 06457-2534  
Tel. 860.346.4375 FAX 860.347.9874  
TKemp@Godfrey.org [www.Godfrey.org](http://www.Godfrey.org)

### Reprint From *Roots Web Review*:

#### Editor's Desk: Missing from Home In the British Census

When searching for British ancestors in the censuses it is helpful to know that its 1841 census was taken on 7 June, but from 1851 through 1931, this was done between 31 March and 8 April. Enumerators were instructed to list only those persons who spent the night in each household when the census was taken. Those traveling, at boarding schools, or working away from

home are listed where they spent the night. A missing person in a family group in any of the census returns might also be explained by the fact that the person was in the hospital, in prison, or in service. Soldiers and sailors serving abroad are not included in their home censuses.

You can explore “200 Years of the Census” and its 38 area monitors covering England and Wales, which take into account that county boundaries have changed just like the census itself. See what kind of homes people had, the type of jobs, the move from the countryside to the towns, the decline in the size of households and much more, plus historical facts that have emerged from 200 years of census taking.

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/bicentenary/bicent2.html>

For additional information about utilizing census records wherever your ancestors roamed, see “Census Related Sites Worldwide”

<http://www.cyndislist.com/census2.htm>

and “Census Records” in the RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: <http://rwguide.rootsweb.com/lesson9.htm>

Previously published in *RootsWeb Review*:  
Vol. 7, No. 6, 11 February 2004.

#### *NEHGS Has Much To Offer Online*

Recently I rejoined NEHGS after several years when I let my membership lapse because of the time it takes getting to and from Boston. While copies of the Register are available to me at both Falmouth Library and Sturgis Library, I find being able to access it from my computer has an added benefit. Online I can just type in a name, click "search", and all the references to that name from the first issue in 1847 to 1994 are shown. Then, by clicking on each reference the appropriate page is shown. It is fast and efficient, thus eliminating using the two indexes in the library, then locating each book on the shelves, and the appropriate page.

Many other resources at NEHGS are also available online. Being able to access this resource from home is very helpful. You were able to find a relative at the last meeting.

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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol 16 Number 3  
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
www.falgen.org

## Newsletter

May – June 2004

President: John M. Caspole  
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers  
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

*The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six 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 March and April Meetings

### *Documenting For Lineage Societies*

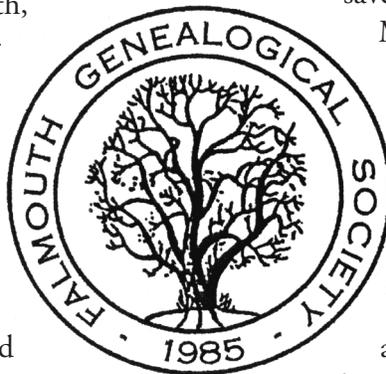
Talk presented by Bette Innes Bradway, CG on March 13, 2004

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Bette Bradway, CG, Historian General for the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Plymouth, presented a very helpful talk on how to prepare applications for lineage societies. While requirements may vary somewhat from society to society, in general the same documentation principles apply for all societies. For 21<sup>st</sup> century applicants to the Mayflower Society, for example, there will be twelve to sixteen generations of ancestors to document. Finding birth, marriage, and death records for each ancestor can be a challenge, especially for the “difficult” years from about 1770 to 1870.

“Chaining On” to an earlier application has been a successful approach in the past. If the earlier application is more than 15-20 years old, new documentation, following current standards, will probably be required. Mayflower Society five-generation publications actually include births into the sixth generation and may be cited as documentation for up to six generations.

Carefully following the society’s specific requirements as you do research and complete the application will save much time and effort later. Among the tips Mrs. Bradway discussed are:



- Always do your work properly from the beginning.
- Write for certificates as you go along; **requesting the long form**. Societies do not accept short form certificates. Send in copies of (expensive) originals, even if advised to send originals. Keep the originals in your files.

- Vital records in some states are closed for 50 to 100 years to all but the individual or direct descendants, so send proof of relationship. **Get them now**, as more and more states are closing vital records. Otherwise, use probate records.
- Published vital records, such as Massachusetts vital records to 1850, the Connecticut Barbour Collection to 1850, and Rhode Island Arnold Collection are

*Continued on page 2*

## Calendar of Meetings for 2004

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

May 8

Migrations Out of Mass. – David Dearborn, FASG, NEHGS

June 12

Annual Meeting, Another Approach – Marge Gibson, FGS

## Documenting for Lineage Societies

*Continued from page 1*

accepted. You don't need to write for certified copies of those published records. Send photocopies of records with title page (not transcriptions). For your records, note library where information was found, in case you have to go back.

- Cemetery or gravestone records can prove death. Send photo of gravestone or copy of cemetery office record.
- Information from undocumented published genealogies is not acceptable by itself. It might be useful in a circumstantial evidence case.
- Information from "Mug Books" of the 1880s-early 1900s, if the information is contemporary with the publication date of the book, is usually accepted because information was provided and paid for by the subject of the article.
- Family information from federal censuses from 1880-1930 is accepted because relationships are stated. For census years 1850-1870, when family relationships were not stated, provide two consecutive census years or information from a state census. Census records from 1790-1850 do not prove relationships.
- Bible records are usually accepted, especially when publication information for the Bible indicates early records are contemporary with publication date of Bible.
- Probate administration and distribution records often give more genealogical information than wills.

### Problem solving:

- Deeds often state family relationships. They may have been recorded much later, so check deed indices for ancestors' names after their death dates.
- Newspapers often carry information about anniversary celebrations, as well as the event, itself, as proof of a marriage.
- Family letters may make connections between individuals and generations.
- Old affidavits are sometimes accepted, although information is based on hearsay. Current affidavits are not accepted (since the motive is obvious.)

- Circumstantial evidence, while difficult to compile, can be acceptable documentation. Strength, rather than length, is important. Proofs supported by two pounds of documentation usually don't fly!
- 19<sup>th</sup> century female lines are the most difficult to prove, since documentation providing maiden name must be found. Some lines may never be proved.

### Not acceptable as documentation:

- Indexes: The Mayflower Index, DAR Patriot Index, IGI, Social Security Death Index, Census indices.
- Unpublished, not documented, manuscript genealogies, typescripts, or computer-generated genealogies.
- Family group sheets and ancestral charts.
- Copies of lineage society applications to other lineage societies.

For Mayflower Society applications, in the past, reference to the Mayflower Index was accepted as documentation. To create that index, in 1932 the Society went through all approved applications from founding of the Society in 1897 to 1932, taking all names and assigning numbers to indicate approved applications with documentation. In 1947, a fire destroyed old records. In 1960 a new edition of the Mayflower Index, covering the years 1932-1960 was prepared and used into the 1970s when the Society stopped accepting the Mayflower Index as documentation.

### Points to watch for:

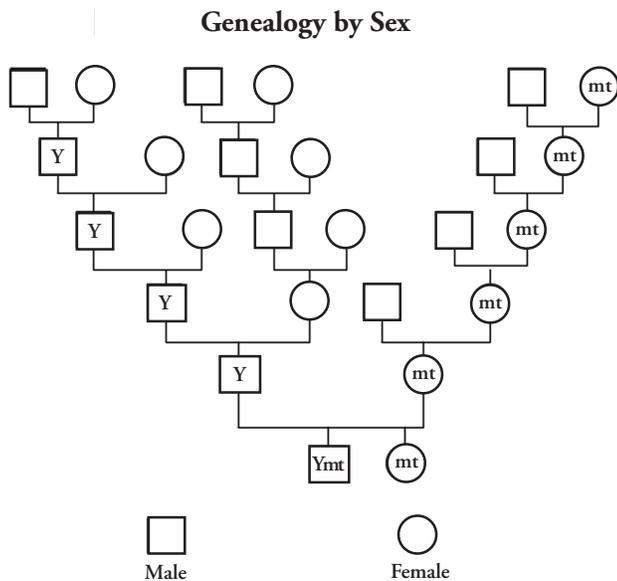
- Senior and Junior do not necessarily mean father and son. They may mean older and younger.
- Mixing up more than one person with the same name in a community.
- Linking each generation to the previous generation: i.e., a mention of parent's names in a record.
- Quality of documentation, not quantity, is what counts.
- Undocumented information on the Internet.

# DNA Helps Genealogy

Talk presented by Bob Rice on April 10, 2004

*Editor's note: Our own Vice President, Bob Rice, is an expert in the field of DNA use in genealogy. I asked him to write the following report rather than ask a member to accurately write up his detailed and technical talk about the use of DNA to help conventional genealogy.*

Starting at the beginning it was shown that the human egg contains mitochondrial DNA and after the sperm and egg unite only the egg mitochondrial DNA remains. The Y chromosome originates with sperm and only the male has cells with Y DNA. Bob showed a slide of the passage of each DNA separately.



Thus a male inherits Y DNA from his father, paternal grandfather, etc. and mtDNA from his mother. He cannot pass on his mtDNA but does give his Y DNA to his male children. A female only inherits her mother's mtDNA and she does pass that on to all her children, both male and female. It was further emphasized that none of a male's mother line contribute to his Y DNA although everyone gets DNA from the other 22 chromosomes from all of one's ancestors. Some genealogists with biological training have announced plans to get genealogical information from these other chromosomes but most feel that will be extremely difficult if not

impossible. The reason being that chromosomes exchange parts of their DNA during cell division in a process called recombination. All 22 chromosomes plus the X chromosome undergo recombination that results in genetic diversity of offspring, which may be essential for *Homo sapiens* survival. Only a very small portion of the Y chromosome is available for recombination and that part is not used for genealogy. Males have one X and one Y chromosome; females have two X chromosomes. Both have 22 other chromosomes that are not used for genealogy.

Bob emphasized that DNA analysis by itself is almost useless for genealogy. That is, for a person to just have his Y DNA analyzed doesn't tell him anything by itself. The set of markers obtained from DNA analysis has to be compared to other results from other people with the same or similar surnames. Even then he may not learn anything right away for current DNA research is turning up many DIFFERENT families having the **same surname**. The largest group in the Rice DNA project belongs to over 25 different male Rices who are searching for others with the same set of genetic markers.

In addition many sets of 12 markers are perfectly matched by males with totally different surnames. He pointed out that his set is matched by 9 males who have absolutely no connection to any Rice family. With 25 markers none or very few such people's results agree. The reason is that most of us in America come from families of European origin and thus we descend from humans who first populated Europe many thousands of years ago. It is only because our particular ancestors' Y chromosome mutated since then that we now have a certain haplotype and carry a certain surname from about 1100 to 1300 AD.

DNA analysis is carried out in labs of population geneticists who have been using DNA to study large population movements across the planet for over twenty years. In doing so they use mutations that

*Continued on page 4*

## DNA Helps Genealogy

*Continued from page 3*

happen over thousands of years whereas genealogists need mutations that occur every few **hundreds** of years. These labs have noticed such mutations and about fifty or so are now well characterized. They are given designations such as DYS 19, DYS 389 etc. where D= DNA, Y = Y chromosome, and S = segment of DNA. An international convention identifies each one.

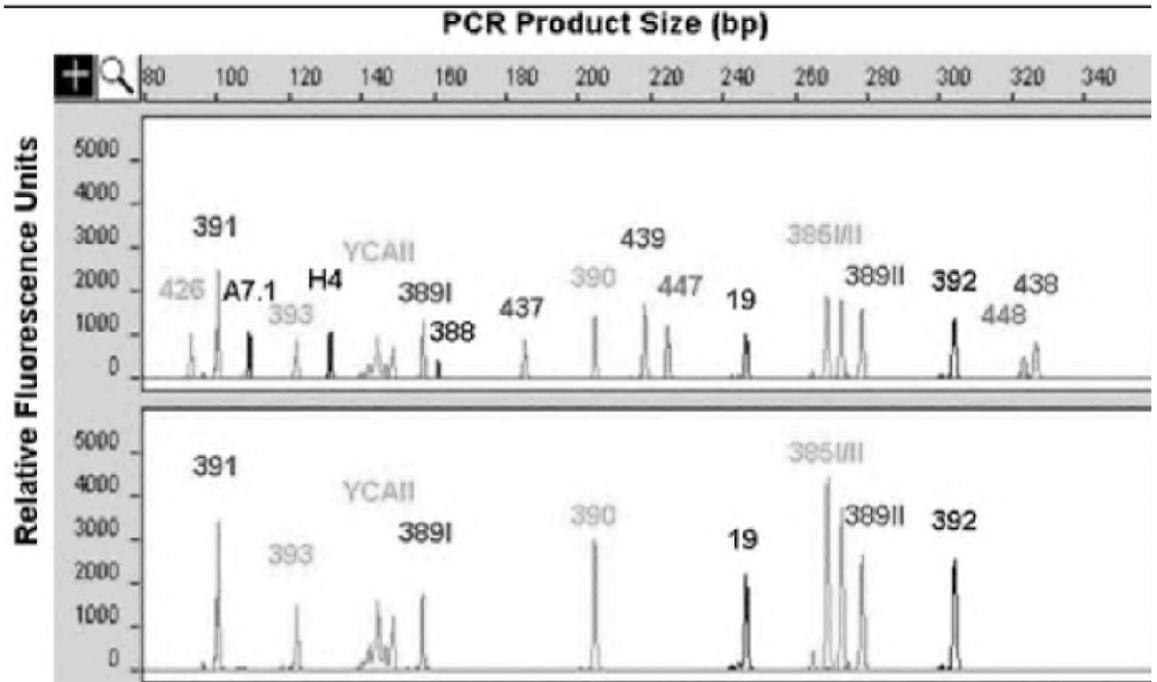
Mutations are minute changes in the chemical structure of the building blocks of DNA. DNA is a very long string of four bases, A = adenine, C = cytosine, T = thymine, and G = guanine. It is the sequence of bases along the polymer chain that determines all our inherited characteristics.

DNA analysis is done for genealogical purposes by several labs both in the United States and in Europe. FTDNA whose headquarters is in Houston, TX does by far the largest number using a lab at the Univ. of

Arizona. They also offer more genetic markers than other labs with 12, 25 or now even 37 markers. FTDNA also has the lowest prices. To start a YDNA analysis 12 markers cost \$99 plus \$2 shipping if within a group. Another 13 markers would cost \$90 additional but if 25 markers are ordered to begin then the total cost is \$169 plus \$2 shipping. To get 12 additional markers costs only \$59 more. Without a surname group the cost is \$159 for 12; \$229 for 25; \$289 for 37. Six samples comprise a group.

Mutations occur at random over time and if they happen to important genes then the organism dies usually before birth. But genes are a small part of our DNA –**less than 10 %**. Most DNA has no known

function hence the term JUNK DNA. It may have accumulated during millions of years of evolution and since it has no known function mutations to it are not lethal. But certain small areas are useful for genealogy. The location of such short stretches is well known and primers are synthesized in the lab to include the mutation area and short pieces on either side of the DNA chain. Fluorescent dyes are attached to the primers. When added to the sample along with appropriate



reagents computers read the results and print out a chromatogram such as shown below.

The presence or absence and the amount of each mutation is determined and reported in terms of lengths (number of repeats) of the segments. Each mutation has a certain position in every case but varies in the number of segments. For example in the two samples above there is no DYS426 in the bottom sample but more DYS391 than in the top sample. The differing amounts are reported as segment lengths. For another example below under DYS448 for Edmund Rice there are 18 repeats of AGAGAT whereas DYS393 has 13 repeats of AGAT. Thus the number of repeats is reported for each sample with results such as are shown next.

*Continued on page 5*

## DNA Helps Genealogy

Continued from page 4

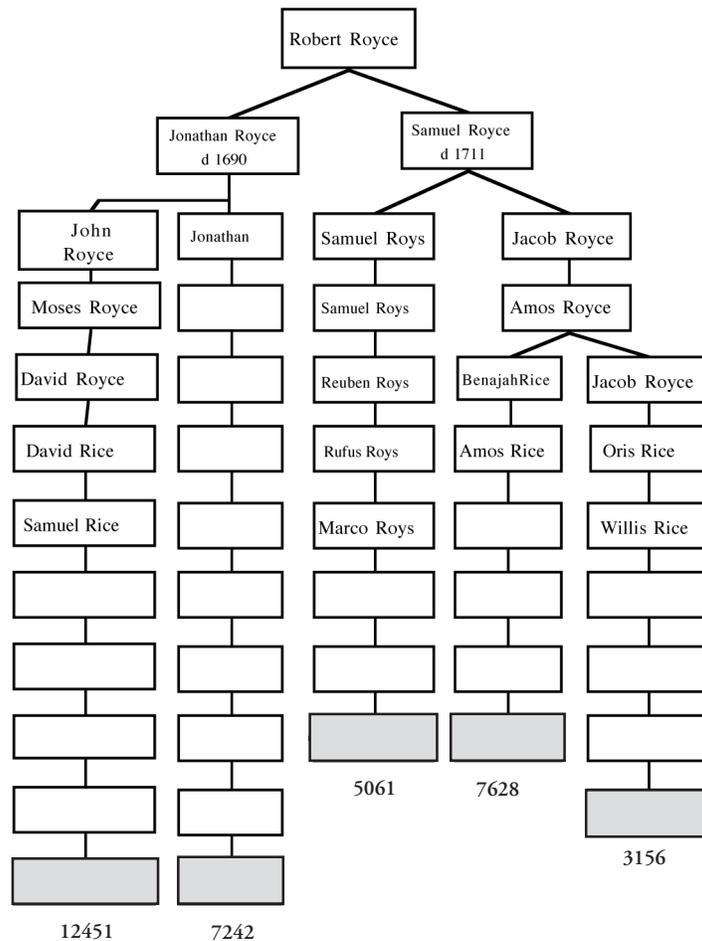
D	3	3	1	3	3	3	4	3	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
Y	9	9	9	9	8	8	2	8	3	8	9	8	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4		
S	3	0		1	5	5	6	8	9	9	2	9	8	9	9	5	4	7	7	8	9	6	6		
				a	b				i		ii	a	b						a	b	c	d			
Rice	13	23	14	10	14	14	11	14	11	12	11	28	15	8	9	8	11	23	16	18	28	13	15	16	17
Royce	14	23	15	10	15	16	11	13	11	14	12	32	15	8	10	11	11	25	14	20	26	12	15	15	16
3109	13	23	15	10	14	14	11	14	11	12	11	28	15	8	9	8	11	23	16	20	29	13	15	15	16

Above are the results for two groups that in past several centuries have been considered just as spelling variants of one surname, Rice. It is now obvious after DNA analysis that two separate families, Rice and Royce exist. It has been found important to use many more than the 4 markers Sykes used who published results of his surname in 2000.

The above Rice sample, #3109, had a close match of 11/12 with that of Edmund Rice but when 25 markers were tested he failed to match for 20/25 meaning no connection back to well before surnames came into use.

The Rice set of markers shown is called a reconstructed ancestral haplotype obtained by verifying the pedigrees of 11 analyzed living male Rices using vital records for each generation back to Edmund Rice who was born ca. 1594. We now have about 19 Rices with good pedigrees whose Y DNA analysis agree. Each male Rice's analyzed DNA agreed with each other (one mutation difference is considered OK) and thus constituted a reconstructed ancestral set of markers or a haplotype.

With the Royce family we found five males who descended from Robert Royce of 1649 colonial CT



and their haplotype was similarly reconstructed. Note that 17 of 25 markers are different for Rice and Royce showing conclusively that the two surnames belong to unrelated families. We now have 13 males who exhibit a Royce haplotype.

Each number represents a male whose YDNA haplotype agreed with the others. Note the generation in which spelling of Rice, Royce, or Roys changed.

Mutations are to be expected and thus are normal for otherwise all living males today would have Adam's haplotype. The rate of mutations has been found to be 0.002/marker/generation. Mutations result when a small chemical structure changes as a result of radiation or mistakes in copying a DNA strand. When only one segment of a marker is different in comparing one male to another with the same surname that match is considered ok but 3 or more such mismatches are not. Two are statistically questionable. Tables and graphs of such statistics are in the URLs listed at the end.

The company FTDNA (ftdna.com) now has most of the DNA analysis business and Bob showed

Continued on page 6

## DNA Helps Genealogy

*Continued from page 5*

by an **Internet hookup** the various surnames now being tested. He also showed several Internet sites that explained the use of DNA for genealogy. Bob searched surnames of FTDNA groups for various people in the meeting.

Ftdna.com shows over 900 separate surnames being studied today and many exhibit multiple families with the same surname. These results completely contradict the study by Sykes and Irven that purported to agree with Redmond's contention that many English surnames had single origins. Quite the contrary the new results show multiple origins of most surnames in Great Britain and US. A list of URLs was part of the handouts and is reprinted here.

### Some URLs for understanding Y-DNA genetic markers or haplotypes:

\* denotes recommended for beginners.

\*\* Savin's book is highly recommended.

Sequence Identity for various loci=DYS, etc. [http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/str\\_y390.htm](http://www.cstl.nist.gov/biotech/strbase/str_y390.htm)

\*Some old tabulations of surnames being analyzed for Y-DNA <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~allpoms/genetics1a.html>

A Message Board for DNA use in genealogy-both mtDNA and Y-DNA <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/index/genealogy-dna>

\*A General basic BIOLOGY and Genealogy Explanation Site [http://www.contexo.info/DNA\\_Basics/microsatellite\\_analysis.htm](http://www.contexo.info/DNA_Basics/microsatellite_analysis.htm)

A basic BIOLOGY site <http://www.biology.arizona.edu/>

\*Surname Projects at FTDNA <http://www.ftdna.com/surname.asp>

\*The Rice DNA Project <http://www.widomaker.com/~gwk/era/haplotype.htm>

The Graves DNA Project Results [http://www.gravesfa.org/DNA\\_test\\_results.html](http://www.gravesfa.org/DNA_test_results.html)

Graves Project Explanations of Family Connections [http://www.gravesfa.org/dna\\_results.html](http://www.gravesfa.org/dna_results.html)

\*\*<http://www.savin.org/>

## Letters to the Editor

Thanks for sending the Bulletin with the nice articles by Marge and you. As you no doubt know, Marge got me the AGS Oakley award. I am flattered by all this publicity.

Concerning Thomas Mayo (1729) in Orleans, I could not find him either. He does appear in a survey done about 1960 (CCGS library and Orleans Historical Soc. have copies). I am very sure his gravestone has disappeared since then. Did you notice all the open space in this cemetery where once there were gravestones?

Thanks again for the nice publicity in your excellent bulletin.

Bob Carlson



I recently rec'd your newsletter. Congratulations on a very informative and interesting publication. I particularly liked the in-depth review of past meetings since I am a Snowbird in FL for 6 mos... Secondly, the Calendar of Meetings is prominent and good for planning ahead w/topics & speakers.

Your article on gravestones on the Cape reminded me that I have taken pictures of ancestors gravestones in ME, NH, MA (several), and RI. It's been a rewarding exercise. One of them was a Revolutionary soldier, Joshua Burnham, who was a tavern owner in Milford, NH. He's listed in the DAR books, and I can trace my family back to him. Marge's article on "Taverns and Inns" was very helpful for background...

Bea Perkins

# New England Regional Genealogical Conference 2005

*by Joyce Pendery*

Plans are underway for the 2005 New England Regional Genealogical Conference, to be held at the Portland, Maine, Holiday Inn, March 31 – April 3, 2005. Many of our members who enjoyed the 2003 conference at Sea Crest in North Falmouth may want to set aside the 2005 dates, so mark your calendars now. Brochures will be included in a forthcoming FGS Newsletter. Efforts are underway to keep the costs similar to costs at Sea Crest. The theme for the next conference is “New England Crossroads,” and the program will follow the general plan of the 2003 conference with five tracks of new lectures organized around many of the same themes and topics.

Nationally-known speakers include Elisabeth Shown Mills, Cyndi Howell of “Cyndi’s List,” Tony Burrows, and Craig Scott. They will speak on a variety of topics, and as in the past, each participating New England society will sponsor one speaker.

Because of the success of the 2003 conference at Sea Crest, the Falmouth Genealogical Society, along with other participating societies, will receive a check for \$1,000, their share of the profits from the conference. The conference was planned for a break-even number of 350 registrants. However, more than 500 attended, and societies participating in the conference therefore divide the profit. We hope that the Portland Conference will be equally successful.

As a participating society, Falmouth Genealogical Society must provide a speaker and twenty hours of volunteer time. If you plan to go, we need your time for a couple of hours during the conference to meet our volunteer commitment. It’s fun to work at the conferences because you meet many interesting people from all over the country and contribute to the smooth running of the conference.

## National Archives, Northeast Region

NARA or the National Archives and Records Administration for the Northeast Region is located, as most of you know, at 380 Trapelo Road, Waltham. What you may not know is that NARA, along with other regional archives, is putting together an online catalog that will list everything available in each regional archive. This extensive project will be completed by 2008. No documents will be available online since NARA collections have not been digitized. To find what is already included in the online catalog, go to [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov) and in the “Research Room,” go to ARC.

The Genealogical Society of Utah is microfilming some New England NARA records that will be available in the research room, and they may digitize some of those records and make them available on [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

Many NARA patrons may not realize that besides all the records available on microfilm, NARA has many textual records of interest to genealogists. These include federal district court records, maritime records, customs

records, Coast Guard records, veteran’s administration records, and many more. A new NARA brochure that will be available at the Falmouth Public Library and at Falmouth Genealogical Society meetings lists all records available in Waltham. If you want to do research in original records, please call the day before so the records will be available.

In response to requests from genealogists, NARA Waltham is open extended hours that include Wednesday and Thursday evenings to 9:00 p.m. and the first and third Saturdays of each month. Because so many genealogists are getting census information online, the daily number of visitors to the facility is dropping. We all need to support NARA, or it will be in a “use it or lose it” situation.

NARA invites genealogical societies to organize bus trips. They offer workshops, tours, and volunteer staff to assist genealogists. Perhaps we should plan a Society trip to Waltham in the near future.

## Online Tips/FYI

by Marge Gibson

Keeping track of postings you have made in the past on lists and boards and keeping your information current doesn't have to be a mind-boggling task. Using ADVANCED SEARCH features you can search all RootsWeb message boards for posts with you as the author from the main board page: <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>.

Registered board users can even update their e-mail addresses globally by logging in and clicking on MY PROFILE and updating the e-mail and post e-mail boxes. You can add new information to the queries you posted long ago by replying to the earlier posts with the updated information. You can even include any new questions that have arisen from your new-found data.

Do a Google search for your name or e-mail address (including old addresses) to learn quickly where you need to do some housecleaning to update information. This will help you locate old mailing list messages. Start at: <http://www.google.com/> and select ADVANCED SEARCH. Look for the box that limits search results to ONLY one domain and select RootsWeb.com as the domain.

For mailing lists, you cannot update information in the existing list archives as archives are merely a record of what transpired at the time, but you can post a new message under your current e-mail address (if you are currently subscribed to the list in question) to bring your information up to date and have you soaring with the EAGLES once again.

If you are not subscribed, doing so is an easy matter once you find the mailing list on the list index pages: <http://lists.rootsweb.com/>.

FamilyToolbox.net recently announced the launch of TreEZy (<http://www.treezy.com>), a Web site that indexes the full text of genealogy and history Web pages. TreEZy will help you find information that's buried on a site and not easily uncovered by following links, say owners Matthew and April Helm.

The site indexes more than 1 million Web pages. You can perform a basic freeform search, an advanced search

and a name search. An advanced search on a family surname "Frost" along with "kentucky" and "birth" yielded 116 hits, including family Web sites, cemetery transcriptions and surname research group pages.

Results would be more helpful if they displayed the URLs of the sites they're linked to – unless the name of a Web page is very descriptive, you can't tell what site you're visiting until you get there.

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### Humor/Humour: Genealogical Quiz:

While working on her family tree, Bonnie discovered some members of her family were involved in interesting occupations. Bonnie's cousin, aunt, uncle, mother, father, grandmother, and grandfather are a mayor, dairy farmer, antique dealer, author, conservationist, rail-roader, and a lumber mill worker.

- The mayor is married to the man who works at the lumber mill.
- Ruth runs the dairy farm in Wisconsin.
- Jerry is Nancy's father.
- The author is the niece of the railroader.
- The lady who sells antiques is the daughter of the mayor and the wife of the railroader.
- The father is not a conservationist and he does not work at the lumber mill.

Who does/or is what?

(Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 7, No. 9, 3 March 2004. Answers in the next week's issue)

MASSACHUSETTS. Plymouth County. Electronic edition of Williams Latham's "Epitaphs in Old Bridgewater" (1882) – cemetery transcriptions for twelve major and several minor cemeteries in Bridgewater, East Bridgewater, and West Bridgewater. <http://www.rootsweb.com/~mabridge/lathamcontents.html> Source: Rootsweb Review 24 Mar 2004

I Dream of Genealogy – Cemeteries <http://www.idreamof.com/cemetery.html> Search this huge state-sorted cemetery index for your ancestors' burial grounds.

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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Vol 16 Number 4  
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
www.falgen.org

## Newsletter

July – August 2004

President: John M. Caspole  
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers  
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

*The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six 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 May and June Meetings

## 18th and 19th Century Migrations Out Of New England

Talk presented by David Curtis Dearborn, FASG on May 8, 2004

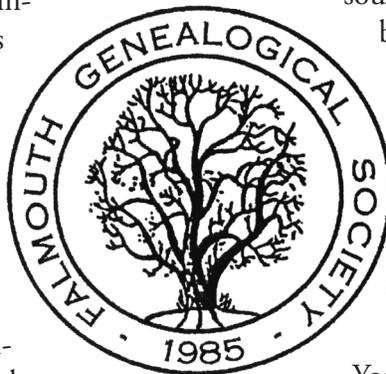
by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

David Dearborn began his talk by explaining that the topic of the migrations of our ancestors interests almost everyone, since our ancestors all moved around at some point in time, at least for short distances. To understand how and why people moved, it is necessary to understand migratory patterns. Fortunately, today, there are many records available for tracing our migrating ancestors. Mr. Dearborn showed numerous maps and charts from books listed in his two-page bibliography, to be available at future meetings, that also listed many other resources.

Initial settlement of New England took place along the coast and the major rivers that flow from north to

south. Always looking for cheap, virgin land in underpopulated areas, settlers gradually moved inland in southern New England where conditions were better than in the north. It was safer from Indian attacks, flatter, and the weather and soil were better. Plymouth Colony, including Cape Cod, filled up rapidly, so sons soon had to look elsewhere. Often traveling by water, before the Revolutionary War many went north to coastal Maine and Nova Scotia or west, via the Hudson River, to Dutchess County, New York. Other destinations included Long Island where settlement was effected primarily by those from southern New England. Quakers moved mainly to Eastern Long Island. Some Massachusetts Quakers who

*Continued on page 2*



### Calendar of Meetings for 2004 – 2005

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

July 10	Workshop for Beginners and Others
August 14	Panel on the Internet – Live On Line
September 11	Sturgis Library Holdings – Lucy Loomis, Sturgis Librarian
October 9	Researching Ancestors on the Internet – Laura Prescott, NEHGS
November 13	Where to Find Court Records – Diane Rapaport, NEHGS
December 11	Fraternal Organizations of Our Ancestors – Joyce Pendery, CG
January 6	Workshop for Beginners and Others
February 12	Panel on the Internet – Live On Line

## 18th and 19 Century Migrations Out of New England

*Continued from page 1*

did not want to fight moved to North Carolina, into the Piedmont area near Raleigh, while Loyalists went to Canada, the Caribbean, or Florida. Some settlers from Plymouth went to Newark, New Jersey, and settlers from New Haven went to Cape May, New Jersey. Some from Rhode Island settled in the Delaware Valley.

“Odd-ball” migrations out of New England included members of the Dorchester Company who moved from Dorchester, Massachusetts, to Windsor, Connecticut, and in the 1690s, they settled Dorchester, South Carolina, and fifty years later, Midway, Georgia. Before the Revolutionary War, settlement tended to be east of the north-south mountain chains where there were better trails and roads, taverns, and fewer Indians.

During the mid-1700s most immigrants from middle Europe went to Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas. Some Moravians who initially went to Penobscot Bay moved to the Carolinas after the Revolution.

After the Revolutionary War, migration west of the mountains occurred, although some people continued to move into the Hudson River valley. Most settlers stayed in the same latitude as they moved west, following the easiest routes, by water or along former Indian trails. New Englanders tended to stay north of the Old National Road, now Interstate 70. As a result, many New Englanders moved into upstate New York, “the bugaboo of genealogists” because of a lack of records.

The latest issue of *New England Ancestors* focuses on New York research, and the 1855 and 1865 New York state censuses indicate the county of birth for each inhabitant. Other New Englanders followed the Connecticut River to Vermont and New Hampshire, and some later moved west into northern New York.

Genealogical research of migrating New England ancestors can be difficult, especially in New York and Ohio. Migration automatically means a disconnect in records, and short-term settlement often means no records were created. Often, vital records were not kept. Deeds, powers of attorney, and probate records are the best sources of information, especially farther west where territories with land offices were established. In Ohio much of the land was granted to Revolutionary War veterans as bounty land. The Western Reserve was originally reserved for settlers from Connecticut, but in 1803, the State of Ohio recognized other settler’s rights to land. Gertrude Barbour has abstracted many New York State probate records, providing helpful information for researchers stuck in upstate New York.

*David Curtis Dearborn, FASG, reference librarian at New England Historic Genealogical Society, is the author of “Ancestors on the Move: Migrations Out of New England” in the Spring 2002 issue of New England Ancestors.*

## *A New Way to Research Genealogy*

Talk presented by Marjorie Gibson, FGS on June 12, 2004

*by John Caspole*

Marjorie Gibson our long-time editor of the FGS newsletter was our speaker on “A New Way to Research Genealogy.” She is co-authoring a book on the wives of Richard Hubbell who came to Connecticut in 1640, had three wives and children by all three. The book also delves into the lives of the wives of his sons and grandsons, a total of 36 wives. They have been researching the issues for five years and the book is nearing publication. The first book on Richard Hubbell by other authors was

written in 1881, again in 1918, in 1980 and in 1995 with additions and revisions, but none in the format that Marge is working on. She felt that women got short shrift in genealogy and this inspired the endeavor.

She pointed out that her research into the era of the late 1600s, 1700s and 1800s lead her to certain conclusions: one that people then were regular people, not perfect, just as today. There were births, marriages deaths, yes,

*Continued on page 3*

## A New Way to Research Genealogy

*Continued from page 2*

even divorces and violence in the form of murders, suicides, etc. Women usually married in their 20s and had their last child, after 5 or more, at age 40ish. Many lived longer than thought into their 50s, 60s and 70s.

There was a great deal of interrelationship and she told of half-cousins marrying half-brothers. Signatures were hard to find. Puritan ministers insisted that people learn to read so they could read the Bible, but writing was not

promoted until much later. Marge read a letter that was written in the later 1600s that described life at that time. It was hard and many did not make it. She pointed out that the best place to find records about women is in the court records of the probating of wills and recording of land deeds. This is a short synopsis of her talk, but those of you with Connecticut ancestry will find the real book worth reading.

## Administrative Matters

**By-Laws Changes:** The Membership voted unanimously to pass the by-law change creating the new 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position. This position was created to provide leadership development to ensure continuation of the society.

**Election of Officers:** Robert Rice was reelected Vice President and Chair of the Program Committee; Ralph Wadleigh was elected Second Vice President and Chair of the Library Committee; and Clare Maybury was reelected Treasurer, all for a two year term. John Caspole's term continues as President. We thank Bob and Clare for continuing in their positions and their service in facilitating Society operations. Ralph has been acting Library Chair since February and is our new delegate to the NERGC; we thank him for stepping forward.

**Other Recognition:** It was proposed to the membership that Dorothy Sandlin be recognized for her reliability and dedication to the Society for over ten years being responsible for the issuance and collection of the nametags. She has not missed a meeting. The member-

ship voted to grant her an honorary life membership. We also want to thank Eleanor Baldic for her long service as Library Chair. Eleanor has been dedicated to the oversight of the Library holdings and maintaining the quality of our holdings.

**Presidents Report:** John Caspole gave a brief report on the past year. He indicated that our membership is 144 members and has been fairly stable at that number for some time. He was pleased with the quality of our programs and said we should thank Bob Rice for his efforts in this matter. Our finances are excellent and are strong and Clare Maybury continues a watchful eye in this area. Finally, attendance could be better, averaging 25 per meeting, and so we have a goal to raise the members attending to 30. He thanks Donna Walcovy and her helpers who have worked on the cemetery project, John Peri and Mary Hunt for Tuesday afternoon at the library and Joyce Pendery our consulting Certified Genealogist. John believes that nothing happens until somebody does something and we need members to step forward to fill some committee chairs such as membership chair.

### *Looking for Portuguese Connections in Falmouth*

HELP NEEDED! Do you have a friend who is a member of one of the Portuguese families of Falmouth? (This includes Azores, Madeira, Brazil and Cape Verde). I would like to interview anyone who is interested in her family history, esp. older members. In exchange I can offer free help with genealogy and family trees.

Please call (Prof.) James Gould at (508) 428-8267 or e-mail [jimcotuit@aol.com](mailto:jimcotuit@aol.com)

## Bookends

### Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



Your Library Committee has been combing the distant corners of our storage space and will be **selling surplus books** on a first come basis at our monthly meetings.

Proceeds will benefit the Society's book fund. To make it easy, each

book will be priced at \$3.00, except for the Barnstable County Atlas which will be \$10.00. Here is a partial list of the titles that are available:

*Stage-coach and Tavern Days*

*Bucks County PA Deed Records 1684-1763*

*A History of New Paltz, NY 1678-1820*

*A Pioneer History of Jefferson County, PA*

*The Indian Wars of Pennsylvania 1789-1795*

*History of Clinton, Maine*

*The Maritime History of Maine*

*Glimpses of Early Foxboro*

*A History of Maine*

*Lasell's First Century*

*Riegelsville (PA) People, Places and Events*

*Moravian Journals Relating to Central NY 1745-1766*

We also have acquired a number of **new titles** which have been donated to the library to fill out series we already have:

*Vital Records of Pepperell, MA*

*Vital Records of Townsend, MA*

*Mayflower Families Through Five Generations –*  
("Silver Books")

*Vol. 11, Part 3, Edward Doty*

*Vol. 16, Part 2, John Alden*

*Vol. 17, Isaac Allerton*

*Vol. 18, Par 3, Richard Warren*

*Vol. 20, Part 1, Henry Samson*

*Vol. 21, John Billington*

Through the generosity of our member William H. Long, we have accumulated a full set of the **Magazine of Virginia Genealogy** from 1983 to 2003. Since our shelf space is limited and our focus is more on local and New England genealogy, Bill has agreed that we offer this collection to another member or another library. If you have an interest in this set, please call Ralph Wadleigh at 508-548-3408.

## Book Reviews of Members' Publications

by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Two long-time, now nonresident but formerly very active, resident members of FGS have recently published books that other members may find of interest.

Paul Bunnell, FACG, UE, now a resident of Amesbury, compiler of Barnstable cemetery inscriptions and author of several volumes about New England Loyalists, has most recently written *Life of a Haunted House (The Barnstable House of Barnstable, Massachusetts): Genealogy of a Real Haunted House* (Bowie, MD: Willow Bend Books, an imprint of Heritage Books, Inc., 2003), 142 pages, priced at \$22.50, available from Willow Bend or Heritage Books.

After explaining how he and his wife became so interested in the haunted house in 1985, Paul relates the history of the Barnstable house and the experiences and genealogies of its various owners from 1713 to the present. He includes the ghost stories that have brought fame to the house, now used for offices.

The review copy will be donated to Falmouth Public Library.

Russell S. White, formerly of Falmouth and now of Venice, Florida, has just published a genealogy of his

*Continued on page 5*

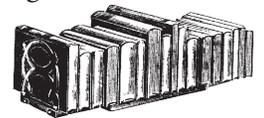
## Book Reviews

*Continued from page 4*

and his wife Edie's ancestors under the title *Our Heritage: The Family of Russell<sup>11</sup> Sidney White and Edith<sup>11</sup> Marion Nowers – The White, Simmons, Nowers, George and Related Families* (Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 2004), 327 pages, index, illustrations, available from the author: Russell S. White, 809 Coral Bean Cove, Venice, FL 34293, price \$49 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.

The White lines are traced from Nicholas White of Dorchester, Mass. in 1643; the Simmons line from Abraham Simmons, of Dutch West Indies in 1800; the Nowers line from John Noore of Kent, England in 1525; and the George line from Nicholas George of Dorchester, Mass. in 1640. Other family branches and descendants are included.

Russ has spent years doing the research for this genealogy. Since the reviewer has looked up information in Massachusetts records for him, she knows how careful he has been in carrying out and completing his research. In addition to a very interesting and comprehensive text, Russ includes historical background, ancestor charts, the equivalent of family group sheets, maps, photographs, transcriptions of documents, and personal accounts. The book is intended for family members, but anyone with the same ancestors will find it of interest, and it can serve as an example of how to compile a comprehensive, multi-generation family history. And the text is footnoted, a joy for genealogists!



## *How Will Boston Catholic Parish Closures Affect Genealogists?*

*Reprinted from NEHGS Enews, Vol. 6, #24, June 11, 2004)*

On May 25, 2004, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston announced the closure or merger of seventy parishes in the Boston Archdiocese. For a list of the parishes slated for closure, please visit the archdiocese's website, [www.rcab.org](http://www.rcab.org). Since many genealogists have been concerned about the status of the closed parishes' records, NEHGS library director Marie Daly called the Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston for more information. She was informed that the pre-1930 records of many parishes in the Boston Archdiocese had already been centralized in the archives. Since the archdiocese adheres to a restriction policy of seventy years, the post-1930 records are not yet open to the public. Those concerned about the status of a closed parish's records should not contact the parish. Instead they should contact the archdiocese archives at the address and telephone number below. Genealogists are most interested in sacramental registers of baptisms and marriages and cemetery records. These pre-1930 records can be researched at the Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston, located at 2121 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton, MA 02135. Researchers may visit the archives on Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment. Please call 617-746-5797 or 5798 to make an appoint-

ment. For more information about the archives please see the archdiocese's website, <http://www.rcab.org/archives/welcome.htm>.

### Online Tips/FYI

*by Marge Gibson*

- Here is a website where you can view all of Savage's for free – "A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England Showing Three Generations of Those Who Came Before May 1692." This is a real find: <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/savage/>
- Thanks to Patrick McKenney who writes: "I came across a good site in the U.S. Stars and Stripes newspaper regarding a searchable database for burials (and memorial markers) in military cemeteries." The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has set up an online database containing more than 3 million records that show where veterans have been buried in national cemeteries. The nationwide grave locator contains records of veterans and dependents buried in the VA's 120 cemeteries since the Civil War. It also has records of burials in state veterans' cemeteries and burials in Arlington National Cemetery – from 1999 to present. It's at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/>

## From the Editor: How We Help Each Other's Research

by Janet Burt Chalmers

FGS President John Caspole asked me to write this piece for the newsletter to illustrate how we can help genealogy researchers.

Our treasurer, Clare Marbury, received a note along with a check for dues from FGS members Fran and Walter McLean. They noted how much they liked the newsletter and asked if anyone was doing research on the Goodale family. They were looking for information on George H. Goodale, 1811-1881, of Wells, Maine. Clare forwarded the email to me and to John Caspole.

My curiosity was immediately piqued because my great-grandfather, Joshua Owen Littlefield, was from Wells. I opened my Family Tree Maker file to see if I had any Goodales in my data base. I did! I immediately checked Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org to look for more information. Here's my reply:

"I did a quick check to see what I could find on George H. Goodale 1811-1881. I come from a Wells line of Littlefields, and when I checked, I noticed that an Abraham Goodale had married Abigail Littlefield (sister of my great-great grandfather, Ivory Littlefield, son of Josiah Littlefield and Martha Stevens) on March 27, 1830 in Wells. I didn't have any ancestry info on Abraham Goodale either.

"As I'm sure you found, there is an Ancestry.com listing

for George H. Goodale with birth, marriage to Louisa Hatch and death dates as well as burial in Highpine Cemetery, Wells, ME.

"Looking at census records, I found George and Louisa in 1840 and 1880. The 1880 record lists George as a farmer, 69y, born in Vermont. It also had Louisa, 64y, born in Maine, keeping house, and daughter Fannie L., 29, at home.

"I looked a little further for your George born in Vermont but didn't find anything. Perhaps the Vermont birth can be a lead for you. Good luck!"

I followed up the email with a call to Fran. She told me that she and Walter had had a wonderful time digging for ancestors in Wells, assisted by many gracious helpers who showed them family cemeteries and records. Excited to hear about my Littlefields, Fran told me that she had seen the gravestone of my Abigail Littlefield, wife of Abraham Goodale, in a backyard cemetery.

As I'm sure most of you have found, it doesn't take a very long conversation between two genealogy buffs to find a common ancestor and a great story.

Do any of you have Goodales in you family tree? Do you have a query you'd like published in this newsletter? Please email tips, queries, black holes and anecdotes that you'd like to share with FGS members.

### *Can You Help Me With My Black Hole?*

My obsession, and you can certainly call it that, is figuring out the ancestry of my maternal ancestors Edward Burt and Tamza Clark who were married September 12, 1790 in Boston by Rev. Samuel Stillman.

Since my maiden name is Burt, I've always been interested in finding a connection between my mother's and fathers' Burt ancestors. Dad always reveled in the opportunity to roll out his huge family tree across the living room rug and get down on his hands and knees to relate stories about such people as Uncle Gage who "burned out his gizzard with strong sauces." Dad was a descendent of Henry Burt and Eulalia Marche through

four of their children, Elizabeth, Jonathan, Nathaniel and Hannah Burt. Henry and Eulalia Burt were among the early settlers of Springfield, MA in the 1630s. Dad's ancestry is well documented; it includes many descendants of Henry and Eulalia throughout the Connecticut River valley.

My mother's grandmother was Mary Elizabeth Burt, born in Provincetown, MA in 1838, eldest child of John Graham Burt of Boston and Rosetta Small of Truro. Mary was the one who married Joshua Owen Littlefield of Wells, Maine. Her mother's ancestors, many Pilgrim

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## *From the Editor: My Black Hole*

*Continued from page 6*

descendents, populated the Outer Cape; they are the ones whose Cape gravestones I've written about tracking down and photographing.

John Graham Burt, born 1814 in Boston, was a mariner whose father died in a mill accident on Wheelers Point in Boston in 1822 when John was a child. John soon went to sea with Capt. Paul Bangs of Truro and Provincetown while his mother, Elizabeth Seaver, and younger siblings stayed in Boston for a while, then followed on to settle in Provincetown after Elizabeth remarried.

The only records I have of John Graham Burt's father are the marriage record of John C. Burt and Elizabeth Seaver in Boston on July 17, 1817 and the 1820 Federal Census and 1821 Tax List of Boston both showing his residence on Sea Street. John and Elizabeth's marriage was preceded by the marriage of William Burt and Margaret Seaver on August 15, 1816 in Boston. Elizabeth and Margaret Seaver were daughters of Jonathan Seaver and Margaret Harris.

Although I have found no birth records for John C. Burt and William Burt or any siblings, I have compel-

ling reason to believe that they were brothers of Edward Burt who married Elizabeth/Betsey Dunham April 20, 1870 in Plymouth, and Tamson Burt who is said to have "married and gone west." Edward and Betsey Burt named their first child Tamson Clark Burt.

Since Edward and Betsy Burt settled in Plymouth and William and Margaret Burt settled in Bridgewater, I thought I should search the extensive population of "Taunton Burts" descended from James and Richard Burt to find my Edward. No luck there...

By process of elimination it seems more and more likely that John, William, Edward and Tamson Burt were born in Boston between 1790 and 1795. Family legend says both Edward and Tamza died young; I can't find any records for either of them, old or young. Because Boston records in the 1790s and early 1800s are so spotty, perhaps the records I'm looking for are lost. Maybe there's a chance someone out there has a Bible with their births, marriages and deaths carefully inscribed. I keep looking at the new databases on [NewEnglandAncestors.org](http://NewEnglandAncestors.org) hoping to make a breakthrough.

## **Bless Them: Caring for Family Bibles**

*by Maureen Taylor*

*Reprinted from May 20 ed. of the Ancestry Weekly Digest*

There is a rumor in my family that a Bible containing genealogical information exists. It was supposedly owned by an unnamed distant relative. Wish I could find it! It might answer my lingering questions about the multiple brick walls on my family tree. For those of you with a family Bible, there are two things you need to do with that precious family artifact – preserve the book and share the data.

Someone who knows a lot about family Bibles is Tim Salls, Archivist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) in Boston. NEHGS is currently conducting a Bible record recruitment campaign. It's easy to participate. Hope that distant relative of mine signs up!

Salls is collecting family Bibles and the information

within them for preservation and dissemination. These items will be available to researchers using the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department of NEHGS and to individuals making use of their research service.

### **Pious Preservation**

Preserving your family Bible doesn't take a lot of time or money. Storage is the most important consideration. Salls suggests purchasing a custom-made box that fits the Bible comfortably (not tightly) or a standard size box a little larger than the Bible. Both are constructed of acid- and lignin-free materials with reinforced corners and are available from the Hollinger Corporation (<http://www.hollingercorp.com>).

These special boxes provide a buffer from temperature and humidity changes in the environment and offer

*Continued page 8*

## Family Bibles

*Continued from page 7*

protection from pollution. Investing in a proper box will help preserve your volume for your grandchildren.

Consult the storage guidelines in one of my previous articles, “Protected from the Elements: Storing Heirlooms at Home” (<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=A833801>), to help you find an appropriate area in your home.

Besides brittle pages, one of the most fragile parts of a book’s construction is its binding. While even opening the Bible can place stress on the binding, another consideration is the amount and type of things we store in them. Ever press a flower, stick a news clipping in between the pages, or store a funeral mass card in your Bible? You’re not alone. The last time I looked at my mom’s Bible, I couldn’t believe all the things that fell out. It was a genealogical treasure trove.

While the weight of a Bible offers a chance to flatten flowers from proms, weddings, and other occasions, plants stain and destroy the pages. The same is true for news clippings and other paper. If you want to continue storing a few items in your Bible, copy them onto acid- and lignin-free paper or place them in a sleeve of the same material. Just don’t place too much material in the pages. If your book is swollen with inserts you’ll place stress on the binding and crack the spine.

The Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/preserv/care/books.html>) also warns against the use of paper clips, water soluble inks, and rubber bands because they all cause preservation problems due to deterioration. Refrain from folding over a page to mark a spot; it weakens the paper, causing it to break off in the future. Conservators at the Library of Congress also don’t recommend treating the leather coverings with any type of solution.

### Share the Data

Genealogical data written in the Bible’s register offers answers to many a family history mystery. Salls suggests preserving the handwritten pages rather than transcriptions of the information.

Researchers need to see the variations visible in handwriting to determine who wrote the names and dates,

and when. Here are some ways to save and share the data in your Bible.

- Before you store the original Bible in the archival box, make and use a copy of the family data pages rather than using the original Bible.
- Send copies of that original family genealogy to a historical society in a town where your family resided. Use Juliana Smith’s “Ancestry Family Historian’s Address Book: Revised Second Edition” to locate appropriate repositories. (<http://www.ancestry.com/rd/prodredir.asp?sourceid=831&key=P3084>)
- Don’t forget to contribute copies to the NEHGS project (<http://www.newenglandancestors.org>). Mail them to Tim Salls, Archivist, NEHGS, 101 Newbury St., Boston, MA 02116. If you don’t want to care for the Bible, NEHGS will accept the complete Bible for their collection.
- Think about publishing the data in a genealogical periodical. Salls told me that one of the founding reasons behind the first genealogical periodical – the “New England Historical and Genealogical Register” (NEHGR) in 1848 – was to preserve information through publication. Since then many family Bible records have appeared in the NEHGR and their other publication, “New England Ancestors.”

### Damaged Goods

If your Bible sustained damage over the years, a first inclination is to fix it yourself. Before you reach for adhesive or pressure-sensitive tape to repair torn pages, Salls recommends contacting a book conservator. You can inadvertently damage the item you’re trying to preserve. Locate a conservator in your area by using the online referral service through the American Institute for the Preservation of Historic and Artistic Works (<http://aic.stanford.edu>).

*Maureen A. Taylor is the author of “Scrapbooking Your Family History” (Betterway 2003) and “Preserving Your Family Photographs” (Betterway 2001). Send your preservation questions to her at <mailto:maureen@maureenataylor.com>*

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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

## Newsletter

September – October 2004

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www.falgen.org

President: John M. Caspole  
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers  
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

*The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six 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 July and August Meetings

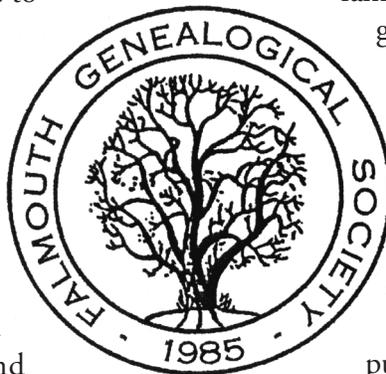
## Workshop for Beginners and Panel on the Internet

by John Caspole

The July 10 meeting was our quarterly help session where members and guests can get expert help on a variety of genealogy related subjects. Thanks to Bob Rice, Mary Hunt, Joyce Pendery and Donna Walcovy for helping out.

On August 14, Vice President and Program Chair Bob Rice lead a panel of experts, Joyce Pendery, John Peri and Ralph Wadleigh, each giving a short discussion on their favorite website. Their recommendations were Familysearch.org, Google and Rootsweb.com for “no fee” research, and NewEnglandAncestors.org and Godfrey.org for “fee” sites. They considered Ancestry.com favorably but warned that once you sign up renewal is automatic until you direct its termination. In addition they demonstrated several websites using live access to the Internet. We observed that no one website is complete; that the 1850 census was

not available on Godfrey.org but was on Ancestry.com. NewEnglandAncestors.org focuses on New England families plus British and Irish and some New York genealogy, plus it now provides access to Otherdays.com with its 100+ Irish databases and Griffith’s Valuation of Ireland.



Conclusion was to use several as you need to. One should consider that today it is worthwhile to use a “fee” site rather than drive to NARA in Waltham. (And safer too.) One site not on the previous list published in the March/April 2004 Newsletter is www.godfrey.org associated with the Godfrey Memorial Library in Middletown, CT. It currently costs \$35 to join; the fee is expected to increase soon, but is considered reasonable. Access includes Heritage Quest, PERSI, US Censuses 1820, 1860, 1870, 1890 to 1910, 1920 and Griffith’s Valuation.

### Calendar of Meetings for 2004 – 2005

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

September 11	Sturgis Library Holdings – Lucy Loomis, Sturgis Librarian
October 9	Researching Ancestors on the Internet – Laura Prescott, NEHGS
November 13	Where to Find Court Records – Diane Rapaport, NEHGS
December 11	Fraternal Organizations of Our Ancestors – Joyce Pendery, CG
January 6	Workshop for Beginners and Others
February 12	Panel on the Internet – Live On Line

## Online Tips/FYI

by Marge Gibson

Just ran across this website and the name made me want to look at it. It is [www.grillyourgranny.com](http://www.grillyourgranny.com) – It has very lovely pedigree decorated charts. Take a look at them.

### ***Read Between the Lines***

Think there's not much to your ancestors' musty documents? You actually can learn a lot from those old letters, ledgers and diaries just from the handwriting. Follow these tips to see what your forebears' penmanship says about their personalities. <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/aug04/handwriting.html>

The following websites are outlined in the April 2004 issue of Heritage Quest magazine:

- [www.GenealogyLists.com](http://www.GenealogyLists.com) replaces [AncestorSpy.com](http://AncestorSpy.com). You will find thousands of genealogical publications for almost all U.S. counties and as well as other countries.
- [www.gensocietyofutah.org/activities.asp](http://www.gensocietyofutah.org/activities.asp) has a list of all the countries whose records have been microfilmed and includes a brief description of what has been done.

### ***Archivist's Resignation Sparks Controversy***

National archivist John Carlin, who announced his intent to resign last December, now says that the Bush administration asked him to step down. Carlin runs the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA, <http://www.archives.gov>), which controls public access to federal records – including genealogical staples such as censuses and military personnel files, as well as presidential papers.

According to the National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984, which made the National Archives independent from the federal government, the president must give Congress a reason for removing a national archivist.

...Although presidential papers are at issue, some genealogists are concerned that the controversy is the latest development in a trend toward restricted access to public records. On the other hand, historian and The

Nation magazine contributor Jon Wiener predicts NARA's change in command will affect only presidential records, not the ones genealogists typically use.

The Society of American Archivists, along with 28 other historical and archival records societies, issued a statement refusing to endorse Weinstein [Bush's proposed replacement for Carlin] because Bush didn't consult with professional organizations before nominating him. (See the statement at <http://www.archivists.org/statements/weinstein.asp>.) Congressional reports accompanying the 1984 National Archives act specify the necessity of such consultation to ensure a nonpartisan choice.

*from Family Tree News service dated 8-5-04*

## ***Membership***

by John Caspole

Our membership year extends from June 1 this year to May 31 2005. Look at the address label and it will tell you if you are paid up to date or not. Any label that says May 31 2005 is paid. Also any label where the year shown begins with 9 is exempt. Some members are paid up two or three years in advance. Your paid membership insures that you will receive this newsletter in the future.

## ***Cemetery Project***

by Donna Wolcovey

I need help, a lot of help to continue this project! Our volunteers who come out to read the gravestones are FANTASTIC!!!! and we would not have progressed this far without them. Bless them all!

Next cemetery: East End Cemetery! And we are going to start really soon. There are several ways to participate aside from physically being in the cemetery. Members here in Falmouth and members who live far away (including Snowbirds) can help complete the work.

Volunteers, please get in touch with me at 508-477-1947 or [kona@konadesigns.com](mailto:kona@konadesigns.com). Be sure to put Falmouth Cemetery in the RE:/Subject line. We need readers, typists, researchers, etc.

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



Are you aware that FGS maintains surname files at the library? You may be researching one or more of these names, and a nugget of needed detail may be hiding right here in Falmouth! Check out the names: Archer, Bartlett, Bourne,

Bowman, Bunnell, Church, Bates, Coffin, Fisher, French-Smith-Morse, Garland, Goddard, Gould, Grew, Hammond, Hart, Lewis, Reynolds, Rice, Roy, Sawyer, Scudder, Stockwell, Tirrell, Thornton, VanVorhees, West and Winslow. The surname files are in the metal filing cabinet in the FGS niche at the library.

We have also initiated a surname registry. It's on the FGS computer at the library. Click on the surname icon and see what surnames other members are researching. Then add the surnames you're interested in. Perhaps another user can help you!

Two new research aids have been added to the library shelves: *Genealogy on Line* by Elizabeth Powell Crowe and *The Genealogists Companion and Sourcebook*, by

Emily Ann Croom. Both publications are quite technically au courant having been published within the last year.

In the *Enterprise* recently, The Falmouth Public Library announced that holders of a CLAMS card can get access over the internet to Proquest's New York Times Historical Database (1851-2001). The data can be accessed at [www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org](http://www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org) under the "Library Databases" link. This could be a useful tool for our members and very cost effective!! John Peri and I tried it out and it worked. Note: one must have a PIN number to access the program. If you don't have one, the Library will issue one on request.

The publications table at our monthly meeting is proving quite popular. Several members and guests have received interesting books in exchange for a small donation. Next month, the table will feature some computer related items, such as CDs and software. Members are welcome to donate items to this table! To do so, please contact Ralph Wadleigh at 508-548-3408.

## Tuesday Afternoons at the Library

As you undoubtedly know, several members of FGS volunteer at Falmouth Public Library to answer questions and to assist genealogists with their research on Tuesday afternoons. Some days no clients show up, even if the weather is bad. Other days we have an average of about two persons who need help. Computer gurus Mary Hunt and John Peri often look for information in our large collection of CD Roms, especially in the censuses and in Griffith's Valuation for Ireland.

Recently, several genealogists have come in with unusually interesting requests that I want to share with you readers. A few weeks ago (on a sunny Tuesday), two women from the South who were vacationing in Falmouth stopped by to see if we had any ideas that might help them with frustrating searches for their ancestors. One was looking for missing information

about her Carolinian ancestors, and she seemed to have already searched every type of record we could suggest, both on the Internet and in court houses and libraries. We all agreed that Southern research can be very difficult. Her friend's ancestors had ended up in Upstate New York, but she knew they had come from an unknown location in western Massachusetts. She had done limited online research, and none on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) or [newenglandancestors.org](http://newenglandancestors.org). The name of her ancestor, Truman Root, was unusual enough that information might stand out and I was able to find him on both web sites. Information on [newenglandancestors.org](http://newenglandancestors.org) came from Westfield, Massachusetts, Church of Christ Baptisms, a very reliable source that included baptism records for all his siblings, as well. Copies of the information were sent to the researcher.

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## Almost Home?

### *Back to Where It All Started Here In America*

by Janice Potter Dorchester

It has been a long, long time since I left my childhood home in Connecticut. I married a Methodist minister in 1945 and you probably know that they move around quite a lot, and usually the family lives in a parsonage. By the year 1961 we had five children, and my father was living with us after my mother's death a few years earlier.

How did I get started in this fascinating hobby or avocation (for some, a vocation) of Genealogy? Everyone has to start somewhere and my beginnings in genealogy happened to be on Martha's Vineyard. My husband had attended a Methodist Conference in Edgartown in 1961 and he ended up making a down-payment on a piece of property on the Vineyard. His explanation to me was that we really should have a home to retire to some day. (He was 37 years old!) In the meantime, it would be a wonderful place for the children to spend their summers. This was a time before all the movie stars and politicians hadn't discovered the place. I thought my husband had gone completely mad, but by the summer of 1963 we had all moved into our Island home in Oak Bluffs.

One day I took my father for a ride "up Island" and the road carried us into West Tisbury and Chilmark. Seeing those signs, my father shouted, "This is where it is in Massachusetts – Tisbury and now Chilmark!" Now I really thought he had lost it. Then he recounted to me for about the umpteenth time, "The Robinsons. We are descendants of the Rev. John Robinson, pastor to the Pilgrims, and his son, Isaac, and grandsons lived in these towns, but I never knew where in Massachusetts they were located." He had told me in high school that I went back to the pastor of the Pilgrims. Although I was always interested in history, this fact didn't mean much to me at the time. Now, as an adult, I was becoming quite interested. Earlier I had found, among my mother's things, a notebook written in longhand by her grandmother tracing her family back, generation by generation, to Thomas Wood of Rowley, Massachusetts. This meant little to me because I had no idea where Rowley was located either.

The next time I dared to leave the house for a couple of hours, I made my way over to the Dukes Country Historical Society library in Edgartown. (It is now called the Martha's Vineyard Historical Society.) There weren't many people about and the librarian, Gale Huntington, was most helpful and before I knew it, I was hooked. Dad had been given an old paper which gave the descent from the Rev. John down to his grandmother, Eunice Bass Morse, and from that point on I concentrated on researching that Potter-Morse family. Much later I found that old notebook of my mother's very helpful, too!

How did Isaac Robinson get to the Vineyard where I was now spending my summers and would spend retirement? He came on the *Lyon* in 1631 from Leyden. His father had died in Holland before being able to join the rest of his congregation in the new world. Isaac first lived in Plymouth and environs, but later joined the Rev. John Lothrop's party and was in Barnstable in 1639. By 1664 he was in Succanessett (Falmouth) keeping an ordinary (inn). At some time in those later years he was sent to the Quaker meetings to tell them about the error of their ways but, instead, he found them a loving, caring people and would not persecute them. Governor Prence eventually disenfranchised him. Since he had to begin all over again in a new place, Isaac Robinson moved with his second wife and family to the Vineyard and bought land from a Sachem. The living was hard and his son, Peter, who had a large family, finally moved off the island in 1706 to eastern Connecticut and that is where my father came from.

Now, I no longer live on the Vineyard. In the winter of 2002 my husband had serious health problems and we realized we had to be nearer doctors on the mainland. After 39 years, we sold our home and moved to Bourne – Monument Beach to be exact.

At some point after we had moved into the house in Monument Beach, one of our children asked, "You have so many Cape ancestors, don't you have one in

*Continued on page 5*

## Almost Home?

*Continued from page 4*

Bourne?" I replied, "No, just nearby Sandwich!" Little did I know the history of the area in which we now lived.

Now, I will delve a little bit into where I have gone since those library days on the Vineyard. I have spent over 25 years researching the old-fashioned way – talking to elderly relatives (now I'm one!), writing Town Clerks, visiting graveyards, going to libraries. I bought a computer in 1990 and got a genealogy program for it. It took me a year and a half to put in all of my information. There would be no more re-typing after finding new information. I was off and running! A small group of us, from a workshop which Mormon missionaries on the Island had sponsored, met every month and we visited American Antiquarian, Massachusetts Archives and scores of libraries on the Cape and in southern Massachusetts. During the early nineties, I joined the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Connecticut Society of Genealogists. Eventually, after much research, I became a member of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants.

It wasn't until I bought the *History of Bourne* that I discovered just who was one of my Sandwich ancestors. I had five and they were John Perry, Thomas Tobey,

George Knott, Thomas Burgess and Ezra Perry. For those of you who have Ezra Perry as an ancestor, you know that he bought land to the west of Sandwich from his father-in-law, Thomas Burgess. He eventually owned land along the south side of the Manomet River (now the Canal) all the way to the Neck. This land is all in the town of Bourne. As the years went by, Ezra and his sons owned land south to what is now called Barlow's Landing. Consequently, my great+ grandfather (you have to work back about 7 or 8 generations) owned the land on which my house now stands.

Certainly, I miss my Island home but I feel that now I really am at home here in the Monument Beach section of Bourne. I, along with a woman in my church, am in the 9th generation from Ezra Perry. Ezra had 4 sons and several daughters, including my great+ grandmother, Remember. Remember Perry married Jonathan Tobey. Their daughter married a Barnstable man, Ensign Charles Dimmock, and at some point this family moved to eastern Connecticut and to the same county where Peter Robinson and his family had gone. My great, great grandmother, Remember Meacham, was named for her great, great grandmother, Remember Perry. I feel I have just come back to where it all started here in America.

### ROBINSON

John<sup>1</sup> Robinson m. Anne ?  
 John<sup>2</sup> Robinson (Rev.) m. Bridget White (Whyte)  
 Isaac<sup>3</sup> Robinson m. Mary Faunce  
 Peter<sup>4</sup> Robinson m. Mary Manter  
 Peter<sup>5</sup> Robinson, Jr. m. Ruth Fuller  
 Abner<sup>6</sup> Robinson (Capt.) m. Mehitable Palmer  
 Mehitable<sup>7</sup> Robinson m. Eleazer Smith  
 Betsy<sup>8</sup> Smith m. John Bass  
 Eunice<sup>9</sup> Bass m. Nathan Morse  
 Jane<sup>10</sup> Morse m. Newton Potter  
 Henry<sup>11</sup> Potter m. Lois Wood  
 Janice<sup>12</sup> Potter m. Douglas Dorchester

### PERRY

John<sup>1</sup> Perry  
 Ezra<sup>2</sup> Perry m. Elizabeth Burgess  
 Remember<sup>3</sup> Perry m. Jonathan Tobey  
 Abigail<sup>4</sup> Tobey m. Charles Dimmock (Ensign)  
 Lydia<sup>5</sup> Dimmock m. Joseph Meacham, Jr.  
 Remember<sup>6</sup> Meacham m. Leonard Morse  
 Nathan<sup>7</sup> Morse m. Eunice Bass  
 Jane<sup>8</sup> Morse m. Newton Potter  
 Henry<sup>9</sup> Potter m. Lois Wood  
 Janice<sup>10</sup> Potter m. Douglas Dorchester

# There's a Pirate in My Pedigree

*(Looking for Gold on the GenForum Message Boards)*

by Robert Chase

Three hundred years ago this summer — June 30th, 1704 — John Lambert Jr, my great uncle seven generations removed, was one of six pirates hung at the mouth of the Charles River in Boston as a warning to other freebooters who might have similar ambitions.

My Chase-Lambert roots in Massachusetts date back to the early 1600s when Aquila Chase settled in Olde Newbury, on the North Shore, and John Lambert, the original emigrant, settled in Salem. While most of my early ancestors took up farming, others followed the sea, starting with shipbuilding and intercoastal trading, and later moving into privateering and clipper ships working the China trade.

While most of my Chase line is well documented, I've had some problems tracking our original John Lambert and his wife Preserved Gaskoyne's roots. Four years ago I placed an inquiry on the *GenForum* message board seeking information on my Lambert-Gaskoyne (Gaskill) line. I returned to the website month after month with no success and eventually discontinued the search. Then, about six months ago, I was checking the numerous inquiries I had posted over the years on the *GenForum* message boards and found a response on my Lambert message that had been posted almost three years earlier.

The message from a descendant of Preserved Gaskill provided me with considerable information regarding the persecution of her Quaker ancestors and noted in passing that her son John Lambert "came under the gravest misfortune" and had been tried, condemned and hung in 1704 as a pirate, in a trial that Judge Samuel Sewall later characterized as "judicial murder."

I wanted more details, of course, and remembering Judge Sewall's role in the earlier Salem witch trials, I went to the internet and searched for his name, the trial date and the keyword "pirates!" In a matter of minutes, I came up with a recent reprint of a 1923 book entitled "*The Pirates of the New England Coast, 1630-1730*," by George Francis Dow and John Henry Edmonds. There in graphic detail was an entire chapter devoted to the

marauding adventurers, capture and trial of the infamous Captain John Quelch and his band of brigands who had seized and plundered some nine ships off the coast of Brazil during the winter of 1703-04.

During the summer of 1703, the brigantine *Charles* was fitted out by a group of prominent merchants from Boston as a privateer to prey on French shipping off the coast of Arcadia and Newfoundland. While riding at anchor off Marblehead, taking on supplies and mustering his crew, Captain Daniel Plowman was taken ill and advised his owners that he was unable to sail. When he later learned that the owners planned to send the ship out under another captain, he wrote again urging them to send the vessel to Boston, declaring that "*it will not do with these people (the crew) ... and the sooner the guns and stores were landed on shore the better it would be for all concerned.*" Before the owners could take action, however, the ship had gone to sea.

Afterwards it appeared that before sailing the crew had locked Captain Plowman in his cabin and John Quelch, the lieutenant-commander, had come on board and taken command, steering a course toward the south Atlantic. Sometime after Quelch assumed command, the captain was thrown overboard, whether dead or alive is not known.

In November 1703, the *Charles* was off the coast of Brazil and over the next three months Quelch made nine captures. These vessels were owned by subjects of the King of Portugal, an ally of Queen Anne of England, and from them Quelch seized considerable loot, including a hundred weight of gold dust, gold and silver coins valued at more than a thousand pounds, ammunition, small arms, a great quantity of fine fabrics, provisions and rum.

When Quelch planned his attack on Portuguese shipping he was apparently unaware of the treaty of friendship and alliance between Great Britain and Portugal that had been signed in Lisbon on May 16, 1703 that condemned "*piratical ships, of whatever nation.*"

## There's a Pirate in My Pedigree

*Continued from page 6*

In the middle of May 1704, for some unknown reason, Quelch returned to Marblehead with his ill-gotten gains and soon afterwards the crew began to disappear. The sudden departure of the *Charles* less than a year before was recalled and the local people became skeptical of Captain Quelch's claim that he had recovered the treasure from a wreck in the West Indies.

The owners of the vessel became suspicious and petitioned the authorities to arrest Quelch and his crew. A proclamation naming Quelch, John Lambert and thirty-nine crewmen was issued charging them with: "having lately Imported a considerable Quantity of Gold dust, and some Bar and coin'd Gold, which they are Violently Suspected to have gotten & obtained by Felony and Piracy, from some of Her Majesties Friends and Allies, and have Imported and Shared the same among themselves, without any Adjudication or Condemnation thereof, to be lawful Prize. The said Commander and some others being apprehended and in Custody, the rest are absconded and fled from Justice."

Quelch, Lambert and five of the crew were soon arrested and over the next few weeks authorities throughout the colonies captured another eighteen crew members who had tried to escape through Cape Ann, the Isles of Shoals, Rhode Island and Long Island. Another eighteen of the original forty-three crewmen managed to escape and were never brought to trial.

Governor Joseph Dudley was anxious to move the case to trial as quickly as possible and appointed a Court of Admiralty to meet in Boston. Among the noted officials chosen to serve was Judge Samuel Sewall, who had presided at the earlier Salem witch trials and whose diaries covering the Quelch trial provide most of the information known about this case. Three of the crew, among those first to surrender, pleaded guilty and were ordered to "*stand within the Bar, and to be Sworn as Witnesses on Her Majesty's behalf.*"

On Monday, June 9, 1704, Quelch was brought to trial, accused of piracy, robbery and murder. Although the testimony of an accomplice was not admissible at that time by civil law, the Court allowed the testimony of the Queen's witnesses.

In the final analysis, John Quelch, John Lambert and five of the more culpable crewmen were sentenced to death. Fifteen others were sentenced to death, but only two were executed. The rest remained in prison until July 19th of the following year when "*Her Majesty's most gracious pardon*" was forwarded to the Council on condition that the prisoners enter the Queen's service.

Quelch came from Old England as did most of his crew. He was born in London and was about thirty-eight years old. Of the New England men, John Lambert was born in Salem and at the time of his execution was about forty-nine years old with a wife and children. During the trial he claimed that he had been sick in the gun room while the captain was confined to his cabin and that he was forced to go on the voyage. During the voyage, however, the Queen's witnesses claimed "*he was as active as the rest of the crew and accepted his share of the spoils.*" But Lambert claimed that if he had not accepted, the crew would have killed him or set him ashore on some deserted island where he would have starved to death.

Prior to the day of execution "*the Ministers of the Town had used more than ordinary Endeavours to Instruct the Prisoners, and bring them to Repentance.*" The Reverend Cotton Mather, who never failed to attend a public execution, preached a sermon and walked with the condemned from the prison to Scarlet's wharf, where "*the silver oar*" [symbol of the Admiralty Court's authority] was carried before them as they continued by water to the place where the gallows had been set up between the high and low water mark off a point of land just below Copp's Hill. The place of execution was about where the North End Park bathing beach is now located.

The condemned were guarded by forty musketeers and constables of the town. Great crowds gathered to witness the execution, including more than one hundred boats at the mouth of the Charles River. Judge Sewall in his diary commented on the great number of people gathered on what was later the site of the historic Copp's Hill cemetery.

*Continued page 8*

## There's a Pirate in My Pedigree

*Continued from page 7*

In a broad-sheet published at the time John Lambert “appeared much hardened and pleaded much on his Innocency ... he seem'd in a great Agony near his Execution ... his last words were Lord forgive my Soul!” When the scaffold dropped “there was such a Screech of the Women that [Sewall's] wife heard it sitting in ... our house is a full mile from the place.”

According to custom the bodies remained hanging on a gibbet until they gradually disappeared from decay. There was an exception made, for some reason, in the case of Lambert for his body was turned over to his widow after his son and others had made petition to Judge Sewall. It was buried that night about midnight in Salem “near some of his relatives.”

In October 1705, after deducting some £ 726 for various bounties and expenses associated with the trial, the officials of the Province turned over to the Crown what remained of the “Coynd, Bar and Dust Gold imported by Capt John Quelch.” The gold, weighing some 788 ounces, was then placed in five leather bags, marked and sealed, and shipped to the “Lord High Treasurer of England for her Majesty's use.” Thus ended what Judge Sewall later characterized as “one of the clearest cases of judicial murder in our American annals.”

## Tuesday Afternoons at the Library

*Continued from page 3*

More recently a visitor brought in a remarkable and puzzling double exposure photograph. In the process of preparing family history books for her cousins, she had obtained via email, from a relative in Ireland, a tiny photograph of her grandfather and grandmother. She enlarged it on her computer and placed it within an attractive frame she also found online. She then took the page into an Office Max near her home to have eleven copies made on their color copier. The technician who was making the copies shrieked as she looked at the third copy. Unlike the first two, it was a double exposure with a photograph of a very elderly great-aunt who had raised and educated her orphaned nieces and nephews showing behind the photo of the grandparents. The next seven copies were normal. The mystery is that

While my purpose here was to urge our readers to make greater use of the *GenForum* message boards, I hope the trials and tribulations of my erstwhile ancestor have been of some historical interest. For those who continue to search for their family roots and believe in serendipity, I offer the following suggestions:

- 1) Don't hang out with pirates. Don't seize or plunder ships at sea — *but if you do*, don't bring the loot back home!
- 2) Don't forget Rule #1 — *but if you do*, and you still run into stone walls when looking up family history, then consider posting an inquiry on the *GenForum* message boards.
- 3) Don't forget to check the message boards periodically for responses to your posting. Don't become impatient — *but if you do*, remember that a response could take weeks, months, and sometimes years.
- 4) Don't forget the *GenForum* number assigned to your inquiry — *but if you do*, you can return to your posting by searching your own name.
- 5) Don't forget to thank those “cousins” who respond to your message — *but if you do*, remember “*Better late than never!*”

there is no known photograph of the great-aunt (who died in 1971), although our visitor knew her very well and recognized her. There were other mysterious objects and some meaningful words surrounding her face. Our visitor wondered whether any of us had ever heard of or seen such a double exposure. Of course, we had not!

We suggested that she contact the Catholic home where her great-aunt spent her last years to determine whether they had a photograph of her in their files, and that she take the photograph to a photography store to determine whether they could separate the two photos so the second photo of the face, underneath the photo of the couple, could be seen in entirety.

Never a dull moment on some Tuesdays. Do stop by!

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# The Falmouth Genealogical Society

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P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536  
www.falgen.org

## Newsletter

November - December 2004

President: John M. Caspole  
Editor: Janet Burt Chalmers  
JanetBChalmers@aol.com

*The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published six times a year  
and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.*

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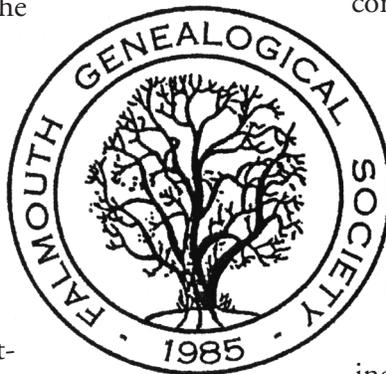
## Program Notes From September and October Meetings

### *Sturgis Library Holdings*

Talk presented by Lucy Loomis, Sturgis Librarian, on Sept. 11, 2004

*by John Caspole*

Our speaker was Lucy Loomis, Librarian for the Sturgis Library on Route 6A in Barnstable. The Sturgis is located in the oldest library building in the USA and was built by a Captain William Sturgis in 1844. Ms. Loomis noted that their card catalog is currently in process of transfer to an on-line catalog. They recently removed any fee for the use of the library to make it more available. Barnstable is made up of several villages and each village has its own library run by its own trustees. While it gets some funding from the town the trustees have to raise additional funds to cover operations. The library has a broad coverage of early family information, including: New England states census records, histories of New England towns and some New York with special focus on Cape Cod, Plymouth Colony records, gravestone records, most counties' probate records, many



church records but especially the East Parish and a complete collection of old newspapers, especially abolitionist. Also, handwritten notes on some 40 Barnstable County families. They have information on about 300 published family histories and 700 unpublished family histories. There is a collection of original deeds by Stanley Smith, excluding Falmouth.

There are special collections in their vault including the Kittredge collection and the Joseph Lincoln collection. There are deed books from 1600 to 1869, some not lost in the courthouse fire years ago. You can bring your laptop and there are four computers for public use. Certainly, a library to be visited.

Thanks Lucy.

## Calendar of Meetings for 2004 – 2005

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

November 13	Where to Find Court Records – Diane Rapaport, NEHGS
December 11	Fraternal Organizations of Our Ancestors – Joyce Pendery, CG
January 8	Workshop for Beginners and Others
February 12	Panel on the Internet – Live On Line

# Researching Your Ancestors On The Internet

Talk presented by Laura Prescott, NEHGS, on October 9, 2004

by Janet B. Chalmers

Laura Prescott, director of marketing at New England Historic Genealogical Society, presented an excellent lecture on searching for ancestors online to 35 FGS members and guests. She reviewed the major genealogical websites, as well as some lesser-known sites, and then discussed the advantages and pitfalls of gathering genealogical data on the Internet.

Though genealogists and the Internet seem to be made for each other, Laura warned that there are many pitfalls. She said researchers need to check original sources and said she always makes hard copy of the any URL she takes information from as a citation source.

Laura elaborated on many of the points in her helpful handout, outlining the positives and negatives of internet genealogy and discussing special features of several websites she likes. She called Cyndi's List "the card catalog of websites," noting that it has links to over 240,000 websites.

She illustrated many points by searching various websites for information she knew they contained about some of her ancestors. For those who missed her talk, here is Laura's outline:

## Positives of Internet Genealogy:

- Access the greatest knowledge base available
- Locate and correspond with your long-lost relations
- Find photos, records, documents, more!
- Learn from others
- Connect to events, workshops, online courses
- Share successes and frustrations

## Negatives of Internet Genealogy:

- It is the greatest disseminator and perpetuator of false and harmful information
- Discover scams at your expense
- Privacy issues
- Anything you find online needs to be checked with original sources
- Citation complications
- Copyright issues

## Websites Highlighted in Laura's discussion:

- *NewEnglandAncestors.org* – New England Historic Genealogical Society – the premier website for genealogical research in New England including databases, manuscript images, research articles, Great Migration Newsletter online; fee.
- *cyndislist.com* – Cyndi's List – Links to everything genealogical. The ultimate Internet site catalog for family history research; free.
- *familysearch.org* – FamilySearch (LDS or Mormon Church) – 1880 US census, 1881 British & Canadian censuses, Ancestral File, International Genealogical Index (IGI), Pedigree Resource File, Family History Library catalog & Family History Center locations; free.
- *heritagequestonline.com* – Heritage Quest/ProQuest (available only via 3rd party library or similar institution) – Census images, PERSI, searchable local histories and genealogies; fee.
- *ancestry.com* – Ancestry.com – Census images, city directories, historical newspapers, maps, etc.; fee.
- *rootsweb.com* – RootsWeb – Free site sponsored by Ancestry with material submitted by hundreds of volunteers. Getting started information, message boards, mailing lists; free.
- *usgenweb.org* – The USGenWeb Project – State pages, transcription projects, tombstone project, census info, volunteer projects, research help; free.
- *glorerecords.blm.gov* – Bureau of Land Management General Land Office Records – Official federal land patent records site. Access to over two million records for Eastern Public Land states (1820-1908); free.
- *loc.gov* – The Library of Congress – Library of Congress catalog, the American Memory Project, maps, digitized manuscripts, an historical goldmine; free.
- *loc.gov/coll/nucmc* – National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) – Catalog of archives and manuscript repositories including detailed descriptions and finding aids of items within collections around the US; free.
- *google.com* – Google – Search engines help you find the information you need with a few simple "keywords" and strategies; free.

Continued on page 3

# Bookends

## Notes from the Library Committee

Ralph Wadleigh, Chair



If you haven't visited the genealogy corner at the Falmouth Public Library lately, you're in for a surprise! A few weeks ago, the genealogy section was completely restacked! It's like walking into a new store and not knowing where

things are! But not to worry, everything is there and perhaps easier to find than before once you've gotten reacquainted! One improvement is the removal of those portable carts which always seemed to be in the way. Come in and see the difference.

Some of our newer readers may not be aware of our video tape collection of genealogical subjects. Some of the subjects included are:

- Cape Verdean History and Genealogy
- Tracing Cape Verdean Ancestry
- Tracing British Ancestry
- Military Records
- Researching Azorean Progeny
- Naturalization and Immigration Records
- Sandwich Families
- The Origins of British Surnames
- City Directories
- US Church Records and American Court Records

You can borrow any of these by visiting the Library any Tuesday afternoon from two to four, or by calling 508-548-3408.

### Library Goes Wireless

We are pleased to inform you that the Falmouth Public Library has installed the necessary equipment to make it a wireless zone for computers. This is exciting news. Now researchers can bring in their wireless equipped laptop computers and have internet access as they conduct research. We have tested it in the genealogy section. Even better, once we install a wireless receiver, the computer in our genealogy corner will have internet access making it possible to eliminate the trips to the public computers when we help researchers on Tuesdays.

And speaking of internet access, the Falmouth Genealogy Society has offered to pay for the installation on the library's computers, for a one year trial, access to three important genealogy internet sites:

- [newenglandancestors.org](http://newenglandancestors.org) (New England Historical and Genealogical Society)
- [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) library edition (A large collection of data bases)
- [heritagequestonline.com](http://heritagequestonline.com) Heritage Quest (Census records, books and periodicals)

We are told that the Heritage Quest site will be available on home computers for those who hold a current valid Falmouth Public Library card. This is great added value for library card holders because at present most of us pay another library or society for the Heritage Quest access.

We'll keep you posted as to the exact availability of these wonderful additions



### Researching Your Ancestors On The Internet

*Continued from page 2*

#### A few libraries and organizations:

- [dartmouth.edu/~speccoll](http://dartmouth.edu/~speccoll) – Dartmouth College – Catalogs, finding aids, links to archives and manuscripts; free.
- [acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy](http://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy) – Allen County Public Library – Access to PERSI for residents only; free.
- [masshist.org](http://masshist.org) – Massachusetts Historical Society – The Adams Papers and exhibits online; free.
- [godfrey.org](http://godfrey.org) – Godfrey Memorial Library (Middletown, CT) – In-home access to HeritageQuestOnline: census, books, PERSI; fee.
- [mainememory.net](http://mainememory.net) – Maine Memory Network – Online images, photographs, historical accounts; free.
- [hampton.lib.nh.us](http://hampton.lib.nh.us) – Lane Memorial Library (Hampton, NH) – Example of what local libraries can offer; free.
- [michigan.gov/hal](http://michigan.gov/hal) – Michigan State Library – Example of what state libraries and archives offer; free.

## From the President

John M. Caspole

### *New England Regional Genealogical Conference*

This past week I attended a planning session for the upcoming conference scheduled for next March 31 through Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> in Portland, Maine. I missed most of the 2003 conference here in Falmouth so I will be attending the 2005 session. Based on the report of the conference chair it sounds like the conference will be *a super event*. Almost any genealogical subject you need will be covered there. We've included the program schedule as part of this newsletter so **you can review it and decide on what you would like to see and hear**.

In addition you can go to the NERGC web site, [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org) and get more information and download a registration form. (if you do this, then please print "Falmouth" in the upper left hand corner of the form.) They have tried hard to keep the cost down to \$99. Meals and room are extra, but after a typically dreary month of March it can be fun to get away... a flight of fancy. One of my goals is to enjoy some Maine lobsters and mussels while I'm there. I hope many of you will plan to attend. Each participating Society has to provide so many volunteer hours to make the conference work and we get credit for that, so if the conference is well attended we will share in the net proceeds. The last conference brought FGS \$1850 to finance our programs and projects.

### *World Place Advisor*

Here's a computer program, produced by Progeny Software that will help you correct spelling and other errors related to places you have entered in your genealogy database. It contains 3.3 million place names around the world and is compatible with most all genealogy software. It will identify: misspellings, ambiguous place names, wrong jurisdiction, unknown places, incomplete entries, non-specific entries, missing commas, and events without places. The new version, 1.2, will also automatically display maps from *Mapquest.com*. It will read directly from your database and doesn't force you to make changes, only suggests changes. There is a full article about it in the Fall 2004 edition of *New England Ancestors* and is available for \$34.95 from Progeny Software. See: [www.progenysoftware.com/placeadvisor.html](http://www.progenysoftware.com/placeadvisor.html)

### *Cemetery Project*

Committee Chair Donna Walcovy spearheaded the gravestone readings at the East End Cemetery off Sandwich road next to the Falmouth Jewish Synagogue on some lovely fall days in October. Thanks to Donna and her faithful crew the project has made another step forward. Now comes the business of entering the data and Donna sure could use some volunteer help in this task. Give her a call to volunteer.

## Online Tips/FYI

by Marge Gibson

Effective Wednesday September 1, 2004, the National Archives in Waltham will no longer be open Wednesday evenings after 4:30.

They will continue to offer evening hours every Thursday from 4:30 - 9:00 PM, and will remain open on the first and third Saturday of every month.

This change is due to the cost of remaining open on an evening with limited patronage. Please contact the Archives Director by e-mail at [stuart.culy@nara.gov](mailto:stuart.culy@nara.gov) or toll free on (866) 406-2379 with your concerns.

"What Did You Do in the War, Grandma?" An oral history of Rhode Island Women during World War II – written by students in the Honors English Program at South Kingstown High School [http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII\\_Women/tocCS.html](http://www.stg.brown.edu/projects/WWII_Women/tocCS.html)

Notable Women Ancestors: Investigate many women's history links here: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nwa/women.html>

Researchers will personally visit archives throughout England and Scotland to find your British ancestors (1813-1950). Birth, marriage, death, church, census, and other records. In most cases they can offer a no find no fee service – we find your ancestors or you pay nothing! For a free e-mail assessment, visit [www.britishancestors.com/awn](http://www.britishancestors.com/awn)