

SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## NEWS

JAN-MAR 2024

VOL. 36, ISSUE 1

### ARTIFACTS DAY!

"Artifacts Day!" at the Falmouth Genealogical Society on October 14, 2023, provided an informative and fun opportunity for members to share treasured family heirlooms and the stories of the ancestors who owned them. Thanks to all for sharing your treasures with us.

By Caroline Anderson



MEMBERS WITH THEIR ARTIFACTS: LEFT TO RIGHT - FAITH LEE, VASCO PIRES, DAVID MARTIN, DAVID BURT, JUDY WADLEIGH AND CAROLYN POWERS

(cont'd. on page 2)

### VERIFYING DESCENT FROM SALEM'S WITCHES WITH DAVID ALLEN LAMBERT

By David Martin



As part of the annual Joint Meeting with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society on November 18, 2023, David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist, American Ancestors, presented two topics.

His first was on the process for seeking proof of descent from the 17th century accused witches of Salem, Massachusetts. His brief review

(cont'd. on page 7)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All Meetings Held  
at Falmouth Public Library  
Hermann Foundation Room  
AND Virtually via Zoom  
Unless Noted Otherwise  
See [Falgen.org](http://Falgen.org) for  
Updated Info*

**Sat., Jan. 13 @ 10:30 am**

**"Finding What You Need  
and Making the Most of  
What You Find"**  
*With Pam Vestal*

**Sat., Feb. 10 @ 10:30 am**

**"Here's the CRUX of it"**  
*With Two FGS members (20-30 minutes each) sharing a genealogical challenge  
Audience members offer possible paths forward*

**Sat., Mar. 9 @ 10:30 am**

**"Finding Original Names  
and Towns for 19th-20th  
Century Immigrants"**  
*With Deborah Shaw  
FGS Member*

**Sat., Apr. 13 @ 10:30 am**

**"The Art of Mourning:  
A Closer Look at Early 19th  
Century Falmouth Cousins"**  
*With Rachel L. Lovett  
Exec. Dir.,  
Falmouth Historical Society*

**Sat., May 11 @ 10:30 am**

**"Misattributed: When Your  
Genealogy and Your Birth  
Certificate Are at Odds"**  
*With Peter J. Boni*

**The Massachusetts  
Genealogical Council  
offers programs  
See [MGC|Home](http://MGC|Home)  
([massgencouncil.org](http://massgencouncil.org))**

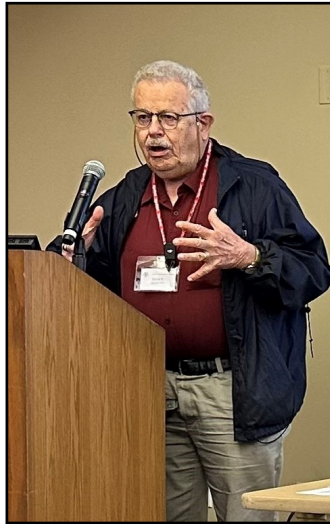


Like us on  
**Facebook**  
Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc

## ARTIFACTS DAY

*(cont'd. from page 1)*

### David Martin — A Letter Reflecting on President James A. Garfield



David presented a poignant and elegant letter written by his great-great granduncle John Locke Martin (1814-1884). Written to Martin's sister-in-law, it is dated 8 October 1881 from his home in Hamilton, Ohio. It reflects on the events of the summer of 1881 when President

James A. Garfield was shot and then lingered for weeks before his death in September 1881. Garfield, the 20th President of the United States was shot at the Union Railroad Station in Washington, DC by Charles Guiteau who was tried, convicted, and executed for his crime. In reading the letter, David encouraged listeners to enjoy the beautiful prose and graceful language of the text, noting that the original handwriting is also elegant. An excerpt: "The assassination of the President [Garfield] on the 2nd of July and the seventy-eight days of suffering that followed, during which time the whole country was in a tremor of excitement, as hope and despair alternated, was an expression

of public anxiety such as the country has scarcely ever experienced, except in the darker days of the rebellion and its close, when the first martyred President met a violent death at the hands of an assassin."

*There was a big surprise at the conclusion of David's presentation when Carolyn Powers, the next speaker (see below), told David she treasured the sentiments in the letter because President Garfield was her great great grandfather. In fact, when she was 7 years old, she was honored to pull the drape from a newly-restored portrait of him in his Civil War regalia at his home, "Longfield."*



### Carolyn Powers — Lemuel Powers' Handmade Flax Hatchel



By researching a treasured item from her late husband Sam Powers' family, Carolyn

shared that she learned about the item's use and significance as well as more about its creator and inventor. Lemuel Powers (1714-1792) was Sam's 3X great-grandfather. By trade, he was a cooper (barrel maker). Lemuel designed and built his beautiful and monogrammed hatchel from oak — its unique design intended to make the hatchel both portable and safe. In opening the wooden box, a rectangular "comb" of metal nails/spikes are exposed. Thus, the flax hatchel is a comb used for "hackling" or

"hetcheling" — preparing flax plants for spinning into linen thread — the finer the comb used, the finer the linen thread produced. The process of turning flax to linen is an arduous and multi-step process with intriguing names including "stooking", "rippling", "retting", and "scutching". To view this process, Carolyn suggests viewing this YouTube video "Flax to Linen" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cLOPCAJKeLE>.

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

## ARTIFACTS DAY

(cont'd. from page 2)

### Vasco Pires — My Grandfather's Accordion and the Music of Cape Verde

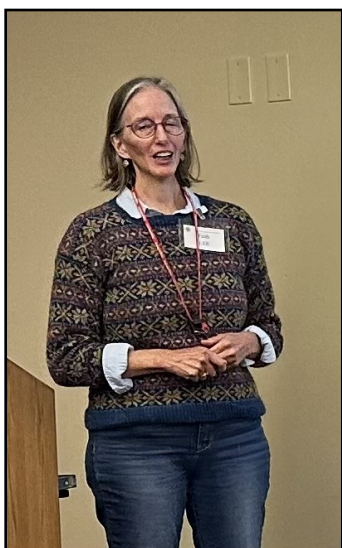


Vasco showcased his grandfather's Tivoli accordion and introduced the audience to funaná music. Vasco remi-

niscated about his grandfather, Nicholas R. Pires (1885-1977) and his grandfather's friend King King who would play their instruments walking down Sandwich Road for holidays and special occasions. Funaná is a music and dance genre from Cape Verde, originating on the island of Santiago. It is an accordion-based music with rhythm usually provided by the ferrinho, a scraped iron instrument (like a washboard). While the music enjoyed a revival after independence in the 1970s, it

had previously been banned in Cape Verde and played in secret. Vasco also shared a traditional handwoven cotton cloth from Cape Verde called the Panu di Tera (around Vasco's neck here). The Panu di Tera have been documented since the 15th century and feature beautiful, geometric designs. For a sample of funaná music, Vasco recommends visiting YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJH2Nixj\\_o4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJH2Nixj_o4)

### Faith Lee — Dr. Clarence J. Bell's Antique Family Quilt



In 2022, Faith discovered an antique quilt (dated 1930) in the attic of her grandparent's home in Wellfleet where her grandfather, Clarence J. Bell, served as a physician. Beautifully decorated with diamond, basket, and rose pat-

terns; the quilt, most intriguingly, also included the elegantly embroidered names of 403 people. Hoping to discover the identities of these people and the relationship to her grandfather as well as the identity of the quilt's creator and its purpose, Faith began her detailed research. Faith recorded every name, comparing them to the Bell family published genealogy, researched in [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com), and searched the 1930 census records for Barlow, Fairfield, and Palmer Ohio. Through a newspaper article and Dr. Bell's work log and an undated letter by her father, Faith discovered that her

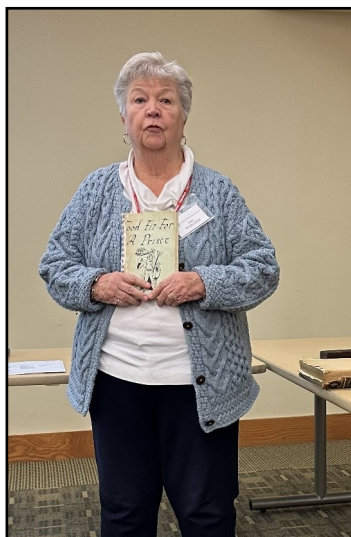
grandfather had attended a large family reunion in 1930 at the Washington County Fairgrounds which led to both the Bell Family Genealogy and the quilt. The 403 names likely reflect the extended members of the Bell family who attended the Reunion. Faith has donated the quilt to the Washington County (Ohio) Historical Society both for preservation and so that local history and genealogy researchers can access it.

(cont'd. on page 4)

## ARTIFACTS DAY

(cont'd. from page 3)

### Judy Wadleigh — Family Cookbook, *Food Fit for a Prince*



Judy's extended Prince family — descendants of her great-grandparents Arthur Samuel

Prince (1850-1909) and Lucy Jane Brown (1854-1932) have enjoyed several reunions, beginning in 1981. To commemorate that first Reunion, family members contributed favorite recipes to create the first edition of the much-loved cookbook aptly named *Food Fit for a Prince*. Fast forward to 2023, and the daughter of the first edition editor picked up the mantle to serve as editor for the 2nd edition of *Food Fit for a Prince*.

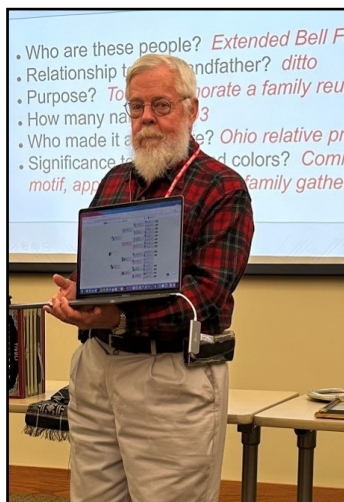
While including new recipes alongside the originals, this

edition also includes historic photos and stories as well as a detailed family tree and index — which will serve as a wonderful memento and tool for future generations of genealogists. Storytelling and humor are also family reunion fixtures. Ask Judy about the recipe for “Elephant Stew” whose first step is: “Cut one medium elephant into small bite sized pieces — takes about a month.”

#### Note:

For more on meeting topics, members can access speakers' notes and most presentations on YouTube. Go to the Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. website, [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), click on Membership, and log into the Members Only section. Go to Speaker Notes and Videos. If you need the password, please contact Tim Martin at [fespresident@gmail.com](mailto:fespresident@gmail.com).

### David Burt —A Tale of the Burts



David began his presentation by showing a photograph of his maternal great-great grandfather, Captain John Graham Burt (1814-1892) and highlighting that the surname “Burt” appears in both his paternal and maternal family trees. The major re-

search question was: were the paternal Burts of Springfield/Hartford related to the maternal Burts of Provincetown? His late sister, Janet Burt Chalmers, an active member of FGS, pursued this question. David encouraged attendees to review her article in the FGS newsletter, Volume 24, Number 1 (February-April 2012) that can be found at our website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org). And, while no connection has been established between the paternal and maternal Burts, the research did reveal some wonderful stories of the maternal line — the seafaring Burts of Provincetown. Capt. John Graham Burt, his brother Edward Burt and

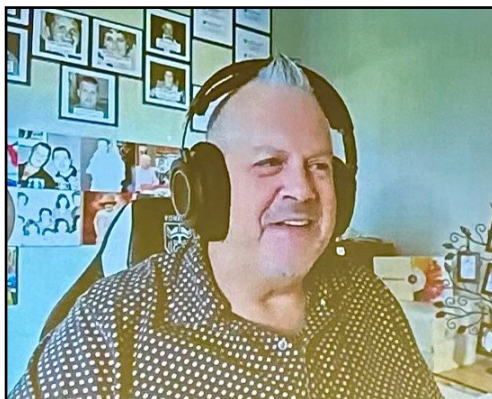
several of their sons served on packet schooners, including the Foster, sailing from Provincetown to Boston. Two interesting stories centered on Capt. Burt's father, John C. Burt (1793-1822). John Burt and his sister were sent to live with foster parents in Boston where they received a mysterious trunk from a Scottish Earl. Did this mean that the Burts were Scottish? And, sadly, John Burt died in a windmill accident at age 29. And, lest you didn't believe David's story of the Burt who became a pirate, the second photo he displayed pictured David with two students from Guatemala posing as pirates.

## AFTER YOU'RE GONE: FUTURE PROOFING YOUR GENEALOGY RESEARCH

By Tim Martin

On December 9th, 2023 Thomas MacEntee zoomed into the Falmouth Public Library to present "After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research." A well-known genealogist from Chicago with an IT background, Thomas has previously presented to FGS in October 2017 with "10 Ways to Jump Start Your Genealogy," October 2019 with "Privacy, DNA, and Genealogy: Handling the Double-Edged Sword," and February 2021 with "Brick Wall Breakthroughs."

The MacEntee December 2023 talk focused on means of ensuring that our diligent genealogical work, along with our collected artifacts are preserved for future generations. The talk began with an alternately humorous and painful fictitious account of descendants naively pondering and tossing out the entire extent of their deceased mother's work. You are the only person who can properly determine what to preserve and how to preserve it. (Therefore, you must do this before you die!) It is critical to **create an accurate and**



THOMAS MACENTEE  
ZOOMING IN FROM CHICAGO

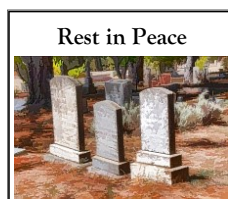
**sufficiently detailed inventory** of what you have. Example categories to remember are hard copy, artifacts, media, digitized Items, and online Information. It is also important to **identify and communicate now with societies, libraries and archives** that are particularly suited for the material you have, e.g. a geographic region or type of interest. Be willing to make donations to recipient organizations to demonstrate your valuation of their mission and to keep and make available your stuff! Regarding books: you might only preserve what is not already publicly available, donate the rest.

Regarding Online Information: create a master document with URLs, usernames, passwords, and content summary. Identify the content you have, in-

cluding old media types that might best be digitized to make it more widely viewable, searchable and transportable. Thomas mentioned websites that can aid you in this task: <https://organizeyourfamilyhistory.com/>, <https://forever.com/> and <https://artifacts.com/>. Face-

book users can also benefit by joining The Organized Genealogist group. Have a conversation with your family about your work and what happens to it and include your desires in an Estate Plan and Codicil to your Will.

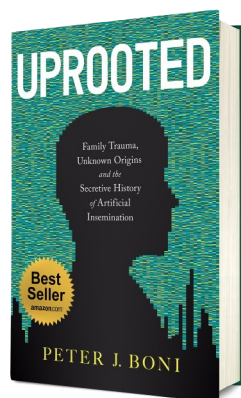
Thomas' talk was packed with information. Members can easily view the video recording of this talk as well as a download a detailed four-page handout at the Members-Only area of our website. You may also come to our Tuesday afternoon Help Session at the Falmouth Public Library to discuss your Future Proofing challenge!



## BOOK REVIEW: *UPROOTED* BY PETER J. BONI

*By Ralph Wadleigh*

First, thanks to FGS members Ann and Marilyn Carlson, for bringing this thought-provoking publication by a Falmouth resident to the writer's attention. Author Peter Boni's life was uprooted in 1995 when he learned at age 49 from his mother that he was conceived at a Boston area fertility clinic by means of an anonymous sperm donor. *Uprooted* describes his personal search to identify his biological father, a task made supremely difficult because it was started before commercial DNA tests were readily available. Organized into three sections, Discovery, History, and Revelation, he presents his quest to the reader in a readable entertaining way. Most interesting to this reviewer was his reporting of the history of artificial insemination, a process that over the years provided better record keeping for animals than for humans. Think cattle breeding and thoroughbred horses. Furthermore, he introduces readers to successive stages of technological and marketing improvements in artificial insemination through sperm banks, invitro fertilization, egg donors and uterine transplants. He doesn't exclude the unscrupulous side of artificial insemination either. For example, a fertility doc-



tor using his own sperm, or the purchasing of sperm from unidentified (to the mother) donors. Not to mention the industry's practice of issuing birth certificates falsely naming the husband as father. Obviously, this was and is an industry needing regulation.

In the Revelation section, in 2008 after thirteen years of investigation, Peter learns from his daughter about commercially available DNA tests. He first tries [23andMe.com](https://www.23andme.com) which revealed ethnicity, but not much else. His daughter then suggests [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and bingo, a match pops up. Peter sends the match a message through Ancestry and fortunately, the match person, an indicated possible first cousin, quickly replies. Even better, she is a skilled genealogical sleuth familiar with DNA. She makes a close comparison of their DNA results and determines that the amount of matched centimorgans means that

they are half siblings, i.e., her biological father is also Peter's. A big win for both. Later through persistent work, they identify their biological father, a man who anonymously donated (or sold) his sperm to a fertility doctor practicing in the Boston area.

Peter doesn't stop there. He estimates there are about 150 million persons worldwide who are misattributed who need help identifying their parentage. Knowing the chaotic artificial insemination industry, he finishes his work proposing a Donor Conceived Bill of Rights to spark legislative action to legitimize practices.

*Uprooted* is an informative easy to read combination of personal memoir and historical summary. Any person working through a misattributed parental situation will be interested in this publication. It is available at the Falmouth Public Library.

**Peter J. Boni will attend the FGS meeting in person on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at the Falmouth Public Library, beginning at 10:30 a.m. He will present on his genealogical research journey and his book *Uprooted*. To learn more about Peter, check out his web site at [www.peterjboni.com](https://www.peterjboni.com).**



### Welcome Members

Welcome to **Steve Benton** who is beginning his genealogical journey with his paternal history, the Bentons. We also are delighted to welcome **Leonard "Len" and Ann Egan**. Len is focused on his Irish ancestry, working on both his paternal "Egan" line and his maternal "Donovan" line.

We are eager to learn more about your genealogical areas of interest and how we might support your efforts. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings.

## VERIFYING DESCENT FROM SALEM'S WITCHES

(cont'd. from page 1)

of the chronology of witch-accusations included:

- 1556-1650 — thousands of “witches” burned in Germany
- 1557 — 40 “witches” convicted and burned in France
- 1645 — 18 “witches” executed in England
- 1647 — first New England “witches” executed in Connecticut
- 1648 — first execution of a “witch” in Massachusetts
- 1692-1693 — 160 witch trials, 30 found guilty, 25 died: 19 hanged, 5 died in jail, and one was pressed to death. These included both men and women.

Prior to 1692, several others were tried in Massachusetts; no witches were burned in Salem. Some of the accused managed to escape. The burial site of 19 witches has been located and a memorial has been placed.

The Massachusetts Witch Hunt Justice Project is in the process of identifying and memorializing witches who were accused, tried, convicted, and died. Inter-



ested people are invited to sign a petition to be sent to the State Legislature. The purpose of the project is to exonerate and apologize for these eight events. Reparations have been made to some families.

During the search process, in Massachusetts, one should focus primarily on southern New Hampshire and the Massachusetts counties of Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk. Five primary sources were recommended: the Massachusetts Vital Records from 1620-1859, Massachusetts Probate Records at the Massachusetts State Archives in Dorchester, the publication *Essex Genealogist*, the *Essex Antiquarian*, and the issues of the Register of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Searches in these sources can be done on the website [Americanancestors.org](http://Americanancestors.org). In addition, [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) contains information from the Massachusetts State Archives.

Another resource is the Massachusetts Archives Witchcraft Volume, a set of scrapbooks covering the years 1656-1759. Also, the Salem Witchcraft Trials at the University of Vir-

ginia has transcripts of the witch trials (<https://saalem.lib.virginia.edu>). Primary sources for the trials can be found at <http://www.17thc.us/primarysources/accused.php>.

The book, *Associated Daughters of Early American Witches: Roll of Ancestors*, by K. Nagy is another resource; this organization preserves and honors these ancestors, including names up to 1699, and can be found at [www.Adeaw.us](http://www.Adeaw.us). The organization, “Son of a Witch,” founded in 1975, is another resource.

The Salem Witch Museum has descendant packets about specific witches, which can be obtained at the museum. The book, *Witches, Rakes, and Rogues*, by E. Brenton Simons and the book, *Annals of Witchcraft in New England*, by Samuel Drake, are two additional resources to use.

We're  
glad  
you're  
a member  
and  
value  
your  
membership!



## REVOLUTIONARY WAR RESEARCH

By David Martin

As the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution approaches, the joint meeting of the Falmouth and Cape Cod Genealogical Societies in November 2023 also featured a presentation by David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, on the topic of researching one's Revolutionary War ancestors.

The first step is to identify if the possible ancestor actually fought during the Revolution; in general, those in battle were between the ages of 18 and 35 and thus were born between 1735 and 1760, although of course some fell outside these boundaries and were born in the early 1700s and up to later than 1760.

Next, the researcher should look for artifacts or relics from that War which may have been passed down in the family, as well as letters or diaries, and especially government discharge papers which would mention the county where the person served. After that step, the researcher should review the oral tradition in the family —

stories that have been passed across generations, while realizing that changes have probably happened in some aspects of the stories; but in writing a narrative about one's ancestor, one should footnote the identity of this source, just as one would do with published sources—who told the story, who repeated the story, changes made in the story, and the location where the story originated.

After these steps, the researcher should consult cemetery information, either by personally visiting the cemetery or the cemetery records office, or through such sites as [FindAGrave.com](http://FindAGrave.com) and [BillionGraves.com](http://BillionGraves.com). Any painting of the ancestor's likeness or even a photograph taken after 1839 (the year of the beginning of photography) if the ancestor was still living, can enhance the narrative process.

A major resource is the Military Muster Roll or the Quartermaster Roll, which are primary documents for verifying service. Published books, if properly footnoted, can help, and sometimes officers' correspondence may mention an ancestor who was not an officer.

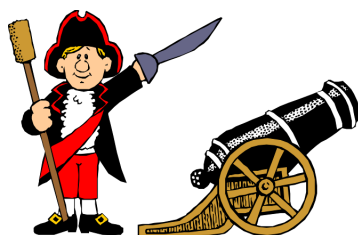
Town histories can also be a source of information, although they are sometimes not sourced. Government pension files can be a trove

of information, sometimes in the handwriting of the ancestor. Journals and diaries kept during the War can also be valuable. The 1840 Census listed Revolutionary War pensioners and widows, with exact ages and with whom the veteran was living, even if they were not heads-of-households. This point is an exception to the usual idea that the 1850 Census was the first Census which listed all members of a household by name. Battle maps, when available, can also place an ancestor's service in time and place.

It was emphasized that the researcher should "adopt the regiment" and become familiar with the regimental officers and the action of the regiment, since this added knowledge may help in information about what an ancestor did in the War. Sometimes diaries kept by a fellow soldier or sailor can give information on one's actual ancestor. To elaborate on the importance of the Muster Rolls, it was pointed out that the researcher can proceed from published sources such as *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolution* to the actual official record of service. The Rolls from Massachusetts are at the State Archives but also at [Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org). Pension records are similarly useful

(cont'd. on page 9)

Find all the latest updates on FGS events any time online at the [falgen.org](http://falgen.org) Calendar!



## REVOLUTIONARY WAR RESEARCH

(cont'd. from page 8)

as primary sources. The government had certain guidelines for what a veteran could receive. For example, an early provision was half-pay for disabled veterans, a later provision was receiving half-pay for seven years for widows and orphans, another in 1806 was providing pensions for those who served in state militias, and in 1848 widows could receive a pension. Some pensions were paid in bounty land, and others in money. The website [Fold3.com](http://Fold3.com) has

Revolutionary War pension applications, which can be downloaded in PDF, and these are also available at the National Archives; final payment vouchers are also available. A resource is *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pensions* by Virgil White.

Once the researcher has documented information, she or he can make application to a heritage society; examples are Daughters of the American Revolution

(DAR), Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), National Society for Children of the American Revolution, Genealogical Society of the American Revolution, Society of the Cincinnati (the oldest heritage society for the Revolution), and Daughters of the Cincinnati. The DAR ([dar.org](http://dar.org)) will provide copies of records of previous ancestors admitted; the SAR ([sar.org](http://sar.org)) has a search capability for patriots and biographies.



## PHOTO SLEUTHING

By Caroline Anderson



Photo 1



Photo 2

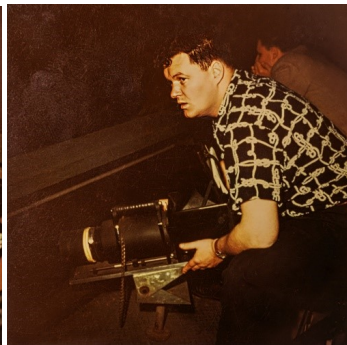


Photo 3

Can you help us identify the men in these photos and return them to their families? They were recently found in a donation to the Falmouth Service Center's Hand in hand Thrift Shop.

Our clues: the men worked for The Boston Post that was published between 1831 and 1956. And based on the men's clothing, we suspect the photos were taken in the early 1950s.

If you can help identify these news photographers, please contact Caroline McKee Anderson, Membership Director at [fsgmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fsgmembership@gmail.com). If you'd like to help identify future photos, contact Caroline.

## MEMBERS TRACING FAMILY DISCOVERING ANCESTORS: MAYFLOWER PASSENGERS AND PATRIOTS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

*By Caroline Anderson*

This column highlights the genealogical work of members. In this interview, we meet Linda Heald and learn about her journey in family history research and her recent work in confirming Patriots of the Revolutionary War.



### **What spurred your interest in genealogy?**

While my college roommate, an avid genealogist, had tried to interest me, it was listening to the audio book of the biography of John Adams by David McCullough that sparked my interest. I realized then that I didn't know much about my family history — and specifically it made me wonder if my ancestors were Patriots or British sympathizers.

### **How did you get started?**

I started about nine and a half years ago with just a typed list from my grandmother that provided the names and dates of my paternal Heald line. Since I also like photography, I set out to find and take photos of the grave sites of all of these ancestors. This research took me all over New England.

### **You're a fan of FindAGrave — how did this help?**

I really like that “Find a Grave” is free and easy to navigate. My goal was to add photographs to existing entries and create entries for others. On many occasions, I'd take photos of all the headstones in a cemetery. Headstones are casualties of time and weather conditions; I want to preserve the information on the stones. Later my work would be indispensable to my applications to the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). They will accept photos of headstones if other documents aren't available.

### **Any surprises or a favorite “find” as you visited grave sites?**

It reinforced my connections to family names beyond Heald — I was also a Barrett, a Newton, a Sackett, an Allen, a Belcher. One of the earliest headstones belonged to my 6th great grandmother, Hannah Heald Howe (1701-1762). With a bit of help from the Rutland, Mass. Historical Society, I learned that she was widowed young when her first husband, a blacksmith, died after a spark from a brand hit his eye. With seven children to support, the town of Concord named her the schoolmistress. She later married Moses Howe, a widower with ten children. This infor-

mation certainly made me wonder how they handled 17 children — and more interested in learning their stories.

### **Now hooked, you moved onto family connections to the Mayflower. What was the highlight of this work?**

Discovering that I have direct links to the Mayflower from all four grandparents. I have four lines confirmed by the Mayflower Association and one pending. So far, I can trace my ancestors to William Bradford, Francis Cooke, John Billington, and Richard Warren. My pending application is for James Chilton. After thinking that all my Mayflower ancestors had been uncovered, I was surprised to see that one of my DAR Patriots was descended from James Chilton.

There is a helpful link, Patriot to Mayflower passenger: <https://themayflowersociety.org/genealogy/patriots-to-passengers/>

### **What led to your most recent work confirming ancestors who were Patriots of the Revolutionary War?**

It was really a return to the first genealogical question that had crossed my mind — were my ancestors Patriots or British sympathizers. I discovered I was descended



*(cont'd. on page 11)*

## MEMBERS TRACING FAMILY

from many, many Patriots from privates to captains and others who had provided service to the war effort. So far, the DAR has approved the applications for 22 of my ancestors. My first successful application was for Stephen Heald (1729-1814) who was from Hubbardston, Mass. and served as a Private.

### How did lineage societies help with both your Mayflower and Patriot research?

Each DAR chapter has a Registrar who is skilled at research. Some states maintained earlier records, thus making the collection of Vital Records easier. One can pay a small fee and get the documentation used by earlier members whose applications are proven. I was able to prove four new Patriots from my family lines. Recently, DAR hosted a genealogy conference in Plymouth with local expert members helping to locate the records for women wishing to join. The review by both these Societies is rigorous. It authenticates the lineage. Generations to come may be assured of its accuracy.

**Any advice for others who want to trace their**



### Mayflower or Patriot ancestors?

In my case, I started with my fan chart on [FamilySearch](https://familysearch.org/public/default.cfm?Tab_ID=1). I looked for grandparents alive during the Revolution. On the DAR site, [https://services.dar.org/public/dar\\_research/search/default.cfm?Tab\\_ID=1](https://services.dar.org/public/dar_research/search/default.cfm?Tab_ID=1) I entered last name and first name and then looked over the list of proven Patriots. During the pandemic, I had lots of time to search for Vital Records online, plus I found town historical societies very helpful.

### What have been the most rewarding aspects of working on your family history?

Beginning with the visits to the grave sites, I was reflective about being in the towns where my ancestors lived, worshipped, and raised their children. I saw that one grandmother lost four children to diphtheria in one month. I started to

feel connected to all of these people — beyond their names. I enjoy family gatherings in a different way now too, always hoping to learn more about some ancestor. I've even discovered a family member who is a very experienced genealogist so

that's been fun and very helpful! I have also enjoyed being a member in two DAR chapters: the Mary Varum Platts-Peterborough Chapter in Rindge, New Hampshire, and the Captain Joshua Gray-Jonathan Hatch Chapter on Cape Cod. I attend the Cape Cod meetings regularly and would welcome anyone interested to attend as a guest.

### What's Next?

Now it's time to tell the stories of these ancestors. Next, I'll write short biographies including both the vital facts about their lives as well as what their lives might have been like, joys and trials. I'd like to create some softcover books for the paternal and maternal sides of my family to excite them about their brave, hard-working, amazing ancestors, some of whom left all that was familiar to start in a new place; while others courageously offered them-

We're glad you're a member and value your membership!



(cont'd. on page 12)

## MEMBERS TRACING FAMILY

(cont'd. from page 11)

selves in service to our country; and share what the women contributed with their strong faith and lessons in character.

Linda Heald is passionate about the environment and genealogy. She retired to West Falmouth after careers

in the non-profit sector and sales in the Boston area. While a new full-time resident, Linda spent many summers and weekends in Falmouth and on the Cape with both maternal and paternal relatives. She has one daughter, Larissa, and they are

both enthusiastic animal advocates. Linda joined FGS in 2021 and “enjoys the wonderful programs and interacting with people with similar interests”. She would be happy to chat with members who are working on their Mayflower or Patriot ancestors.



If you would like to contribute your talents

**Volunteer with  
Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society!**

Let us know how you want to help.

Email Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net).



## FOCUS ON RESEARCH—BOSTON TEA PARTY PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES AND BOSTON TEA PARTY DESCENDANTS PROGRAM

By Caroline Anderson

December 16, 2023, marked an important milestone — the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party.

*The Boston Tea Party Participant Biographies* database and *The Tea Party Descendants Program* are exciting collaborations between American Ancestors/New England Historic Genealogical Society ([www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)) and the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum ([www.bostonteatartyship.com](http://www.bostonteatartyship.com)). This effort is both a robust genealogical research project and a lineage society.

As part of the project, the two organizations have launched the Boston Tea Party Participant Biographies project. The database currently includes about 60 profiles that provide vital record data, information on children, and other biographical details on individuals who were associated with or confirmed to have participated in the December 16, 1773, event. The database and research resources are available at American Ancestors at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/BostonTeaParty>.

Information on joining the legacy society, Boston Tea Party Descendants, can also be found on the American Ancestors site at: <https://www.americanancestors.org/BTPDescendants>.

American Ancestors membership may be required to access some information. Access to American Ancestors is available at the FGS “Help Desk” sessions, held on Tuesday afternoons from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library.



## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

By Caroline Anderson

We want to hear from you! In each newsletter, we’ll pose a question — and wait for your responses. Our hope is to learn more about your areas of interest, make connections among members, and have a bit of fun. Please (try to) limit your response to 200 words.

So, here’s our first question:

**Do you have Cape Cod ancestors in your family tree?**

Share your ancestral names, when they arrived, where they lived, how they made their living, and more. Or share the details of a noteworthy Cape Cod ancestor.

Email your response to this “Asking You” question to Caroline Anderson, membership director, at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com). Responses may be edited for clarity and length and featured in a future newsletter.



## GET HELP WITH YOUR KNOTTY GENEALOGICAL PROBLEM

MEMBERS PRESENT AT FEBRUARY 10, 2024, MEETING

*By Caroline Anderson*

Members are invited to present the CRUX of a knotty genealogical problem at the February 10 FGS meeting. Presenters will be asked to prepare a short handout that summarizes the focused question — the CRUX — you are trying to answer as well as the known and assumed facts pertaining to the question. You'll present your case to our esteemed membership who will ask questions and make sug-

gestions — at the meeting and hopefully beyond.

This could be your big breakthrough! Your chance to knock down a brick wall! So, just do it!

Contact Tim Martin at your earliest convenience if you'd like to present your knotty genealogical problem. Tim can be reached by email at [fgspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgspresident@gmail.com) or by phone at (630) 740-0881.

**Since meeting time is limited, we will hear from just two or three members. If there are additional “knotty problems”, we will make arrangements to tackle them in special “Team Up!” sessions or during our regular Tuesday “Help Desk” sessions at the Falmouth Public Library.**

## TUESDAY HELP DESK AND TEAM UP!

*VOLUNTEERS READY TO HELP WITH YOUR FAMILY RESEARCH*

*By Caroline Anderson*

Whether you're just getting started in family genealogy or have hit a brick wall, FGS volunteers are eager to help you with your family research questions.

Two programs — the Tuesday Help Desk and Team Up! — offer individualized assistance on an occasional or ongoing basis. While helping with the specific question, volunteers also offer advice on research strategies and available resources to aid in your future work.

**Tuesday Help Desk Sessions.** FGS volunteers assist both members and community individuals with their genealogical research. The sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

at the Falmouth Public Library. No appointment is needed for this complimentary drop-in session.

**Team Up!** If your genealogical question is complex — or you think the topic may interest others — consider scheduling a Team Up! consult. Based on your question, we'll identify one or more members with expertise in this area of genealogical research. Team Up! sessions, also free of charge to members, are available in person or via ZOOM. To inquire about a Team Up! consult, contact Tim Martin at [fgspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgspresident@gmail.com).

Volunteers enjoy the variety and challenge of each and every research ques-

tion. Recent queries have included: Finding Mayflower ancestors and joining the Mayflower Society, identifying the right genealogical software, finding biological relatives for an adoptee, tracing Cape Cod ancestors for summer visitors, proving ancestry to qualify for Italian citizenship, locating “old country links” for travelers, military service records, and more.

A benefit of both programs is the camaraderie of talking about your work with fellow genealogists who share your interest in family history and telling the stories of our ancestors.

It's a New Year to tackle your genealogical research! Join us on Tuesdays! Schedule a Team Up! consult.



**Need HELP**  
with your Research?

Zoom sessions  
free to members

**Team Up!**

with FGS volunteers  
to move you forward!

More information  
at [falgen.org](http://falgen.org)

**Or simply drop in  
any Tuesday at the  
Reference Room  
Falmouth Public  
Library  
from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society, Inc.**

PO Box 2107  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107  
Website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)

**Officers**

*President*  
Tim Martin

*Vice President*  
Clyde Tyndale

*Treasurer*  
Ray Howe

*Secretary*  
Ralph Wadleigh

**Committees/Chairs**

*Finance*/Ray Howe  
*Help Sessions*/Tim Martin  
*Membership*/Caroline Anderson  
*Newsletter*/Dottie Priestley  
*NERGC*/TBD  
*Publications*/Dottie Priestley  
*Publicity*/TBD  
*Technology*/Tim Martin

**At Large**

David Burt  
Jerry Luby

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

Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)

Internet addresses contained in this publication are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

**MEET THE BOARD**  
OUR HISTORY. OUR FUTURE.  
AN INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER AND PROVIDE INPUT



LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: DOTTIE PRIESTLEY—NEWSLETTER, RALPH WADLEIGH—SECRETARY, CAROLINE ANDERSON—MEMBERSHIP, AND DAVID BURT. BACK: CLYDE TYNDALE—VP, TIM MARTIN—PRESIDENT, RAY HOWE—TREASURER, AND JERRY LUBY, PAST PRESIDENT (INSET)  
(SEE ALSO “OFFICERS, COMMITTEES/CHAIRS, AT LARGE” ON LEFT COLUMN)

*By Caroline Anderson*

The Falmouth Genealogical Society (FGS) was formed in 1985 by several individuals who shared an interest in genealogy and family history. Their goal was to provide local genealogists the opportunity to participate in educational programs with well-known speakers and professional genealogists as well as the chance to share their family history work and results with one another.

Nearly 40 years since its founding, the FGS and the FGS Board remain committed to these founding goals: advancing the field of genealogy and encouraging individuals to explore their personal family history. In short, the mission of FGS is *Connecting People with Their Family and History*.

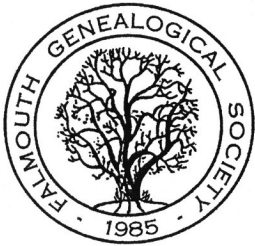
Monthly presentations by nationally recognized speakers and our own members as well as ongoing educational opportunities like the Tuesday Help Desk sessions support this mission. Visit the FGS website at [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) (under the Resources tab) to view our library of past newsletters, a

guide to genealogical resources available at the Falmouth Public Library, and links to other key genealogical resources.

As the FGS Board looks forward to its 40th Anniversary and beyond, we hope to build on the mission by highlighting *The Joy of Exploring and Sharing your Family History*. While continuing to instruct and support best practices for genealogical research and documentation, we hope to showcase storytelling and unique ways to share family history.

Throughout its history, FGS has relied on volunteers to advance its mission and to produce programs and manage all aspects of the organization (a 501c3 nonprofit). As we plan for our future, we need your help and input. Our goal is to match volunteers with areas of interest: research, programs, publicity, outreach, membership, finance, website. Or perhaps you have a new idea you'd like to explore.

We invite you to reach out to us — to volunteer or to provide ideas and input.



SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## NEWS

APR-JUNE 2024

VOL. 36, ISSUE 2

### FINDING *ORIGINAL* NAMES AND TOWNS FOR 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IMMIGRANTS

By Caroline McKee Anderson

FGS member Deborah Shaw presented an information-packed talk on strategies and tips to find the *original* names of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century ancestors on March 9, 2024. She brought her talk—and the people she profiled—to life using an engaging case study approach. She honed these research skills by successfully identifying and documenting her eight great-grandparents, all of whom were born in Eastern Europe. She said that this work required both creativity and tenacity. Debbie believes that it is important for people to find and honor their ancestors.



DEBORAH SHAW, FGS MEMBER  
AND GENEALOGIST-CONSULTANT

Debbie's first piece of advice was to make sure you're signed up for a free account with FamilySearch.org. She said that digitized—but unindexed—records are key to success in identifying original names and towns. And, she said, FamilySearch has a bounty of unindexed records. When researching through FamilySearch, Debbie encourages users to search by *place* in addition to name. And, she said a first stop when researching relatives

(cont'd. on page 5)

### FINDING WHAT YOU NEED AND MAKING THE MOST OF WHAT YOU FIND

By Caroline McKee Anderson



PAM VESTAL

Pam Vestal, professional genealogist and writer, presented an informative and engaging presentation on genealogical information—how to search for it, access it, extract it, and most important—how to understand it on January 13, 2024. She covered a myriad of topics aimed at enhancing and expanding research success. Pam joined us via Zoom from Oregon.

According to Pam, the ultimate goal is to uncover details about ancestors that go beyond names and dates on a family tree. When working with clients, she said they are most interested in their ancestors' stories—what were their lives like.

(cont'd. on page 2)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All Meetings Held  
at Falmouth Public Library  
Hermann Foundation Room  
AND Virtually via Zoom  
Unless Noted Otherwise  
See [Falgen.org](http://Falgen.org) for  
Updated Info*

**Sat., Apr. 13 @ 10:30 am**

**"The Art of Mourning:  
A Closer Look at Early 19th  
Century Falmouth Cousins"**  
*With Rachel L. Lovett  
Exec. Dir. (in person)  
Falmouth Historical Society*

**Sat., May 11 @ 10:30 am**

**"Misattributed: When Your  
Genealogy and Your Birth  
Certificate Are at Odds"**  
*With Peter J. Boni  
Author (in person)*

**Sat., June 8 @ 10:30 am**

**"More than Just Names:  
Advanced U.S.  
Census Research"**  
(Pre-Recorded)  
*With Judy Russell  
[The Legal Genealogist](http://TheLegalGenealogist.com)  
No Zoom—Must attend at Library!*

**Sat., July 13 @ 10:30 am**

**"150 Years of Lost  
Records: A Methodological  
Approach to Finding  
Swedish Parents"**  
*With Jill Morelli  
Certified Genealogist (R)  
(via Zoom)*

**The Massachusetts  
Genealogical Council  
offers programs  
See [MGC | Home](http://MGCHome.org)  
([massgencouncil.org](http://massgencouncil.org))**





## FINDING WHAT YOU NEED

(cont'd. from page 1)

To discover this information, Pam encouraged attendees to think broadly and dig beyond the basics. A few of Pam's recommendations include:

**Search for Name Variations**—try all possible spellings of names and nicknames as a means to overcome indexing problems. And, beware of possible abbreviations. If you don't find what you need by name, try looking by address.

**Check All Related Records**—you may only find a portion of an available record online. When making a records request, ask for the complete file—all associated records and “loose papers.”

**Explore the FAN Club: Friends, Family, Associates and Neighbors**—when visiting a cemetery, check who is buried nearby. When reviewing a census document, who is living nearby and don't forget to look at

several pages before and after your ancestor's listing.

**Follow the Money**—who paid the marriage bond or paid for the funeral. Who bought and who sold property?

**Take Fuller Advantage of Google**—see Pam's handout for an excellent example on using symbols to refine your search.

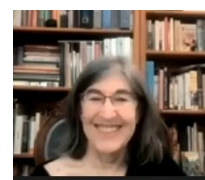
**Use FamilySearch Strategically**—go under the Search tab, then choose Catalog. While it will open a “Place” search, select a “Keyword” search for better results (even if you're searching for a place).

Don't be afraid to “Browse” unindexed records—you'll often be able to narrow your search successfully.

**Translate Foreign Records**—Genealogy Transla-

tions is a private Facebook group where volunteers translate family documents at no cost. Read the group rules and request permission to join at:

[www.facebook.com/groups/GenealogyTranslations](http://www.facebook.com/groups/GenealogyTranslations).



Pam referred to the many resources, such as decipher-

ing Federal Census Codes and changes to street addresses, available on Steve Morse's web site:

[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org).

To review all of Pam's research tips, FGS Members can access the meeting handout and video recording at [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org).

## JOIN FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ON FACEBOOK



Join the 100+ people who are members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society Facebook Group.

Engage with others who share your interest in genealogy and family history. FGS posts program updates, new resources and helpful hints in the Group. And, once you've joined—like and share our posts. With your help, we'll expand our genealogical community.

[Join the Falmouth Genealogical Society Facebook Group](#)

And, once you're following FGS—like us!



## HERE'S THE CRUX OF IT WITH MARY ANNE CONBOY

By Caroline McKee Anderson



TIM MARTIN AND MARY ANNE CONBOY

FGS member Mary Anne Conboy accepted the invitation to present a “knotty” genealogical problem and get assistance from attendees at the February 10, 2024, meeting.

The meeting format was modeled on our Tuesday “Help Desk” sessions. Members arrived with notes and laptops ready to provide suggestions for next steps to unravel Mary Anne’s conundrums.

Mary Anne presented the CRUX of her puzzle that focused on her maternal Joyce and Gibbons lines. The search began in 2016 when Mary Anne’s cousin hired a genealogist who traced Mary Anne’s grandfather, Thomas Francis Joyce (1886-1941) to Jarrow, England. In 2023, Mary Anne travelled to Jarrow to further the research. Mary Anne described the emotion of standing in St. Bede’s Roman Catholic Church in Jarrow where her great-grandparents were married, and her grandfather was baptized in 1886. With this information and experience, she wants to learn more about these ancestors who

then emigrated to the Boston area.

The research questions or CRUX:

- What are the birth, death, and burial dates and places for my great-grandfather, Thomas (Thomam/Thoma) V. Joyce?
- What are the birth date and place for my great-grandmother, Bridget (Brigidam/Brigida) A. Gibbons?
- Who were my Joyce great-great grandparents—parents of Thomas V. Joyce?
- Who were my Gibbons great-great grandparents—parents of Bridget Gibbons?

See the players in the tree to the right.

Meeting attendees had many helpful suggestions:

- Create a timeline with all of the key people, dates, and places.
- Search existing trees on genealogical sites.
- Locate the immigration and naturalization records.
- Focus first on the male ancestors and link to females.

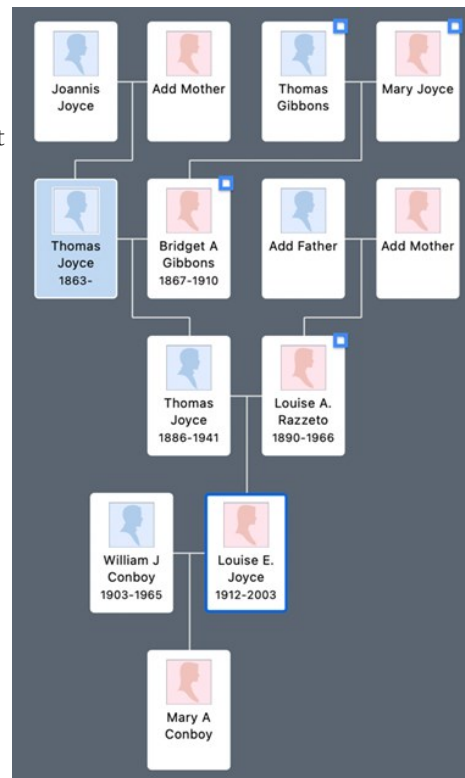
- Try to find “places” in England and Ireland.
- Further explore possible records at St. Bede’s Church in Jarrow, England.

Members who want to continue to help Mary Anne in her research can access details of the known “facts” in her presentation handout (available at the FGS website on the Members Only page) and view her test tree at:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/111504796/family?cfpid=380085972180>

Contact Mary Anne at [Macon2727@msn.com](mailto:Macon2727@msn.com).

If you have a “knotty” genealogical problem and would like assistance, please drop in to the FGS Help Desk session that is staffed every Tuesday from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Falmouth Public Library. For complex problems, consider scheduling a TeamUp session. See the FGS web site for more information: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org).



## CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL PROCTOR, NEW HISTORIAN, MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS DEEP FALMOUTH ROOTS



MICHAEL PROCTOR,  
HISTORIAN  
MASS. SOCIETY OF  
MAYFLOWER

### **Note:**

*For more on meeting topics, members can access speakers' notes and most presentations on YouTube. Go to the Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. website, [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), (or read QR code below with phone camera), click on Membership, and log into the Members Only section. Go to Speaker Notes and Videos. If you need the password, please contact Tim Martin at [fespresident@gmail.com](mailto:fespresident@gmail.com).*

Falmouth Genealogical  
Society website



### **What sparked your interest in genealogy?**

When I was five, my mother and maternal grandmother took me to a cemetery outside Boston so I could “meet” my grandfather. I was a curious child and from that moment, I started to listen to the family stories.

### **When did you start seriously research your family roots?**

When my father died in 2004, I wanted to learn more about his mother and family. This was the beginning of my “deeper dive” into genealogy. I was fascinated by all I learned, realizing that this was history, this was education. I then started to travel—around New England, to Europe and to the Canadian Maritimes to trace ancestors. It’s hard to explain the feeling of holding the marriage

record of ancestors from the mid-1300s.

### **How did your interest become your profession?**

After nearly 40 years working in the retail environment, I had the opportunity to shift gears and pursue genealogy professionally. To bolster my self-taught skills, I attended conferences and completed the genealogical studies program at Boston University. At one of those conferences, I met someone from the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and worked as an application verifier for several years. At the same time, I began to build a small business consulting for private clients.

### **What are your personal areas of research?**

To distinguish myself from other professional genealogists, I have focused on the Canadian Maritimes. While giving me a niche, it lines up with my personal history since three of my four grandparents come from this area.

### **You grew up in Falmouth—how did this experience influence your genealogical journey?**

Falmouth will always be home—my sister and her family still live there. I have

great memories of growing up and going through the school system. In school, I began to learn how to be a good researcher. I have particularly fond memories of English teacher Paul Cali who sparked my creative storytelling side.

### **You became the Historian at the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants in January 2024. What appealed to you about the position?**

The opportunity to bring my research, management and technical abilities to an esteemed organization that is poised and ready to enhance and update outreach activities, systems, and processes. This position also gives me the opportunity to work directly with people—adults as well as young people through our Juniors program—and help them connect to their own history. By definition, a historian is an educator, and this position allows me to both learn and teach.

### **What are your goals for the Society?**

As I think about goals and the future, I am focused on ensuring that we bring value

*(cont'd. on page 7)*

## FINDING *ORIGINAL* NAMES AND TOWNS

(cont'd. from p. 1)

should be the FamilySearch Wiki for the relevant places for your ancestors.

Debbie's second piece of advice—stay focused on one question at a time. As you tackle the given question, review and reassess every piece of information you already have. And, before you try to search for records overseas, ensure that you have exhausted all U.S. records.

In her talk handout, Debbie provided an extensive list of tips and resources when looking for original names. Members can view a recording of Debbie's talk and download the handout in the Members Only section of the FGS web site: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org).

In addition to securing vital records (birth, marriage, death), Debbie suggested looking carefully at original census records, especially from 1900, 1910 and earlier. Were town names included? Who was living nearby? How many children were reported? And, then find their birth and death records. And, she said, review several pages on either side of your ancestors' records. She added that while the 1890 census did not survive, there are 19 states with census records from 1884-1896 and

41 states with some type of census in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. She strongly urged researchers to record specific addresses and to map them to ensure that you have identified the right person or family.

Debbie said that naturalization documents, ship records, and city directories offer a gold mine of information. When reviewing naturalizations records, she said to ensure that you find all of the forms. These can be particularly helpful in discovering "also known as" names. For ship records, you might need to identify the original first name to be successful. For example, was Max originally Mordache?

Newspapers, especially obituaries, are a terrific resource. With obituaries, Debbie encouraged researchers to include extended members of the family to expand the branches on your tree. She said that it is often necessary to research all siblings in each generation to truly identify original names and places.

Debbie said to include military records and court documents, including probate, land transactions, guardianship, etc. in your

search. Military registration documents typically asked for town of birth and the name of someone who would always know where to find the registrant.

Debbie closed her talk with a brief summary of *The Sussman News* which was compiled and published in Philadelphia from March 1934 to December 1939 by three Sussman cousins, all descendants of Yisroel Zisman (1837-1902) and Hinda Rachel Levin (1834-1921). Designed to keep the Sussmans in the U.S., Lithuania, and South Africa informed and to share family history, *The Sussman News* also provides a window into the daily life of Jews in several small Lithuanian shtetls in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. You can request a fully searchable copy of *The Sussman News* at Debbie's website: [www.origenme.com](http://www.origenme.com).

In addition to viewing Debbie's talk on the FGS web site, she provided the following link for a talk she gave: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6-O8JbucLU> (start at minute 9). You can also learn more about Debbie and her research areas of interest at oriGen Genealogy at [www.origenme.com](http://www.origenme.com).



If you would like to  
contribute your  
talents

**Volunteer with  
Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society!**

Let us know how you  
want to help.

Email Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net).

## MEMBERS TRACING FAMILY



BRUCE H. BUMPUS

This column highlights the genealogical work of members. In this interview, we meet Bruce H. Bumpus, an FGS member since 2014, and learn about his family history research journey.

### How did you get interested in family genealogy?

When I was in my teens, my father, Craig Loren Bumpus (1912-1987) began discussing our genealogy. He provided family documents, photos, and stories, which piqued my interest. He related a story of a trip he made to Hebron, Maine with his father and my paternal grandfather, Herbert Ayer Bumpus (1876-1949) who needed to get an original copy of his birth certificate to apply for social security. He enjoyed relating how well received his father was with all the young ladies in town. I learned later that some of the Bumpus family lands are now part of the Hebron Academy campus.

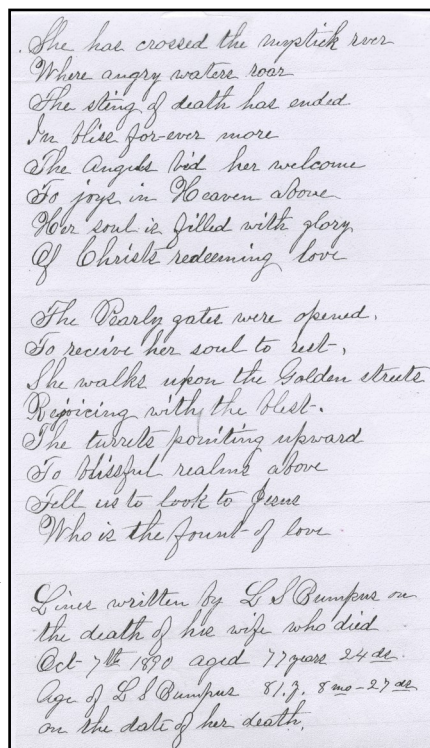
### What has been your research approach?

I've been working on the family genealogy, off and on,

for about 35 years. At first, my goal was to flesh out my tree with names and dates—going back as far as I could. The result of these efforts is a wonderful family tree that traces my ancestors back to the 1500s—including probable links to five Mayflower passengers.

I've included ancestors in the tree for both my wife's and my side of the family. My wife's' genealogy was documented by a professional genealogist.

I've documented information on the paternal Bumpus—originally Bompasse—tree. My first ancestor in America was Edouad Bompasse (1604-1683) who arrived on the Fortune in 1621 and settled in Plymouth. He and his progeny included the Mayflower families of Richard Warren (1578-1628), Francis Cooke (1583-1663), John Billington (1579-1630), James Chilton (1556-1620), and Thomas Rogers (1572-1621). Through research and DNA confirmation, it turns out that many of my paternal and maternal ancestors come from Normandy, France, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Sweden, and Denmark.



SEE TRANSCRIPTION ON PAGE 12

### Do you have a favorite ancestor or a family story?

There are many interesting people and great stories but one of my favorites is about my great-great grandfather Lorenzo Simmons Bumpus (1809-1891). After the death of my great-great grandmother, Lydia York (1803-1864), Lorenzo married Cynthia Royal (1813-1890). Upon Cynthia's death, he wrote a poem in her honor. (Above) A couple of lines:

*"The sting of death has ended, In bliss for ever more, The Angels bid her welcome, To joys in Heaven above."*

I can feel both the love and sadness in these words. The poem brings these ancestors

(cont'd. on page 7)

**Note: FGS YouTube videos in the Members Only section are indexed into chapters. This allows the viewer to identify named segments and quickly go to desired ones.**

## MEMBERS TRACING FAMILY

(cont'd. from page 6)

to life and provides a glimpse into their lives.

### Why is exploring family history important to you?

It's our history and answers the question, "Where do we come from?" It tells us who they were, what kind of lives they had, their joys and sorrows. Many of them were musically inclined. I somehow missed out on that gene. In short, it makes history come alive.

### What have been the most rewarding aspects of this journey?

Meeting people—both here and in France—who share my ancestry. I've developed a wonderful relationship with a distant

relative in Normandy who is helping to explore the maternal sides of our family—Jeanne (Joan) and Delaunay. While we don't share a common language, we do share family. That's very meaningful to me. It was also wonderful to visit Normandy and imagine that I was walking the same streets as my ancestors.

### Tell us about your experience with Storyworth.

My son and daughter-in-law gave me a subscription to Storyworth ([www.storyworth.com](http://www.storyworth.com))

to encourage me to record some of my personal stories and memories of my family history. Each week, I receive a story question

and write my response. At the end of the year, the stories will be bound into a keepsake book. It's inspiring me to think about ways to write the stories of my ancestors, maybe even a book.

### What's Next?

In addition to exploring ways to record and share the stories of my ancestors, I'm ready to take a more strategic and disciplined approach to researching ancestors. By taking this deeper dive, I know that I'll get a better picture of their lives, their place in history. In turn, this will make richer stories to share with my children and grandchildren.

Find all the latest updates on FGS events any time online at the [falgen.org](http://falgen.org) Calendar!

## CONVERSATION WITH MICHAEL PROCTOR

(cont'd. from p. 4)

to both current and prospective members in everything we do. By implementing more technology, we can enhance and streamline the application process. Beyond that, I want to grow volunteer opportunities, increase educational programming, and reach out to students—maybe through programming with the public schools

### Do you have Mayflower ancestors in your family tree?

Yes, through my paternal grandmother I am descended from John Alden and his wife Priscilla Mullins, both passengers on the Mayflower. And in an example of coming full circle, I made my application



through the Massachusetts Society.

### Why do you think it's important to trace your family history?

I think you have a richer life experience when you know your own story and how your ancestors fit into history. And when you share these stories, you're walking in that history with those ancestors.



## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

### Who is the ancestor you would most like to meet—and why?

We want to hear from you! With our newsletter “question,” we hope to learn more about your areas of interest, make connections among members, and have a bit of fun. Please (try to) limit your response to 200 words.

### Last Newsletter’s Question: Do you have Cape Cod ancestors in your family tree?

FGS Member Catherine Gwynn wrote that despite her family’s decades long association and love for the Cape, she never thought they had Cape Cod roots. That changed when she was researching her paternal sec-

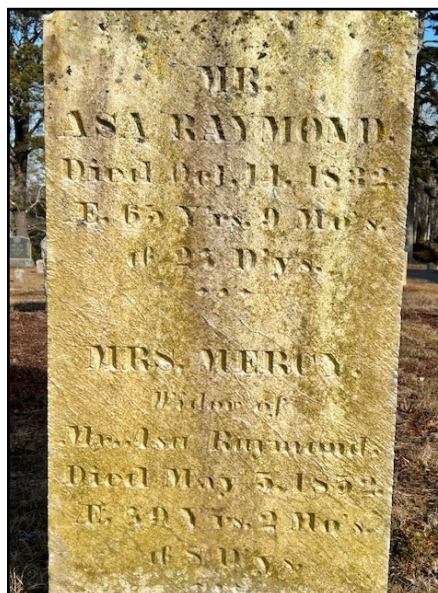
ond great-grandmother, Elizabeth G. Cook (1811-1854). Much to her surprise and delight, she discovered that Elizabeth was born in Sandwich.

More research uncovered that Elizabeth’s parents

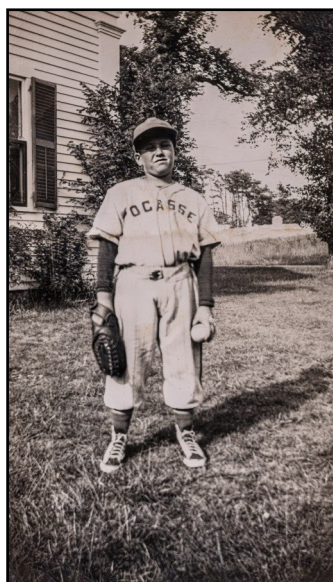
(Cathy’s 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandparents), John L. Cook (1785-1873) and Lydia A. Raymond, also born in Sandwich, (1791-1876) are buried in the Sagamore Cemetery in Bourne.

And, Elizabeth’s grandparents (Cathy’s 4<sup>th</sup> great-grandparents), Asa Raymond, also born in Sandwich, (1766-1832) and Mercy Norris (1773-1852), are buried in the Cataumet Cemetery—

very near the home Cathy’s family has owned since 1950. Upon this discovery, she called her sister and they had a quick “visit” with their kin. These discoveries led to more Cape ties—and more research avenues to explore with the Mayhew, Perry and Bourne families.



## PHOTO SLEUTHING



Can you help us confirm the identify of this young boy in this photo and help us return it to his family? The photo was recently found in a donation to the Falmouth Service Center’s Hand in hand Thrift Shop.

Our clues: the photo is labeled “Peter Mottla” and he appears to be about 10 years old and is sporting a Pocasset baseball uniform. If our research is accurate, we believe this is Peter Mottla son of Gabriel and Eileen (Sheehan) Mottla who sum-

mered in Cataumet. Baseball appears to have run in the family. Peter is dressed to play ball. And his father served as general manager and coach of the Bourne Town Team in the mid-1960s, an entry in the Cape Cod Semi-Pro Baseball League.

If you can help, please contact Caroline McKee Anderson, Membership Director at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com). If you’d like to help identify future photos, contact Caroline.



## FOCUS ON RESEARCH—FAMILYSEARCH CENTER TO RE-OPEN AT THE LOCAL CATAUMET LDS CHURCH



By Tim Martin

Some may recall that the LDS church in Cataumet used to be a Family History Library where microfilms were available or could be ordered and read on-site. When a huge number of FamilySearch records became available via their website, the majority of the Family History Libraries were closed. Institutions that allow FamilySearch to scan and make their records available will however sometimes place restrictions on the accessibility of those records, allowing them to only be viewable at a FamilySearch Affiliate Library such as Falmouth Public Library, or at a higher lock level only available at a FamilySearch Center typically at an LDS church.

We are pleased to announce that our new FGS member Betsy Carlson Cross has agreed to standup a FamilySearch Center at the Cataumet LDS Church. We will likely start with one Saturday each month when she will be there to assist people in accessing records via the church Internet connection. At this time, you will need to bring your own



camera icon and note the error. Click on “Access the site at a FamilySearch Center.” Navigate the map to find FamilySearch Centers. Cataumet needs to be added to the list.

At a Family Search Center, like Cataumet, you will also have access to FamilySearch

premium websites including Ancestry Institutional Version, ArkivDigital, British Newspaper Archive, FindMyPast, Fold 3, GenealogyBank, MyHeritage Library Edition, and NewspaperArchive.com.

You can contact Betsy Cross at 774-313-7955 or [betsycross10@yahoo.com](mailto:betsycross10@yahoo.com) to setup a time to access these locked records at the Cataumet LDS Church: 1220 County Road, Cataumet, MA 02534.

laptop. You will first need to install a browser extension to enable this access. Ask Betsy or Tim Martin for help on this.

Here is an example of a locked image set where you must go to a FamilySearch Center for viewing: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/199947>

Click on the above link from home and note the lock above each camera icon. Click on the locked

We're glad you're a member and value your membership!



### *In Memoriam*

Sadly, long-time member Judy Wadleigh passed away on March 17 of complications from lung cancer. She was 83. Judy was the wife of our board member, Ralph. At the October 2023 FGS Artifacts Day she shared her family's cookbook, *Food Fit for a Prince*. Judy was active in the West Falmouth Library, the Falmouth Chorale and the Woods Hole Cantata Consort. We are so sorry for your loss, Ralph. Judy will be missed by all of us.

## ON THE ROAD WITH FGS

### FGS is Featured Non-Profit at Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours

FGS was the featured non-profit at the February Falmouth Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event hosted by Bad Martha Farmer's Brewery in East Falmouth. Tim Martin and Dottie Priestley made a brief presentation about FGS and encouraged attendees to explore their family history. Two lucky attendees won consultations to begin or jumpstart their research.



CHAMBER CEO/PRESIDENT  
MICHAEL KASPARIAN AND FGS  
PRESIDENT TIM MARTIN



CROWD AT BAD MARTHA  
FARMER'S BREWERY

### FGS to Present Workshop at Falmouth Senior Center in April

FGS will present an introduction to genealogy course at the Falmouth Senior Center on April 25, 2024. The course is titled, "What's Your Family Story?" Our goal for this outreach program is to help participants discover the joy of exploring and sharing their family history. Through the interactive program, FGS members will teach attendees the basics of building a family tree—with the ultimate goal of uncovering the stories of their ancestors and their place in history.



## Welcome Members

We are pleased to welcome these new members:

**Sarah Adams** who is exploring her Irish roots with the goal of securing an Irish passport.

**Charles Amsler** who is researching his German and Irish roots.

**Betsy Cross**, a Falmouth native and the local liaison for the Family Search Center.

**Terri and Gerard Kelley** who is exploring his Irish roots and hopes, one day, to secure an Irish passport.

**Sue and Dan McGuire** who are both eager to explore their family roots.

And, welcome back to **Mary Ellen and Richard Williams** who we look forward

to seeing in person this summer.

We are eager to learn more about your genealogical areas of interest and how we might support your efforts. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings—in person or on Zoom.

## ROOTSTECH 2024 WAS BEST EVER!

By Tim Martin

The genealogical community is proclaiming that RootsTech 2024 was the best ever!

It's true: the recent RootsTech 2024 was phenomenal. Let me first say: you **ALL** should have a free account at FamilySearch.org. If you haven't already, sign up!

Click here for a short video on the RootsTech 2024 theme "Remember."

Thousands attended the live event in Salt Lake City for about \$109 each, and millions (~3 million in 2023) attended worldwide free via the Internet. This is by far the largest genealogical conference each year. In many cases localized emcees provided live translation via special language portals. Much of the content is recorded and still available here : <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/library>.

One feature I appreciated was that 351,344 people from 208 countries participated in "Relatives at

RootsTech," these people being already in the FamilySearch World Tree to reveal possible connections with other attendees. I had 38,255 apparent relatives in attendance. Admittedly most of these are quite distant and difficult to prove but the list can be sorted by degree of separation and the closest relatives then messaged. Sorting of relatives attending can also be done by geographic region, by ancestor, by family line etc. Best of all: these relatives are interested in genealogy and can be contacted.

**Hugely significant:** FamilySearch also announced AI transcription and searching of handwritten records in what they are calling "Full-Text Search."

**US Land and Probate Records** are currently accessible by this amazing method with more record types to be added over time. Users are able to search for ANY text within the document image and receive a full transcription

of the handwritten document. Not perfect but very good. Try it out at this link: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/full-text>. This and other new features were explained at a FamilySearch Tech Forum – [see video here cued to the Full-Text Search demo](#).

**Also amazing:** Cemeteries in which your relatives are buried. If you have placed yourself into the FamilySearch Tree, you can examine around the world where your relatives are buried. Type in a town or county name and see a list of cemeteries with number of relatives in each. You can examine a burial and click on "View Relationship." The entry point for this is : <https://www.familysearch.org/campaign/cemetery>

So, come to our Genealogy Help Desk 2:00-4:00 p.m. any Tuesday at the Falmouth Public Library to get yourself placed into the FamilySearch Tree!



**Need HELP**  
with your Research?

Zoom sessions  
free to members

**Team Up!**

with FGS volunteers  
to move you forward!

More information  
at [falgen.org](http://falgen.org)

**Or simply drop in**  
**any Tuesday at the**  
**Reference Room**  
**Falmouth Public**  
**Library**  
**from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**



rootstech  
by FamilySearch

SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society, Inc.**

PO Box 2107  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107  
Website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)

**Officers**

*President*  
Tim Martin

*Vice President*  
Clyde Tyndale

*Treasurer*  
Ray Howe

*Secretary*  
Ralph Wadleigh

**Committees/Chairs**

*Finance*/Ray Howe  
*Help Sessions*/Tim Martin  
*Membership*/Caroline Anderson  
*Newsletter*/Dottie Priestley  
*NERGC/TBD*  
*Publications*/Dottie Priestley  
*Publicity*/TBD  
*Technology*/Tim Martin

**At Large**

David Burt  
Jerry Luby  
Diana Stadtmiller

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

Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)

Internet addresses contained in this publication are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER—WELCOME DIANA STADTMILLER



Diana Stadtmiller was appointed to the FGS Board of Directors in February 2024. Diana joined the FGS Society in the fall of 2023 and quickly became a key volunteer at the Tuesday Help Desk sessions at the library. She is an experienced and enthusiastic researcher and enjoys helping others discover details of their ancestors' lives.

Diana has been exploring her family history for more than 25 years. She's currently focused on three key research projects: her maternal Revolutionary War Patriots with the aim of joining the Daughters of the American Revolution; her paternal Mayflower ancestors and joining the Mayflower Society; and confirming the suspected misattributed paternity for her paternal grandmother.

Diana said her most significant discovery was the result of DNA analysis. Through this process, she uncovered her own misattributed paternity and found six half siblings to add to her tree. "Exploring the past shapes who we are in the present even when the past is shockingly different from what we thought we knew," she said. She added that everyone has a story that deserves to be heard.

For those just starting to explore their family history, she recommends interviewing older family members and asking them to

take DNA tests. She also encourages new researchers to build a simple family tree and use online sites like [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com) and [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org) to see what others have already discovered.

As a new Board member, Diana looks forward to hearing the individual stories and goals of FGS members and guests. And she is eager to help others discover the stories of their own families.

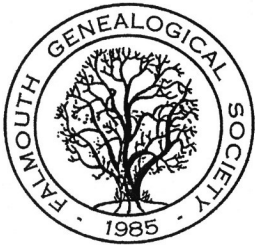
While Diana worked in the financial services industry, her primary focus has always been family. Diana and her husband Rich live in North Falmouth. They have four children and four grandchildren who she hopes will inherit her interest in ancestry and family history.

  
**Transcription of Bumpus poem on page 6:**

She has crossed the mystick river  
Where angry waters roar  
The sting of death has ended  
In bliss for-ever more  
The Angels bid her welcome  
To joys in Heaven above  
Her soul is filled with glory  
Of Christ's redeeming love

The Pearly gates were opened,  
To receive her soul to rest,  
She walks upon the Golden streets  
Rejoicing with the blest.  
The turrets pointing upward  
To blissful realms above  
Tell us to look to Jesus  
Who is the fount of love

Lines written by L. S. Bumpus on the  
death of his wife who died  
Oct. 7th 1890 aged 77 years 24 ds.  
Age of L. S. Bumpus  
81 y 27 ds on the date of her death.



SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

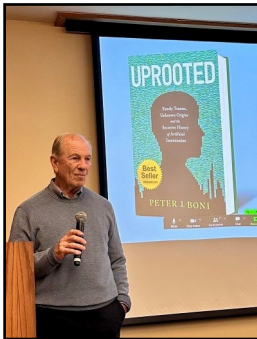
## NEWS

JULY-SEPT 2024

VOL. 36, ISSUE 3

### FALMOUTH AUTHOR DISCUSSES HIS BOOK, *UPROOTED*

By Ralph Wadleigh



PETER BONI

On Saturday May 11, 2024, Falmouth Genealogical Society's (FGS) monthly meeting featured Peter J. Boni, a Falmouth resident and author of the award-winning book *Uprooted*. Boni's presentation was of interest to FGS members because he was misattributed, that is his birth father was not the father shown on his birth certificate. He learned from his mother shortly before her death, when he was 49, that his father was sterile but wanting chil-

dren they enlisted the help of a Boston fertility clinic. Peter's birth resulted, but this revelation left him traumatized. He felt in a state of genealogical bewilderment and disfranchised grief. To address this trauma, he determined to find the identity of his birth father.

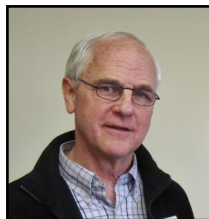
His search began in 1995, thirteen years before consumer level DNA kits were available. He therefore spent many hours in Harvard University's Countway Center for the History of Medicine and the Boston Public Library trying to identify his mother's reference to a Boston clinic at 10 Beacon Street and a Dr. Sims all to no avail. Nevertheless, he benefited by learning the history of artificial insemination, its growing body of science, and the rise of

(cont'd. on page 2)

### ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM FGS PRESIDENT

2025 marks the 40th anniversary year of the Falmouth Genealogical Society! Conceived in 1984, this society had a Special Organizational Meeting on January 22, 1985, as the "Climbing Your Family Tree Club" with 14 members.

Within that year by-laws, officers, and \$10 dues were all in place under the name Falmouth Genealogical Society. We're now on our second wind! About two years ago, waking from yet another fruitful sleep, I was able to verbalize what



TIM MARTIN  
PRESIDENT

we are about: *Connecting People with Their Family and History*. What a fruitful mission it is! Genealogy has truly come into a sweet spot with enhanced means of connecting people to their history. We now have unified

trees that are starting to show how we are all connected; transcription of hand-written documents by Artificial Intelligence that is uncovering missing history; wide availability of documentary and instructional materials, and the ability to leverage

(cont'd. on page 7)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**All Meetings Held  
at Falmouth Public Library  
Hermann Foundation Room  
AND Virtually via Zoom  
Unless Noted Otherwise  
See [Falgen.org](http://Falgen.org) for  
Updated Info**

**Sat., July 13 @ 10:30 am**

**"150 Years of Lost Records: A Methodological Approach to Finding Swedish Parents"**  
With Jill Morelli, CG®, CGL  
(via Zoom)

**Sat., Aug. 10 @ 10:30 am**

**"Reuniting Long Lost Photos with Families"**  
With Kate Kelly,  
The Photo Angel  
(via Zoom)

**Sat., Sept. 14 @ 10:30 am**

**"FindAGrave Workshop"**  
Live only at  
Oak Grove Cemetery in  
Falmouth at the Elizabeth C.  
Parke Memorial Building  
Bring your own Apple or  
Android mobile device

**Sat., Oct. 19 @ 10:30 am**

**"Artifacts Day"**  
Members Discuss Their  
Family Treasures

**Sat., Nov. 16 @ 10:30 am**

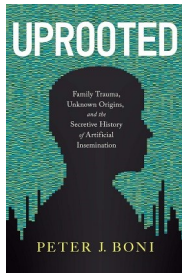
**Annual Joint Meeting with  
the Cape Cod Genealogical  
Society**  
at St. Peter's Episcopal  
Church in Osterville.  
With Michael Leclerc  
**Two topics to be announced**

**The Massachusetts  
Genealogical Council  
offers programs  
See [MGC|Home](http://MGC|Home)  
([massgencouncil.org](http://massgencouncil.org))**



## FALMOUTH AUTHOR DISCUSSES HIS BOOK, *UPROOTED*

*(cont'd. from page 1)*



fertility clinics. He also learned disturbingly that there was better regulation of animal breeding than human reproductive breeding.

In 2008 the first consumer DNA kits were offered to the public by 23 & Me. Peter bought a kit, but no matches ensued. In 2012 Ancestry.com began marketing its DNA kits and Peter participated again. Five years later in 2017 he got a match which provided all the answers. With the help of his half-sister, (you will have to read the book to get all the details) he was able to identify his biological father. This revelation proved healing for Peter.

But not being fully satisfied, Peter turned his attention to the future, seeking some measure of control for the fertility industry which, in his opinion is allowing science

to leap ahead of ethics. Accordingly, he has proposed a Donor Conceived Bill of Rights, which among other points, seeks to abolish donor anonymity, provide full and early disclosure of donor genetics and medical history, require genetic testing for donors, and limit the number of offspring for donors. He is actively pursuing these goals at various levels of government.

Finally, Peter presented his audience with a question received from a reader who feared that her second daughter, aged 14, might have been conceived as a result of an extramarital affair. What should she do? A lively discussion followed with opinions ranging from tell the daughter when she is older, be honest and tell her now, or find a way to quietly get her DNA tested to determine the facts. No one felt

doing nothing was the best option.

Peter closed his most interesting talk with an estimate that five percent of any general population is misattributed. This could upset some genealogical charts. A lingering question he has is the actual number of his half-siblings. He has identified about six, but every time Ancestry.com has a DNA test sale, he expects to learn of another about three months later! In the final analysis, Peter states he is what he is, a writer, lecturer, father, grandfather and in this writer's opinion, a good guy.

Peter's book, *Uprooted* is in the Falmouth Public Library and for sale at Eight Cousins Bookstore in Falmouth. Proceeds of the book go to further donor regulatory efforts. Don't miss it.

**Note:**  
**FGS YouTube videos**  
**of our**  
**monthly presentations**  
**in the**  
**Members Only section**  
**of our website are**  
**indexed into chapters.**  
**This allows the viewer**  
**to identify**  
**named segments**  
**and quickly go to**  
**desired ones.**

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD JUNE 8TH

The FGS Annual Meeting was held on June 8, 2024, at the Falmouth Public Library with 36 members attending in person or by ZOOM. President Tim Martin provided a brief report on FGS activities during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. He highlighted the information-rich monthly presentations by both national and local speakers; enhanced newsletter content, robust helpdesk

sessions, and expanded community engagement activities. He thanked Board members for their work on behalf of FGS and its members and welcomed Mary Anne Conboy as FGS's new liaison for the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC). He said that FGS is strong because of its members and encouraged their continued involvement in programs and services.

Members unanimously approved the minutes of the 2022-2023 Annual Meeting and the Proposed Budget for FY 2025. Also, by unanimous vote, Clyde Tyndale and Ray Howe were elected to serve two-year terms as Vice President and Treasurer respectively. Tim thanked Clyde and Ray for their willingness to continue to serve in these important roles.

## UP CLOSE WITH JILL MORELLI

Jill Morelli, CG, CGL, focuses her work on teaching, writing, and occasional client work. She founded the Certification Discussion Group and is co-founder of the Applied Genealogy Institute (<https://appliedgen.institute>). Based in Seattle, Washington, Jill spends time with her family in Falmouth each summer.



JILL MORELLI

On July 13, 2024, Jill will present for the 10<sup>th</sup> time in as many years to the Falmouth Genealogical Society (this time via Zoom). To mark this occasion, we sat down with Jill to learn a bit more about her background, her personal experience in tracing her ancestors, and her thoughts on the future in genealogy.

### What piqued your interest in genealogy?

I think I was always interested at a surface level. Like many, Alex Haley's *Roots* published in 1976 inspired me to get started. Also, I didn't even know my maternal grandmother's name. My first 10 years were spent finding the women on my mother's side. Then, there was a long pause in my work while I was busy with family, career, and earning a

MA in Public Administration from The Ohio State University.

### How have you approached your research?

I view genealogical research as original scientific work and as such deserves to be treated similarly—I cited my work and used only original documents for example. This approach prevented me from falling into the common trap of “how fast can I go?” At the same time, I was rediscovering my love of writing, particularly academic writing.

### Any big moments, early in your research?

In the early 2000s, I got completely sucked in when I discovered a German OSB (Ortssippenbuch) that detailed my maternal branch. The OSB is a town lineage book that includes birth, marriage, and death data for people compiled

into families from the chronologically arranged parish records. And then I found similar—and easy to use—records for my paternal Danish and Swedish ancestors. The data flew into the data base. I'm proud that I have 86,000 citations attached to the 13,000 people in my RootsMagic tree—

nothing goes in that isn't validated.

### What motivated you to become a Certified Genealogist?

I was an architect where certification was important, particularly as a female working in a male-dominated field. I thought becoming a certified genealogist would test my skills in a similar way. It wasn't until my retirement from the University of Washington School of Medicine in 2016 that I had the time for the total immersion required to complete the process. Certification enhances both research and writing skills—now I'm enjoying coaching others going through the process.

### You lecture extensively. How does this support your work?

While preparing presentations can be time-consuming, 50-100 hours at

(cont'd. on p. 4)

Find all the latest updates on FGS events any time online at the [falgen.org](https://falgen.org) Calendar!

## UP CLOSE WITH JILL MORELLI

(cont'd. from page 3)

times, it's an important way for me to keep learning. Lecturing pushes me to widen my perspective beyond a narrow personal niche. It's also gratifying to have an audience and pass along a bit of knowledge.

### **You're shifting to more writing. What's in the pipeline?**

For the past several years, I have been researching "Orphan Trains." Specifically, I've focused on the 46 unnamed children who were relocated from New York City to Hamilton County, Iowa in the fall of 1890. I had discovered that one young girl from this group had been fostered into my family. (I have two others, brothers, who were also fostered into another family in my tree from New York City.). To date, I have been able to identify the names of 35 of the 46 children. This fall, I will self-publish a book on these children and my discoveries.

### **What's next on the research front?**

I plan to research and write an article about my grandfather who lost everything in bankruptcy in 1931 in Iowa. I recently received the 1,800-page bankruptcy file from the

National Archives. Since many of the Orphan Train children had Irish roots, I've been asked to write about this work for the Irish Genealogical Society International's Journal, *The Septs*.

### **What advice would you give to those just starting out or to encourage others to keep going?**

Join a genealogical society. Talk to family members. Get everyone, particularly older relatives and siblings, to take a DNA test. Enter your work into a personal computer genealogy program. Collaborate with others. Ask questions. There is always more to learn; I don't think we necessarily hit research brick walls, just education gaps.

### **Looking ahead, what do you see for the future of genealogy?**

Things are changing so fast that we can only look out about three years. I think we're going to see better and better handwriting transcription, really good translations in more languages, more name search-

able documents, expanding the deeds and probate records being placed online by FamilySearch now. And AI is going to play a role. I'm already using it as a time-saving tool. It won't do the research for you, but AI is good at generating summarizing documents, creating tables, and for drafting proposals.

### **July will mark your 10<sup>th</sup> presentation to FGS. Any special memories?**

It's always fun to present in Falmouth, a bit like going back home. It's a fun and appreciative audience and I've had the chance to get to know some of the members. The most memorable visit might be the first. It was a joint meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies held at the Sturgis Library during a major thunder, lightning, and rainstorm. Everyone arrived dripping wet! Those who attended my first presentation surely remember this event!

#### **Note:**

*For more on meeting topics, members can access speakers' notes and most presentations on YouTube. Go to the Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. website, [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), (or read QR code below with phone camera), click on Membership, and log into the Members Only section. Go to Speaker Notes and Videos. If you need the password, please contact Tim Martin at [fgspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgspresident@gmail.com).*

Falmouth Genealogical  
Society website



On the FGS website under "Resources" there is a new tab named "FamilySearch Centers." Check there for the latest information on a FamilySearch Center coming to Cape Cod at the LDS Church in Cataumet.

## LEGAL GENEALOGIST SHOWS MORE IN CENSUSES

By Caroline McKee Anderson

The June 8, 2024, FGS meeting featured a recorded talk by Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, known as *The Legal Genealogist*. Her talk, *More Than Just Names:*

*Advanced US Census Research* was produced by Legacy Family Tree Webinars. Legacy Family Tree Webinars, a subscription service, can be found at <https://familytreewebinars.com/>. According to their website, they have over 2,200 genealogy webinars presented by over 400 speakers. In her information-rich presentation, Judy underscored the importance of Federal Censuses and related documents. She stressed that the US Census, taken every ten years since 1790, is one of the best resources for tracing the names of our ancestors. And, she said that with in-depth resource, they can provide clues about marriage dates, birthplaces, occupations, socioeconomic status, physical disability, military service, and much much more.

Judy explained that each census collected different information—some more detailed than others. For this reason, she said that it is absolutely essential to read the instructions given to enumerators for each



census: [www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/census\\_instructions/](http://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/)

(Please note this is an updated link, the one provided in the handout has expired.)

In her presentation handout, Judy provided a list of the censuses from 1790-1940 which highlights the unique data points in each survey. Members can access the handout (with updated links as able) at our FGS website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) in the *Members Only Section*.

Judy said that even the census documents from 1790-1840 that only include the name of the head of household can provide helpful clues about military districts and service, citizenship status, occupation, and physical disabilities. For these early years, Judy encouraged researchers to apply the FAN Club methodology of including friends/family, associates, and neighbors in your research.

The 1850 census is important as the first to

include all of the names in a household. While each decade's census is rich with information, Judy described the 1900 and 1930 censuses as "bonanza" years. By carefully tracking one's family through each census, one can gain clues to military service, employment, real estate values, residence, literacy, citizenship, immigration, home and land ownership—and even if the family owned a radio.

Judy emphasized that a thorough analysis of census documents includes the "other" censuses: the Agricultural (1850-1880), Manufacturing (1810-1820, 1850-1880), Mortality (1850-1880), Social Statistics (1850-1870), Defective, Dependent, Delinquent (1880), and Veterans (1890). She added that several states participated in the Semidecennial Census in 1885 and that many states conducted their own census surveys.

In closing, Judy said that combining information from a complete search of census documents with information from other sources can provide a much deeper picture of a family.

You can follow Judy at her website: [www.legalgenealogist.com](http://www.legalgenealogist.com).



If you would like to contribute your talents

**Volunteer with  
Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society!**

Let us know how you want to help.

Email Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net).

## FINDING AND SHARING FAMILY HISTORY

*By Lockwood Rianhard*



LOCKWOOD  
RIANHARD

I learned research methods in college and graduate schools, and, after my marriage, I began researching ancient church history (becoming very active in the Episcopal Church) and researching my family history where I initially focused on finding the names and vital dates of direct ancestors, their siblings, and first cousins.

After recording over 24,000 names in my “Family Tree Maker” computer file, I wanted to share my findings with both interested close relatives and also interested other persons, so I made reports which gave alphabetical listings of deceased relatives. And, to further share my reports on early New England relatives, two reports were posted on the website of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. Because these reports did not explicitly define the parent/child relationships, their value was limited.

So, I decided to create eight family tree reports: seven generations for each of my grandparents and also for my wife’s grandparents, resulting in ten generations for my children. These reports provided the relationships of our direct ancestors but were boring. Later, to add interest, I added Royal Descents to the family tree reports.

For the same eight grandparents, using my “Family Tree Maker” unique software, I printed the FTM Ahnentafel reports which convert the vital dates and other facts into essays about direct ancestors and their children.

However, I realized that more than 80 percent of my important close blood relatives were not direct ancestors and that I shared more DNA with recent cousins than with distant direct ancestors. So, most recently, I prepared a new type of report, titled “Some Important Close Blood Relatives of Lockwood Rianhard [born 1931].”

### *Interviewer’s Notes*

*Much to the interviewer’s delight, Lockwood arrived for the meeting with a draft article about his journey as a genealogist. He has been working on family history since he was a college student. While he began his research like many—accumulating names and vital dates—his recent work is focused on some past interesting close blood relatives. In short, his goal is to engage both current living relatives and those with whom he might share relatives. His children’s interesting family blood relatives include many European Kings [who were direct ancestors] and also [including distant cousins] 24 U.S. Presidents and 16 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Lockwood has been a member of FGS since 1999. He is also the Genealogist of the Jamestowne Society, South Florida Company, where he recently gave a presentation on “Finding Your Ancestors of Royal Descent.”*

*- Caroline Anderson*

## 2025–40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION YEAR! CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

2025 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. We want to celebrate this milestone—and we would welcome your assistance.

We would like to form an ad-hoc committee to recommend how FGS can acknowledge this anniversary in both existing and new programs and events. Volunteer assignments will be tailored to individual interests and time available.

If you’re interested, please contact Caroline Anderson at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com) or 206-300-7020.

Since 1985!

## ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM FGS PRESIDENT *(cont'd. from page 1)*

DNA test data to reveal verified and deeper connections. Even in the midst of all of the wasteful commotion these days—there are amazing things happening within Genealogy—so we can be optimists!

We can all be thankful for the forbearance and wonderful work of our board members and the FGS member consultants at the weekly Tuesday afternoon Helpdesk that now have many great stories to tell. What we do has real value to our families and community. For instance, reconciliation can happen when someone alienated from their family is introduced to whom they came from.

FGS has made significant strides in local community engagement: joining the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, where FGS was recently featured; initiating Introduction to Genealogy classes at the Falmouth Senior Center; hosting booths at the Barnstable County Fair and Falmouth Arts Alive. We've had a phenomenal list of local and renowned speakers. You have surely noticed an expanded FGS Newsletter featuring excellent summaries of our monthly presentations as well as the various pursuits of our own members. Our website at [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) is the best place to find the most current information. We all can share suggestions and queries at the Falmouth

Genealogical Society Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/falgen/>.

We want to help cultivate your skills and contributions that connect your family and ancestors to all of us; that being both valuable work and amazing fun. We had an ambitious goal of 20 new members this year and added 22, now having 151 members. But let me say: you're not just working on "your tree," you're working on behalf of and in cooperation with countless individuals. Let's team-up and enjoy the journey together! That's why your Falmouth Genealogical society is here.

**"...there are amazing things happening within Genealogy—so we can be optimists!"**  
- Tim Martin



## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

*By Dottie Priestley*

### **Where Have You Traveled in Search of Ancestors? What Did You Discover?**

We want to hear from you! With our newsletter "question," we hope to learn more about your areas of interest, make connections among members, and have a bit of fun. Please (try to) limit your response to 250 words.

### **Last Newsletter's Question: Who is the ancestor you would most like to meet—and why?**

#### ***Dottie Priestley responded:***

I've chosen my great-grandfather, Michael C. Barrett, because he was a bit of a mystery, but is also a family hero. His own children, especially my grandfather, didn't really know him.

Michael was born near Ballinspittle, County Cork, Ireland in 1828. He immigrated in 1854 at age 26 and married my great-grandmother, Julia Herlihy, in Boston two years later. He and Julia lived in Stoneham, Massachusetts. In 1861, he enlisted in the 22nd Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers in the Civil War. He was wounded at the Battle of Lee's



MICHAEL C. BARRETT  
(1828-1864)  
IN CIVIL WAR  
UNIFORM

*(cont'd. on page 10)*

## THE ART OF MOURNING: A CLOSER LOOK AT EARLY 19TH CENTURY FALMOUTH COUSINS

*By Caroline McKee Anderson*

Rachel Lovett, Executive Director of the Falmouth Historical Society presented a historical perspective of mourning and commemorating the deaths of loved ones in early America during her talk on April 13, 2024.

While many items were created to pay tribute to loved ones—statues, clocks, ceramics, jewelry, mirrors—needlework samplers, called mourning art samplers, hold a significant place in the cultural history of early America, according to Rachel.

Drawing from the Historical Society's collection, Rachel showcased four mourning art samplers that were created by four Falmouth cousins in the early 1800s.

These mourning art samplers served as tangible expressions of grief and remembrance, Rachel added. They were intricately crafted textiles, most often created by young women, that helped families to process and remember the deaths of loved ones. She explained that they also reflected the prevailing atti-

tudes toward death and mourning in colonial and antebellum society.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, needlework played a key role in the education of girls, teaching them essential skills like embroidery and sewing while also imparting moral and religious lessons, according to Rachel. She said that mourning samplers emerged as a distinct genre and featured somber motifs including weeping willows, urns, gravestones and inscriptions and symbols related to the themes of mortality, resurrection, and eternal rest.

Rachel said that mourning samplers were typically stitched with black silk or wool thread on a background of linen or silk; many had elaborate borders, detailed motifs, and intricate stitching that showcased the skill and artistry of the creators. Creating mourning samplers peaked in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

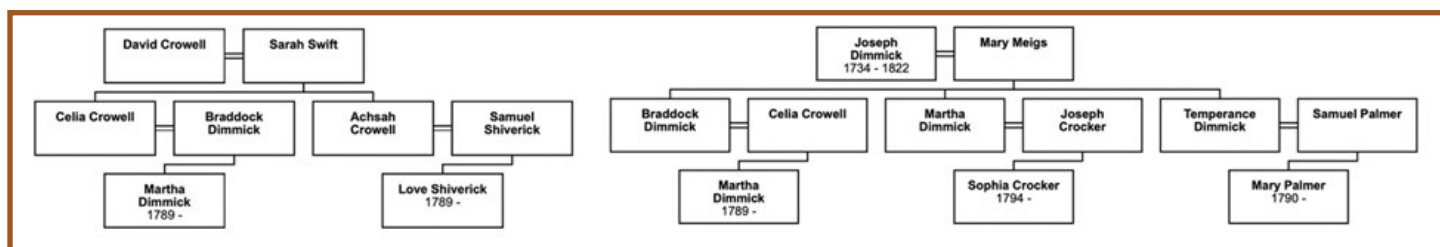
Rachel provided a detailed view of the four mourning samplers created by four cousins—Martha Dimmick, Sophia Crocker, Mary Palm-



RACHEL LOVETT, EXEC DIR.  
FALMOUTH HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

er, and Love Shiverick—that demonstrate their skill in this art form and their personal stories of loss and grief. True to the art form, they are intricately crafted with somber images and reflect the loss of parents and siblings.

Rachel said that the four pieces were donated to the Historical Society independently and that it was only through recent investigations that they discovered the cousin connection which she believes enriches the stories of both the girls and the samplers. She added that it also illuminates the potential of museum collections to serve as resources for genealogical research.



*(cont'd. on page 9)*

## THE ART OF MOURNING

(cont'd. from page 8)

*Mourning Sampler*, Falmouth, Massachusetts c. 1806



Artist: Likely Martha Dimmick (1789-1828), American  
Falmouth Historical Society Collection. 2020.00.28

This piece was made for two sisters, Mary Dimmick (1800-1802) & Mary Dimmick (1803-1803) who never met. The girls were two daughters of Braddock and Celia Dimmick, both named Mary, who died 16 months apart. The first was not quite 2 years old when she died in June 1802.

Her sister Mary, born in July 1803, lived only 3 months.

Each Mary had a twin who survived childhood. Our records don't say who made the sampler. The most likely candidate would be the girl's eldest sister Martha Dimmick (1789-1828), who was a contemporary of the other three young women featured in this exhibition.

*Mourning Sampler*, Falmouth, Massachusetts c. 1806



Artist: Love Shiverick (1789-1863), American

Falmouth Historical Society Collection. Gift of the artist's daughter Harriet (Jones) Burrill, 2021.00.036

In 1805, sixteen-year-old Love Shiverick created this sentimental piece for her younger brother Samuel (1787-1799), who she lost six years earlier.

Several years later, she married Captain Silas Jones in 1811, and he constructed Love, a house where they could raise their family. Their son Silas

Jr. achieved local fame when he defended the whaleship *Awashonks* from attack by Marshall Islanders. The Falmouth Historical Society owns a painting of the attack, attributed to Silas Jr., which is on display at the Conant House.

Love's house became the Elm Arch Inn, and it is currently Tommy's Place, a non-profit organization that offers children with cancer and their families a vacation home. The sampler Love made for her late brother therefore sparks ongoing contemporary conversations surrounding loss, and her house remains, as it was always intended, a place for Love.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all of the FGS members who have renewed their membership for 2024-2025.

There's still time to renew! Send your completed data sheet and check payable to Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. to FGS, P.O. Box 2107, East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107.

Membership dues provide key funding for our monthly presentations, for production of the FGS newsletter, and to support expanded

community outreach activities. Membership dues will also help to support special activities for the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

In addition to our monthly programs and Helpdesk sessions, members-only benefits include our quarterly newsletter, access to recordings of our monthly talks, "members only" content on our website, and individualized research assistance through our Team Up! program.

If you have any questions about your membership, please contact Caroline McKee Anderson at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com) or 206-300-7020.

*Special Acknowledgement: Membership Director Caroline Anderson expresses special thanks to Marguerite Sullivan who previously served as FGS Membership Director and provided excellent documentation, valuable analysis on member interests, and meticulously organized files which made it much easier to assume these responsibilities.*

We're  
glad  
you're  
a member  
and  
value  
your  
membership!



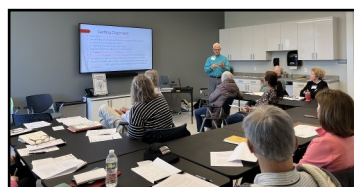
## ON THE ROAD WITH FGS

### At Arts Alive

On June 15 and 16, 2024, FGS joined over 70 artists and musicians, food vendors, and community organizations to celebrate Arts and Culture in Falmouth at the annual Arts Alive program on the Falmouth Library Lawn, Peg Noonan Park, and Shore Street Extended. FGS members encouraged attendees to connect with their family and history. To inspire interest volunteers did lookups in census documents and searched for family members in world family trees.



FGS BOOTH AT FALMOUTH ARTS ALIVE



TIM MARTIN TEACHING INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON GENEALOGY AT FALMOUTH SENIOR CENTER

### At Falmouth Senior Center

FGS returned to the Falmouth Senior Center by popular demand on June 27, 2024, to offer its introductory course on genealogy, "What's Your Family Story?" FGS has been invited to offer a monthly session at the Senior Center as a regular course offering for members. For the programs on July 25 and August 22, FGS members will provide one-on-one consultations for Senior Center participants engaged in tracing their family history.



### Welcome Members

We are pleased to welcome these new members:

**John Antonangeli**  
**Mary Lou April**  
**Laura Bumpus**  
**Jean Collins**  
**Bill Gilbrook**  
**Thomas Gregg**  
**Stephen McPherson**  
**Nancy McPherson**  
**Deborah Pickett Mills**  
**Leslie O'Brien**  
**Bob Priestley**

We are eager to learn more about your genealogical areas of interest and how we might support your efforts. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings—in person or on Zoom.



**Falmouth Memorial Day Ceremony held on May 29, 2023, at the Memorial Walkway in front of Falmouth's Main Street Public Library.**

*As part of this ceremony, the names of deceased members are read. This list is compiled annually as a service to the community by FGS Member and Board Secretary Ralph Wadleigh.*

## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

(cont'd. from page 7)

Mills, outside Yorktown, Virginia, on 8 April 1862 when he was hit in the hip with a musket ball, disabling him.

Then, on 5 July 1864, he was returning home on the train from Boston and fell between the cars. He was run over, injuring his head and arm, which had to be amputated. He died later from his injuries at the age of 36. He would not have known that Julia was then

pregnant with their sixth child, my grandfather, Thomas, born eight months later. She was 26, left alone caring for six children under the age of eight.

My mother told me that her father Thomas (my grandfather) marched in the Winchester, Massachusetts 4th of July parade every year as a proud Son of Union Veterans of the Civil War in honor of his father (my great-grandfather). Several

distant cousins also possess this photo of our family hero.

I'd like to meet him, hear him speak Gaelic and find out about his life in Ireland, especially during the famine. I wonder if he lost his parents or siblings before he left. I'm also curious about when and where he learned the trade of masonry. I like to imagine he enjoyed music and singing like my mother and I hope to visit his Irish birthplace next year.



## THE DEERFIELD MASSACRE

**Book Report - *The Deerfield Massacre, A Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America* by James L. Swanson, 2024, Scribner, New York.**

*By Ralph Wadleigh*

Caution, this well researched, recently published book is more history than genealogy. Still its description of an early 18<sup>th</sup> century New England farming village will give context to many whose ancestry was in rural New England. It also vividly describes the frontier tension that existed in colonial times between the ever-encroaching colonial tide and the Native Americans being displaced. This tension erupted in Deerfield in 1675 during King Philip's War and more tragically on the leap year day of February 29, 1704, when the titled massacre took place.

Swanson divides his work into four general sections. A prologue which sets the scene; an account of the attack; a description of the captives wintry forced march to Canada and finally, a description of the commemorations and actions taken over the years to preserve the village.

It took almost fifty years after the landing of the Pilgrims in Plimouth for the first settler to arrive in Deerfield then known as Pocumtuck occupying land used by Native Americans. The increasing tension

created by English colonists' constant claims for territory first boiled over in 1675 as King Philip's War. The English victory in that contest left coastal New England relatively secure for the colonists, but in western and northern New England, skirmishes continued. The author describes how the 1704 event in Deerfield was just one such occurrence, but it received wide notice for its brutality because noteworthy inhabitants were captured and forced marched into Canada; specifically, Rev. John Williams and his wife Eunice, together with several of their children. Their daughter Eunice, aged seven at the time, eventually adopted into Iroquois Mohawk society, married, and left many descendants in Canada.

The final third of the book describes the work of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) and others to commemorate and enshrine the event. One treasured artifact in PVMA's museum at Deerfield is "the old Indian door" salvaged from the original garrison house. It still bears the marks of tomahawk strikes. Although none of Deerfield's original homes still stand,

Swanson pays deserved homage to the efforts of George Sheldon, Past President of PVMA, Henry and Helen Flynt, antiquarians and Frank Boyden of Deerfield Academy for preserving Deerfield's invaluable collection of 18<sup>th</sup>-century homes under the umbrella of Historic Deerfield.

*The Deerfield Massacre* will be of special interest to descendants of Rev. John Williams as it encapsulates a notable chapter in that family's history. Other readers will get an overview of life in rural New England and an appreciation for frontier tensions at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The writer has visited today's Historic Deerfield on at least two occasions, enjoying its lovingly furnished old New England houses and peaceful park-like atmosphere, but quite oblivious to its hidden history.

The book can be found in the Clams System and at the Falmouth Public Library. Falmouth Genealogical Society members will enjoy this book for its historical value and definitely as recommended reading before undertaking a trip to Historic Deerfield.



**Need HELP**  
with your Research?

Zoom sessions  
free to members

**Team Up!**

with FGS volunteers  
to move you forward!

More information  
at [falgen.org](http://falgen.org)

**Or simply drop in**  
**any Tuesday at the**  
**Reference Room**  
**Falmouth Public**  
**Library**  
**from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society, Inc.**

PO Box 2107  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107  
Website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)

**Officers**

*President*

Tim Martin

*Vice President*

Clyde Tyndale

*Treasurer*

Ray Howe

*Secretary*

Ralph Wadleigh

**Committees/Chairs**

*Finance*/Ray Howe

*Help Sessions*/Tim Martin

*Membership*/Caroline Anderson

*Newsletter*/Dottie Priestley

*NERGC*/Mary Anne Conboy

*Publications*/Dottie Priestley

*Publicity*/TBD

*Technology*/Tim Martin

**At Large**

David Burt

Jerry Luby

Diana Stadtmiller

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

Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)

Internet addresses contained in this publication are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER—WELCOME MARY ANNE CONBOY



MARY ANNE  
CONBOY

Mary Anne Conboy was appointed to the FGS Board of Directors in June 2024. Mary Anne joined FGS in April 2021 and became a regular visitor to the Tuesday “Help Desk Sessions.”

Recently, she has joined the team of consultants on Tuesdays to provide guidance and help to clients. She is an enthusiastic and thoughtful researcher and a natural teacher or coach.

Initially inspired by Alex Haley’s *Roots* and the TV miniseries adaptation, she has been working on her family history for more than 20 years. Two trips—one to Italy and another to Ireland—put her interest and research into overdrive. During a 2023 trip to England, she stood in the church where her great-grandparents were married, and her grandfather baptized.

Her current research is focused on her Italian side where she has the benefit of several living family members. Her goal is to learn as much as possible about the lives of family

members, even the sad or difficult stories. The ancestor with whom she would most like to chat is her great grandmother, Mary Razzeto, who sadly spent nearly 40 years in a Massachusetts state hospital.

For those considering beginning, or continuing their genealogical research, she says “Just Do It.” She adds that it becomes a type of a positive addiction and that there is great joy and fulfillment in imagining ancestors in their places in history.

As a new Board member, Mary Anne plans to continue learning with others and hopes to pay this learning forward. As her Board assignment, Mary Anne will be the FGS representative to the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) and participate in the planning for the biannual conference to be held in Manchester, New Hampshire in 2025.

Mary Anne moved to Falmouth (where her parents purchased a home in 1951) in 2008 after retiring from a long career in human resources with the Federal Government. She has volunteered for the Falmouth Band Parents and the Falmouth Theatre Guild and enjoys crocheting with the “Yarners.”

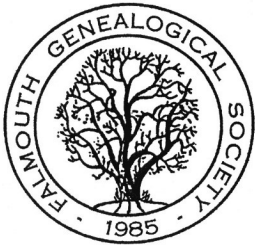
## FROM THE FGS WEBSITE

The FGS Website is an outstanding resource for its members and the community. Some content—like recordings and handouts of our monthly meetings—is available only to members.

In support of its mission to serve the community, FGS undertakes special projects to retain and share information significant to genealogical research. Ralph Wadleigh, FGS member and Board Secretary, is the “behind-the-scenes” architect of the Obituary Index found on the FGS website. Go to [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) and select the “Data Search” tab. This outstanding resource provides an

index of all of the obituaries that have appeared in the Falmouth Enterprise between 1960-2023. The index provides the deceased person’s name (including maiden names as included), the date of the obituary and its page number. This web page also provides a helpful link to the Falmouth Enterprise archive where users can search past issues for content, including obituaries, from the late 1890s to 2018.

This is just one example of the interesting and helpful content on the FGS website. Bookmark [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) and visit often.



SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

## NEWS

OCT-DEC 2024

VOL. 36, ISSUE 4

### 150 YEARS OF RECORD LOSS— A METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH TO IDENTIFYING PARENTS IN SWEDEN

By Caroline McKee Anderson

On July 13, 2024, Jill Morelli, CG, CGL delivered her 10th consecutive annual presentation to FGS members. Her specific dilemma—or research question—was how



JILL MORELLI, CG, CGL

to determine Elna Johansdotter's Swedish parentage despite 150 years of record loss due to not one but two church fires in the parish.

Using this case study, Jill outlined a methodology of three research plans to solve the parentage question. She underscored that while the presentation example was Swedish, the methodology could be set in any locale with a similar question and limited set of resources.

Jill defined the three research plans; Process Plan, Broad Context Plan, and Record Collection Plan; and detailed the steps taken within each to tackle her question.

Jill said the *Process Plan* outlines the steps the researcher will take to solve the problem and is often the first plan made. The *Broad Context Plan* is dynamic and identifies topics that might assist in interpreting records and documents. And finally, the *Record Collection Plan* is also

dynamic and focuses on the documents that may support solving the research question. All three plans should be outlined prior to jumping into the steps of the Process Plan

according to Jill.

#### Broad Context Plan

Jill detailed that context informs the analysis of records and hence our decision-making. She added that understanding context can identify the unusual or the norm in a given situation. In her handout, Jill quoted the Board for Certification of Genealogists, "When planning research, genealogists consider historical boundaries and their changes, migration patterns and routes, and sources available...They also consider economic, ethnic, genetic, governmental, historical, legal, linguistic, military, paleographic, religions, social and other factors..."<sup>1</sup>

In her case study, Jill outlined that the context plan required knowledge of Swedish geography,

<sup>1</sup> Board for Certification of Genealogists, *Genealogy Standards, Second Edition, Revised* (Nashville: Ancestry.com, 2021) 12

(cont'd. on page 2)

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*All Meetings Held  
at Falmouth Public Library  
Hermann Foundation Room  
AND Virtually via Zoom  
Unless Noted Otherwise  
See [Falgen.org](http://Falgen.org) for  
Updated Info*

**Sat., Oct. 19 @ 10:30 am**

**"Artifacts Day"**  
*With FGS Members*

**Wed., Oct. 30 about 9—5**

Bus Trip to  
**American Antiquarian  
Society in Worcester**

**Sat., Nov. 16 @ 10:30 am**

**"Probate Research Beyond  
the Basics" and  
"Reading and Understanding  
Old Documents"**

*With Michael Leclerc  
Certified Genealogist  
Annual Joint Meeting with  
the Cape Cod Genealogical  
Society at  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Osterville  
Lunch Break Between Talks*

**Sat., Dec. 14 @ 10:30 am**

**"On the Road to the  
Mayflower"**  
*With Karen Rinaldo  
and Kevin Doyle*

**Sat., Jan. 11 @ 10:30**

**Topic and Speaker  
To Be Announced**

**The Massachusetts  
Genealogical Council  
offers programs  
See [MGC | Home](http://MGCHome)  
([massgencouncil.org](http://massgencouncil.org))**



Like us on  
**Facebook**

Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc.

## IDENTIFYING PARENTS IN SWEDEN

*(cont'd. from page 1)*

marriage and baptismal customs, patronymic naming, and birth year estimating.

### Record Collection Plan

While the most familiar plan to genealogists, Jill cautioned researchers not to “jump” too quickly. She added that it’s important to identify all of the potential record sets—and reminded researchers that this part of the process is also dynamic as one discovery leads to others.

In her case study, Jill was dealing with a significant loss of records in the Hishult parish but discovered clues that led her to include research in a neighboring parish. She also relied on probate and tax records.

### Implementation Strategy

With all three plans outlined,

Jill turned to the detail of the **Process Plan** and its seven steps which she outlined in her handout.

1. Create a strong research question that relies on the known information about a single fact and who and what you are seeking.
2. Understand the cultural context based on your plan and research as needed.
3. Identify, collect, and confirm all of the known information related to your research question.
4. Conduct radial research—go beyond your current place, again informed by your context research.

5. Conduct cluster research by identifying other family members, associates, and neighbors.
6. Form a hypothesis based on the research and then test it to eliminate or confirm.
7. Reach a conclusion—although the reality is the research may not reach a final conclusion.

In her case study, Jill used radial research to identify a lead on parish locale. Cluster research led her to explore baptismal witness records.

In closing, Jill said that whether or not a final conclusion is possible, our responsibility is to conduct as exhaustive and thorough research as possible.

**Note:**  
FGS YouTube videos of our monthly presentations in the **Members Only** section of our website are indexed into chapters. This allows the viewer to identify named segments and quickly go to desired ones.

## REUNITING LONG-LOST PHOTOS WITH FAMILIES

*By Caroline McKee Anderson*

Kate Kelley discussed her passion undertaking “The Photo Angel Project” with members at the August 10, 2024, meeting. What began as a personal quest to identify non-relatives in a stack of her grandparents’ pictures has grown to a far-reaching and impactful effort to return photos to their families.

And she has enjoyed great success—she has returned photographs to families in 49 states (and hopes to add



KATE KELLEY, THE PHOTO ANGEL

South Dakota soon) and six countries.

How does she do this? Kate utilizes genealogical sites and research methods to identify potential family members.

First though, she scours antique stores and flea markets to purchase old photographs (and sometimes ephemera). She said that there must be some identifying information including name, location, and birthdates to make identification possible.

She then uses genealogy sites including [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), [MyHeritage.com](https://www.myheritage.com), and [FindAGrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com) to cast a wide net of possible family members. She said she uses

*(cont'd. on page 8)*



## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

### Who Inspired You to Research Your Family History?

We want to hear from you! With our newsletter “question,” we hope to learn more about your areas of interest, make connections among members, and have a

bit of fun. Please (try to) limit your response to 300 words.

### Last Newsletter’s Question: Where Have You Traveled in Search of Ancestors? What Did you Discover?

We were delighted to hear from three FGS members who made important discoveries about their families while traveling. Here are Kathy Taylor’s, Mary Ellen Williams’, and Bill Gilbrook’s family stories from Ireland, Scotland, and Belgium respectively.

### A Trip to Shranalee by Kathy Taylor

In 2002 I returned to Ireland with my sister Ann for her first trip to the old country. I called the trip “In Mother’s Footsteps” since my mother, now passed, had made about 15 trips to Ireland. We went to Islandeady to show Ann where my grandmother’s house had been and to the Islandeady Cemetery to look for the family graves.

We next headed up the Pontoon Road to Shranalee, a small village with just two homes and farmland where my mother’s cousins Martin and Anthony Mulhern had lived. On the way to the house, we drove on a narrow path and at one point I had to pull over to let an elderly man pass. Well, I rolled down the window and said, “We are Mulherns.” He replied “They are all gone from here now. Patrick was the last to die.” I did not know Patrick. The two boys I had met years earlier were



KATHY TAYLOR WITH BEA KEARNEY

Martin and Anthony. I later learned that there was a third brother who had lived at Saint Mary’s Hospital in Castlebar. The house looked just as before, not at all run down, but no one was around.

We returned to the Pontoon Road. It was pouring rain at the time and just as I was making a U-turn we saw an elderly gentleman. I rolled down the window and said, “We are Mulherns and are looking for information on our family.” He replied that he was not from here—married a local lady a few years ago. He was getting soaked but went on to say

we should see the undertaker Patrick Coady who now has the Mulhern home and farm in Shranalee. Coady has a pub on Linenhall Street in Castlebar.

We then headed south to Castlebar. The bar was full of elderly men.

I removed my wet jacket, walked up to the bar and said to the bartender “We are Mulherns.” The room went silent, all conversation stopped. The man behind the bar who was Patrick Coady said I will talk with you in the other room. We learned that the brothers were buried in the Castlebar New Cemetery. He offered to take us there the following morning. He told me that the brothers had signed the property over to him in exchange for a ride to mass on Sunday mornings. He might have recognized me. He said there was a photo of me on the mantle of the home in Shranalee.



FAMILY HOUSE

(cont’d. on p. 4)

## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

*(cont'd. from page 3)*

The next day we went to the New Castlebar Cemetery with Coady. The gravestone confirmed that the names of the three brothers and, indeed, Patrick was the last to die. I learned that 93-year-old Bea Kearney, who lived next to the brothers, was still

in Shranalee, the last remaining resident of the village. Bea had also signed her home over to Patrick Coady in exchange for rides to mass on Sunday mornings. She told me that the brothers had Flynn relatives in the area on their moth-

er's side. As for Coady, she said he has two daughters who are very well off. I showed Bea a photo of three young boys, and she confirmed that they might be the Mulhern brothers. Bea lived another 10 years—a lot of rides to mass.

### What I Learned About John Magoon While Traveling in Scotland by Mary Ellen Williams

#### Note:

*For more on meeting topics, members can access speakers' notes and most presentations on YouTube. Go to the Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. website, [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), (or read QR code below with phone camera), click on Membership, and log into the Members Only section. Go to Speaker Notes and Videos. If you need the password, please contact Tim Martin at [fgspresident@gmail.com](mailto:fgspresident@gmail.com).*

With very little information about the forebearer in my family, I began searching records thirty-five years ago. Soon it became the best investigative detective story one could imagine! One clue led to another, and sources of information emanated from many locations in America and Europe. Traveling to some of these sites enhanced the experience of digging into records of my ancestors.

The sleuthing revealed extraordinary tales, one of which is the adventures of my ancestor John Magoon. John and his brother, Henry, were born in the Scottish Highlands, where life centered on agriculture and cattle raising in the bucolic Findor River Valley near the villages of Moy and Little Corrybrough and not too far from the city of Inverness.

Several civil wars pitted the Scots against the English, who were determined to impose the Anglican church on the Presbyterian Scots. Armies of English and Scot-



MARY ELLEN WITH HER GRANDSON, JUSTIN DAVIS WILLIAMS, AGE 13 ON 3 JULY 2013, AT THE HEADSTONE OF MARJORY MACQUEEN, DIED 31 OCTOBER, 1931, AGE 90, A DESCENDANT OF THE MACQUEEN/MAGOON FAMILY.

tish clansmen marched across the landscape of Scotland for fifty years and, the Scottish military forces had dwindled down to old men and young boys. By 1650, at the battle of Dunbar, Oliver Cromwell led the English army that defeated the Scottish army of 10,000, resulting in the capture of 6,000 Scotsmen.

John, age 25, and Henry, age 16, were swept up in the

final battle of Dunbar, as conscripts. The battle only lasted one day as the Scots were outflanked, overrun, and surrendered. Six thousand Scots were taken prisoners of war and began a 100-mile forced march south from Scotland to the Durham Cathedral in England, where they took refuge. Fortunately, John and Henry were not wounded in the battle and were young and healthy; therefore, they were able to endure the horrendous conditions in which they were held in captivity. During the six weeks of imprisonment in the Cathedral, many fellow prisoners died of starvation or disease, many more than those who died in battle. It was determined that non-commissioned officers would be sent overseas to British colonies instead of being hanged. The unlucky ones were sent to plantations on Caribbean islands and to southern regions of the East Coast of America. Fortunately, John and Henry were

*(cont'd. on page 5)*

Falmouth Genealogical  
Society website



## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

(cont'd. from page 4)

among about 150 prisoners sent to the bog iron works near Boston or sawmills in New Hampshire and designated indentured servants to serve seven years in such a status. John was purchased as a servant by Joshua Foote, the ship's expediter, and Henry was listed for service in a New Hampshire sawmill. John and Henry sailed on the *Unity* on November 11, 1650; about 10 percent of those on board died from inadequate food or illness during the perilous winter crossing of the North Atlantic. The *Unity* reached Boston in January 1651; amazingly, the two Magoon brothers survived the hellish trip.

For many years, local descendants in the Boston area tried to learn more about the Magoons/Magouns in Scotland, but there were no records of a Magoon family that they or genealogists could find. Therefore, my curiosity

about the origin of the Magoon name was one reason for taking a trip to Scotland during the summer in 2014. In a visit to the Scottish Highland Archive and Registration Centre in Inverness, two archivists were able to make a connection. Historically (in the 9th century C.E.) Norse people from Norway, both Vikings and settlers began to move to the Scottish islands and farther west. One Norwegian king had four sons, one of whom was named Donald. He and his brother Sveinn, settled on the Isle of Skye, one of the islands in the Inner Hebrides, to farm and to fish. The second son, Sveinn, became known as MacSveinn (in English). The Donalds had a daughter who was betrothed to the chief of the MacIntosh Clan. The MacSveinns were asked to escort the future bride to Strathderm, west of Inverness. The MacSveinns decided to remain in this area near Inverness. The anglicized

name from their spoken Gallic language (Scottish Celtic dialect) became MacQueen (Q is the same as CU in Gallic, pronounced "Gahllie" compared to Irish Celtic dialect, pronounced "Gayllie"). John and Henry Magoon both spoke Gallic and were well educated through the Presbyterian Church. The spelling of their name in Gallic would have been Maccuidhean. To the English speaker's ear, it would sound like Magoon with the "ccuidh" being a guttural "gh" sound. One of the archivists put me in touch with a Gallic speaker by phone; when I listened to him pronounce Maccuidhean, it sounded like Magoon! When John and Henry registered with the ship *Unity*, the closest the registrar came to writing the name in English was Magoon or Magoon. Both John and his brother, Henry, lived successful and productive lives—and left many descendants.



FARMSTEAD IN STRATHDEARN,  
SCOTLAND

## A Trip to Antwerp, Belgium by Bill Gilbrook

In October 2013 I travelled to Antwerp, Belgium to learn more about the life and birth family of Henricus Geelbroeck (1801-1848), my paternal second great-grandfather. I spent several days at the Antwerp City Archive accessing many original family source documents which was very exciting. Henricus was born in Belgium (likely Antwerp)



HOSTEL FOR FOUNDLINGS.  
ANTWERP, BELGIUM 2013

around August 1801, but his mother abandoned him a year-and-a-half later in March of 1803 at the Hostel for Foundlings (now annex of the Institute of Tropical Medicine) on Sint-Rochusstraat. Caretaker nuns of the Capuchin Sisters Chapel (attached to hostel) named him Henricus Geelbroeck and he lived with a foster family on a farm not

(cont'd. on page 6)

## ASKING YOU: MEMBERS RESPOND

(cont'd. from page 5)

far from Antwerp for seven years. He returned to the orphanage and at age 10 was sent to the Boys Training School in Antwerp where he learned to be a silk worker. All of his sons became cigar makers and all except Josephus emigrated to the United States to work in Boston and New York cigar factories. My great-grandfather, Joannes Geelbroeck (1843-1917) was one of those cigar makers.

When Henricus was about 35, his mother made a surprise visit to his home (nuns told her where he lived in Antwerp). She left a note with her name, his father's name and some sort of emblematic crest. While the family was illiterate, the note and crest were kept by Henricus's eldest son Josephus (1831-1906) and passed down in family for 75 years

until World War I. As occupiers of Antwerp and during a paper shortage, German soldiers went door to door collecting paper from the inhabitants. Lizzy, Josephus' youngest daughter, hid the note with the emblem behind a painting. Unfortunately, the soldiers removed the painting's paper backing along with a significant clue to our ancestral history. Isabella Geelbroeck (1869-1919) is the "Lizzy" in the wedding photo (*on the left*) wearing a pink hat with her hand on her father Josephus' shoulder. My uncle sent me a black and white photocopy of the wedding picture 25 years ago. A couple of years ago, another cousin had it stunningly colorized.

I'm working with two other cousins, one in the United States, another in the United Kingdom, to discover the names in that lost note. Most

recently I've found a DNA-matched descendant of a multi-generational Belgian family who lived in Brussels with an ancestor drafted by Napoleon's French Republican Guard stationed in Antwerp during the time of my second great-grandfather's birth — a promising clue. My UK collaborator is a son of the baby in the wedding photo who is sitting on his mother's lap in the first row left wearing a white outfit. That baby's memoir (<http://www.gilbrook.info>) includes a short history of my family in preface.

My family research group is focused on discovering siblings, aunts and uncles of Henricus with the aid of paternal (Y-DNA) and autosomal (atDNA) matching hopefully unveiling the names of his parents.



50TH WEDDING  
ANNIVERSARY, ANTWERP,  
BELGIUM, OCTOBER 1903

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

**Members—you—are the core of the Falmouth Genealogical Society.**

Thank you to all of you who renewed your membership for 2024-2025. And a special welcome to our new members.

By the numbers at press time: 136 or 90 percent have renewed their membership. And we are delighted to count 25 new members since June 1<sup>st</sup>. This brings our total current membership to 159.

Membership dues provide key funding for our monthly presentations, for production of the FGS newsletter, and to support expanded community outreach activities. Membership dues will also help to support special activities for the Society's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which we'll celebrate starting January 1, 2025!

We hope you'll join us for our monthly programs or drop by our Tuesday Help Desk. And we hope you'll

consider volunteering some of your time and expertise to support FGS. We promise to find an assignment that meets both your interests and your time available.

If you have any questions about your membership or want to explore ways you can volunteer with FGS, please contact Caroline McKee Anderson at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com) or 206-300-7020.

## FINDAGRAVE WORKSHOP AT OAK GROVE CEMETERY

By Ralph Wadleigh

On Saturday, September 14, 2024, Falmouth Genealogical Society (FGS) members and guests met at Oak Grove Cemetery, Falmouth, to learn about the popular website [FindAGrave.com](https://FindAGrave.com) and how to use its phone application to record GPS coordinates at individual gravesites. The program also introduced members to FGS's plan to update and carry forward the cemetery inscription recording, and photography program undertaken by FGS members in 2005-2008, under the leadership of former FGS President Donna Walcovy. To our great delight, Donna attended the meeting and expressed her pleasure that her efforts were being continued.

The meeting was opened by FGS Secretary, Ralph Wadleigh, who gave a brief overview of the cemetery project and introduced Donna and her accomplishments. The remainder of the meeting was chaired by Linda Heald, an FGS Board Mem-



LINDA HEALD ADDRESSING THE GROUP BEFORE HEADING OUTSIDE

ber, and an experienced user and data contributor to [FindAGrave](https://FindAGrave.com). She explained that an initial goal of the cemetery project is to install Global Positioning System (GPS) indicators on all 15,500 memorials in the seventeen Falmouth cemeteries. Memorials having their GPS marked in [FindAGrave](https://FindAGrave.com) can be located to within about 10 feet, a very welcome tool when trying to locate a memorial in a large cemetery.

Clearly to achieve this worthy goal, Linda needs trained volunteers. After making certain that attendees had installed the [FindAGrave](https://FindAGrave.com) app on their phones, she took the group through the steps required on the app to locate cemeteries and eventually memorials. Once a memorial (gravestone) was identified, she then ex-

plained the steps necessary to install GPS identification. She also explained how to take and upload a photo of the memorial and even create a new memorial.

To practice these new skills, attendees then went into the cemetery and installed GPS markers for several memorials. Users were cautioned to make certain they had correctly identified the memorial before installing GPS coordinates. Attendees were quite enthusiastic about learning this new skill. One went to immediately do this on family graves at Oak Grove, others thought how they could visit ancestral cemeteries to add coordinates, and best of all many volunteered to help install GPS coordinates in Falmouth's cemeteries. Readers who wish to help Linda and Ralph with this project are requested to email them at [heald30@gmail.com](mailto:heald30@gmail.com) or [whplar@comcast.net](mailto:whplar@comcast.net). You will get exercise, comradeship and good feelings while having a great time! (See article on page 8.)



### Welcome Members

We are pleased to welcome these new members:

**Lewis Branzburg**  
**Maureen Branzburg**  
**Alexander de la Fuente**  
**Ann Keller (welcome back)**  
**Margaret Ledwell**  
**Paul Lombardozzi**  
**Shirley Lombardozzi**  
**Kathleen MacDonald**  
**Leo MacDonald**  
**William Mills**  
**Michele O'Brien**  
**Stephen O'Brien**  
**Janice Scully**  
**Stephen Scully**  
**Lynn Slapsys**  
**Richard Slapsys**  
**Edward Smith**  
**Charles Sturrock**  
**Katherine Sturrock**

We are eager to learn more about your genealogical areas of interest and how we might support your efforts. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming meetings—in person or on Zoom.

Since 1985!

## FGS MARKS 40TH ANNIVERSARY—HELP FGS CELEBRATE

2025 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

We want you to help us celebrate this milestone. And we could use your help in planning.

We promise fun—both in the planning and the activities. We also promise to tailor the assignment to your interests and available time.

We've recruited a small team but would welcome a few

more volunteers.

Please contact Caroline Anderson at [fgsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:fgsmembership@gmail.com) or 206-300-7020.



## REUNITING LONG-LOST PHOTOS WITH FAMILIES

*(cont'd. from page 2)*

these sites because genealogy buffs are much more likely to respond and be interested in the photographs.

When Kate cannot identify a family—or they are not interested—she tries to find an appropriate home for the photograph in a museum or historical society.

Kate shared several “success stories” of photographs and ephemera returned to very grateful family members. She said her biggest challenge is when family members don’t respond thinking it might be a scam. Publicity about her efforts—and success—have helped in this area.

She said the most rewarding aspect is hand-delivering photos to excited family members. She also enjoys

when people post pictures of themselves with the returned family photos on the Photo Angel Facebook group.

As a passion project, Kate says it provides her great joy to reunite photos with families at no cost to the families. She added that many people donate photos and supplies to support her efforts.

Kate, dubbed “The Photo Angel” by a grateful family member, comes by this passion naturally. She was inspired at an early age in her love of genealogy and old photographs by several family members. She is a proud member of both The Mayflower Society and Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Photo Angel Project has been featured on local, regional, and national news media including a segment on NBC’s *The TODAY Show*. You can follow Kate and The Photo Angel Project at:

Web: <https://thephotoangel.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/531012871224823>

Instagram: [The Photo Angel \(@the\\_photoangel\)](#) • [Instagram photos and videos](#)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMstGG-BqkwydWqNabzFNbQ>

We’re  
glad  
you’re  
a member  
and  
value  
your  
membership!



## FGS CEMETERY PROJECT BUILDS ON SUCCESS OF PAST AMBITIOUS PROJECT

*By Linda Heald*

In July, the FGS Board agreed to a plan to update the previous Cemetery Project undertaken nearly twenty years ago. The first survey was a massive endeavor under the direction of Donna Walcovy, past President of the FGS. Donna and members photographed the headstones and transcribed by hand the inscriptions. With this information, Donna created a website and then developed the software to receive all this information.

Since then, and with the widespread use of the internet, a popular website called [FindAGrave](#) was established in 2010 for users to upload their family’s and friends’ gravesites. It’s a free website, owned by Ancestry, yet propelled by volunteers who add memorials with uniform information from cemeteries world-wide. Adding GPS coordinates is one of its latest improvements. Why is GPS even important? Well, in large ceme-

teries, it’s very difficult to find a loved one’s grave. You need an idea of where to start. The map on [FindAGrave](#) enables you to see approximately where the headstone is located. Between the photo and the pin, you have a good chance of success. Also, over time, some stones have become undecipherable. Having a picture and GPS will help in locating the person you are hunting for.

Currently, we are creating memorials that have not yet

*(cont'd. on page 9)*

## CEMETERY PROJECT

(cont'd. from page 8)

been added to [FindAGrave](#), including both inscriptions and GPS coordinates to each headstone. We also plan to build on the earlier project in several ways. We want to communicate with the churches or institution(s) responsible for each cemetery, so we are developing a contact list. While we are in the cemeteries, we also are taking stock of overturned and broken stones, while noting issues attendant to each cemetery. Sadly, the stones have seen much deterioration in the intervening years—the earlier photos attest to this.

Having set out these goals, we need to train volunteers on the [FindAGrave](#) mobile app; the first step is to download it on your smart phone at [Find a Grave/mobileapp](#). This request comes with a disclaimer. It's addictive. It is pleasurable to walk the cemeteries and take photos and make out the names and dates so important to genealogical research.

We are reaching out to our cemetery partners when we complete each cemetery to report on our progress. We share our results: the number of headstones added, the percentage of headstones with GPS coordinates, and anything else we've noted.



MEMBERS USING FINDA GRAVE APP AT OAK GROVE

In just two months, we have completed our work in nine cemeteries. They were the smallest ones. We are on track to complete four more cemeteries in 2024. Those will be St. Anthony's and St. Joseph's and two tiny cemeteries, one of which is hidden in the woods. In 2025, our task will be to complete the GPS tagging and other tasks at the largest and older cemeteries, making them the more challenging ones.

After the work of recording at all seventeen cemeteries is complete, we will turn our attention to advocating for the long-term care and repair of the cemeteries. As we work in the cemeteries, we are noting fallen and broken headstones and other issues, like invasive plants, that impact the cemetery. With this information, we will work with partners, and talented volunteers across the community to prioritize and address the most urgent needs.

### **We need more HELP.**

#### **Will you volunteer?**

This is a very large undertaking, involving the collabora-

tion of Falmouth's non-profits, businesses and churches., which share in the vision that we can have magnificent cemeteries. We need your input and creative ideas. This cannot be stressed enough. Whether you want to volunteer for just an afternoon or join us as we progress from one cemetery to the next, you will make a difference. If you have more specific talents that you would like to offer, talk to us. There is a place for researchers, graphic artists, and gardeners. Of course, we will need permission from our cemetery partners before any action can be undertaken. Let's get together and roll up our sleeves to demonstrate how much we cherish our ancestors and our cemeteries. Our ultimate goal is that every cemetery be fully documented and returned to its handsome, visual appealing, and historically fitting place.

Ralph Wadleigh and Linda Heald are leading this effort. Please send your ideas or get involved by contacting Linda at [heald30@gmail.com](mailto:heald30@gmail.com) or Ralph at [whplar@comcast.net](mailto:whplar@comcast.net).

*Note Bene: The Falmouth Historical Society leads wonderful tours through the cemeteries. The docents are phenomenal. We'd encourage you to sign up for one of their tours.*

## ON THE ROAD WITH FGS

### At ASICS Falmouth Road Race

Our thanks to the 20+ FGS members and friends who volunteered for the ASICS Falmouth Road Race. The FGS Team helped with pre-race activities at Falmouth High School on August 12. Specifically, the team rolled hundreds—maybe thousands—of commemorative posters that were included in runners' gift bags. FGS benefits in two ways from this activity—a fun morning for volunteers and a \$500 gift from the road race that supports FGS programs.



### *Road Race Volunteers Pictured*

Sitting: Dottie Priestley, Margaret Rioux, Martha Brennan, Anne Keller, and kneeling Ralph Wadleigh

Standing Middle Row: Ingrid Frank, FGS

Friend #1?, Deb Wino-grad, Barbara Silva, Kathy Taylor, Caroline Anderson, and FGS Friend #2?

Standing Back Row: Sandy Sullivan, Robert Gunning, , Mary Anne Conboy, Ray Howe, Tim Martin, and Sandy Hadamard.

**Please help us identify the two unnamed FGS Friends in the photo above. Thanks, too, to those volunteers who missed the group photo!**

### At Falmouth Senior Center

Our outreach programs at the Falmouth Senior Center continue to be popular—waiting lists for each session! In July, August, and September, we brought our “Help Desk” format to the Senior Center where we provided individual consults to more than 30 individuals interested in beginning or continuing their family history research. Based on

the keen interest and warm welcome by Senior Center staff and members, we plan to continue this monthly programming. Thanks to FGS members Caroline McKee Anderson, Mary Anne Conboy, Linda Heald, Tim Martin, Ralph Wadleigh, Diana Stadtmiller, and Wenda Windbigler for sharing their enthusiasm and expertise.

## NERGC CONFERENCE      SAVE THE DATES!

OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 1, 2025 MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium's (NERGC) bi-annual conference will take place in 2025. It's not too early to put this outstanding regional conference on your genealogical calendar.

FGS is a founding member of NERGC and actively participates in and supports its activities. Mary Anne Conboy and Wenda Windbigler are FGS's newly appointed NERGC delegate and alternate delegate respectively. They join an impressive group of FGS members who have held this position, most recently Phyllis Day.

The first NERGC Conference was held in 1992 in Sturbridge, Mass. with 14 Societies participating. The 2023 Conference, held in Springfield, Mass. featured over 100 presentations and workshops with highly esteemed speakers.

Information about NERGC and the upcoming conference can be found at [www.nergc.org](http://www.nergc.org).

## FGS MEMBER AND FRIEND NEWS

**We want to hear from you. Think “class note” from your high school or college alumni magazine. Do you have a genealogical success story? Have you made a recent discovery? Do you want to solicit help from other members? Are you willing to share your area of expertise with others? Have you enjoyed a professional or personal accomplishment?**

**Send your brief (100 words) update for the next FGS newsletter. Note that submissions may be edited for clarity or space restrictions.**

### **Mary Ellen Williams**

writes: Very recently, I reactivated my membership in the Falmouth Genealogical Society, after moving from Falmouth to Charlottesville, Virginia, seven years ago. During the Covid pandemic, I wrote and published (2020) a book entitled *Our Ancestors. Early Settlers in America*. The book chronicles histories of four branches of my family: Magoon, Foster, Wetzel, and Morse. In the early 1980s, not having any knowledge of ancestors before my grandparents, I was encouraged by an elderly aunt, who lived in Falmouth, to delve into my family history—and the amazing journey continues!

**Len Egan** published his first novel, *The Night Not at the Blue Heron Inn* in 2023. The intriguing—and keep you guessing—mystery is set in a sleepy Cape Cod village. Len’s characters solve the mystery in much the same way a genealogist approaches a tricky research question. His book is available at Eight Cousins Books.

**Jill Morelli** published her book, *Journeys of the Forgotten, The Orphans of Hamilton County, Iowa* in 2024. Her book chronicles her extensive research that identified thirty-five of the forty-six orphans who arrived in Hamilton County, Iowa from New York City in the fall of 1890. The book is available at amazon.com.

**Greg Anderson** recently received his membership in the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, proving his lines to both William Brewster and John Howland (and thus to Elizabeth Tilley and her parents John Tilley and Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley. Growing up in Missouri, with generations of ancestors in Missouri, Arkansas, and Georgia dating to the early 1800s, Greg never imagined that his mother’s maternal roots would take him to the May-

flower passage—and to many of the earliest families on Cape Cod.

**Dottie Priestley** finally found the Baptism record for an Irish great grandmother. A distant DNA cousin in Ireland confirmed the find and even sent a photo of the farmland where she likely had lived!

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center (Indiana) has been an FGS organizational member since 2000. FGS Members **Tim Martin and Linda Heald** have both made trips to this destination genealogical research center. The Center’s helpful website can be found at: <https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>. Ask Tim or Linda how to make the most of a trip to this resource library.

**Caroline Anderson** is available to help FGS members who want to explore their Swedish ancestry. She can share helpful resources and introduce users to ArkivDigital, Sweden’s largest and most extensive online archive of digitized original records.

**Send your news to Caroline McKee Anderson at [caroline@gregandcaroline.net](mailto:caroline@gregandcaroline.net) or call her at 206-300-7020.**



**Need HELP**  
with your Research?

Zoom sessions  
free to members

**Team Up!**

with FGS volunteers  
to move you forward!

More information  
at [falgen.org](http://falgen.org)

**Or simply drop in  
any Tuesday at the  
Reference Room  
Falmouth Public  
Library  
from 2:00 - 4:00 pm**

SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society, Inc.**

PO Box 2107  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107  
Website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)

**Officers**

*President*  
Tim Martin

*Vice President*  
Clyde Tyndale

*Treasurer*  
Ray Howe

*Secretary*  
Ralph Wadleigh

**Committees/Chairs**

*Finance*/Ray Howe & Diana  
Stadtmitter  
*Help Sessions*/Tim Martin  
*Membership*/Caroline Anderson  
*Newsletter*/Dottie Priestley  
*NERGC*/Mary Anne Conboy  
*Publications*/Dottie Priestley  
*Publicity*/TBD  
*Technology*/Tim Martin  
*Cemetery*/Linda Heald

**At Large**

David Burt  
Jerry Luby

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

Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)

Internet addresses contained in this publication are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. of any of the products, services or opinions of the corporation or organization or individual. Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. bears no responsibility for the accuracy, legality or content of the external site or for that of subsequent links. Contact the external site for answers to questions regarding its content.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER—WELCOME LINDA HEALD

Linda Heald was appointed to the FGS Board of Directors in August 2024. Linda joined FGS in 2021 and recently joined the team of consultants providing genealogy classes at the Falmouth Senior Center. She said the work at the Senior Center is very moving to witness senior participants so delighted to learn about their own story, their ancestors and the places they lived.

For Linda, her tree had been researched. She thought, what was there for her to do? So in 2014, she was recovering from cancer and decided to go take pictures of the grave-stones of her family, ancestors, and then photographed whole cemeteries. She and her daughter have made several trips to New Brunswick and Nova Scotia as well as every New England state.



LINDA HEALD

Linda is drawn to projects. She has been a stage manager, swim team manager, and firstborn of four. She organized a conference for Earth Day in Boston in 1995. She's part helper and part cheerleader. She said anything is possible with lots of enthusiasm.

Linda has found a big passion project. Linda, along with longtime Board member Ralph Wadleigh, is spearhead-

ing the 2024 Falmouth Cemetery Project. (Please see related articles on pages 7, 8 and 9).

In addition to her commitment to genealogy, Linda is a devoted environmentalist and is currently active in supporting the work of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod. She can be reached at [heald30@gmail.com](mailto:heald30@gmail.com).

## FROM THE FGS WEBSITE

The FGS Website ([www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)) is an outstanding resource for its members and the community.

You can find a myriad of helpful links to genealogical research resources as well as documents to download. Go to [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) and choose the "Resources" tab in the gold bar. At the top of the page, you'll find both pedigree and family group charts to download. We also encourage you to download the "Get Going with Genealogy!" quick-start document that provides links to some of the most common genealogical sites along with some helpful hints.

You'll also find a growing list of links to local, regional, national, and world genealogical and historical resources. Thanks to FGS President and webmaster for compiling and maintaining these helpful resources.

**Special Note: Some content—like recordings and handouts of our monthly meetings—is available only to members. For the members-only password, contact Tim Martin by phone or text at 630-740-0881.**