

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

February – April 2012

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

Program Notes From Meetings

Breaking a Brick Wall

*Solving David Martin's lineage to George Soule
As summarized by Ralph Wadleigh.*

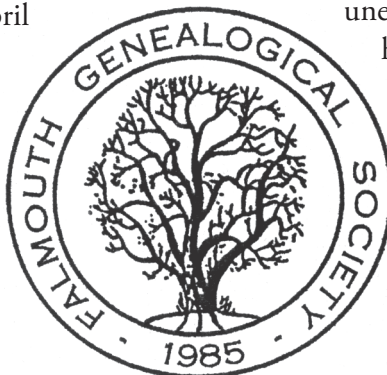
On April 14, 2011, David Martin spoke to FGS regarding methodology use to solve a brick wall in his lineage to Pilgrim George Soule. David started with the George Soule Mayflower Society "Silver Book" which lists the descendants of George Soule through five generations naming the children of the sixth. This book showed a David Sisson as having been born on 4 April 1779 citing a family bible and a "death book" in the hands of a Franklin Sisson of Westport, MA. Using this information, David submitted his application to the Mayflower Society. The Historian General at the time, Carolyn Kardell, rejected David's application reasoning that the 1779 date showed the age of the mother at the time of David Sisson's birth was 51, too old to be correct.

Not to be defeated, David rechecked the sources and attempted to locate Franklin Sisson, the owner of the bible and death book. Regrettably, David found that Sisson has passed away, but family members had information.

They said the bible had been lost, but the death book had been saved and was safely in a bank safe deposit box. At David's request photocopies of the relevant pages were made and David used these photocopies to resubmit his application to the Mayflower Society. Again Historian

General Kardell felt that the date was still 1779, but unexpectedly checked a publication on colonial handwriting. This publication made her believe that the birth year really was 1774, making the birth mother's age an acceptable 46. David application was approved! Whew!

What does this tell us about breaking down a brick wall? First, write down everything you know about the ancestor. Second, do a source check and get to the original source if possible. Third, create a timeline for the ancestor's life. Fourth, study persons associated with the ancestor. Fifth, consider alternative sources and scenarios. Sixth, don't trust the published sources and seventh, don't give up!



Calendar of Meetings for 2012

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- | | |
|----------|--|
| May 12: | Jeramie Hammond - Vision for a New FGS Website |
| June 9: | Dennis Ahern - Irish Internet Genealogy |
| July 14: | Joyce Pendery - Examples of Genealogical Research in France |
| Aug 11: | Sharon Sergeant - Investigative Genealogy |
| Sep 8: | Richard Harbison - German Research at the Family History Library |
| Oct 13: | Al Moniz - A Research Trip to Portugal |



Gail Kenney, Stan Vincent and David Martin, Falmouth Genealogical Society, April 12, 2012

My Provincetown Ancestors

Presented by Janet Burt Chalmers – December 8, 2011

When I told Ralph Wadleigh that I'd like to read a very poignant letter written by my great-grandmother's brother to his grandson in 1924, and tell a little bit about my Provincetown Burt ancestors, I had no idea how my presentation would take on a life of its own.

I started out to introduce my great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Burt, and her younger brother, Matthias William Burt, who were born on Long Point in Provincetown, Mary in 1838, and Matthias in 1851. They were

two of the children of John Graham Burt and Rosetta Small.

As I wrote my story and chose the pictures for my presentation I gained new insights about myself and my role as a mother, aunt, grandmother and great-aunt.

I hope you enjoy my tale and come away from it inspired to tell family stories to your children and grandchildren.

The Provincetown Burts

The Ancestors who Turned me on to Genealogy

As used to be common, my mother's grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Burt Littlefield, was a regular part of her daughter's family. Grandma Littlefield's husband, Joshua Owen Littlefield, died in 1898 at the age of 62, two years before their daughter, Alice Gertrude Littlefield, married Edward Francis Mahady and settled down first in Cambridge and later in West Roxbury. The 1900 census has Mary Littlefield living as a widow in Melrose where she and her husband had raised their family, and the 1910 census has her living in the Mahady household in Cambridge.

My mother, Alice Gertrude Mahady, was born in 1910, the third of three children, her older brothers born in 1902 and 1906. Her grandmother played an important role in my mother's life for the next 24 years. Mom rarely talked about her ancestors, but occasionally she told me tidbits such as the fact that her grandmother used to hide in a closet during thunderstorms, and talked about family members who were "lost at sea."

I was fascinated that my mother's grandmother's last name was Burt, the same as mine. Mom told me about her grandmother being born in Provincetown and about the Mahady family sometimes visiting her grandmother's relatives there. I was enchanted by Mom's tale of running up and down the Provincetown Monument as a girl. I got the impression that the uncle who let her run free was the monument keeper, but I later learned that he was more likely instrumental in getting the monument built.

As a girl, my mother practiced her penmanship, listing her descent from Mayflower passenger Elder William Brewster. This was no doubt taught her by her grandmother whose mother, Rosetta Small Burt, had deep roots on Cape Cod.

My mother had a favorite ancestor named Tamsin Lombard who she told me she had wanted to name me for, but Dad had apparently vetoed the name. Tamsin Lombard was the grandmother of my mother's grandmother, Mary Burt, and the mother of Rosetta Small. Obviously, Mom's grandmother must have told my mother tales of her grandmother, but unfortunately, Mom never passed those on to me. I did learn later that Tamsin Lombard was known by her Provincetown grandchildren as Mammy Small.

I got interested in genealogy as a child when both my parents rolled out huge scrolls of their family trees. Dad used to point out names of people and tell us stories about them. My favorite was Uncle Gage, who Dad said "burned out his gizzard with strong sauces." Mom used to weep over the many names of her relatives who were listed as "lost at sea."

Early on, I wanted to find a relationship between the Burts who lived in Provincetown and my father's ancestors who had settled in Springfield, MA in the 1630s.

My brother David took me to Boston when I was about 12 to buy me a book for recording my family tree. I remember carefully filling out the information I knew, starting with my parents and grandparents and then writing in that same Mayflower line from Elder Brewster my mother used to carefully write, the one that included Tamsin Lombard.

Through the years I've spent a lot of time fleshing out my family tree. I've spent an inordinate amount of time seeking a connection between my Burt lines, but I'm still at a loss. In addition to the Springfield Burts, there are many Taunton Burts whose records I've scoured. They seem to be unrelated. Records are far scarcer in Boston where a family of Burts lived who might have been related to my maternal Burts, but I haven't found a link.

I knew from the records that my mother passed down to us that Mary Elizabeth Burt's parents were John Graham Burt of Boston and Rosetta Small of Truro, and that John's father's name was also John and his mother was Elizabeth Seaver.

Boston vital records showed me that John C. Burt and Elizabeth Seaver were married in Boston in 1817 by the Rev. Daniel Sharp. On the same page I saw that William Burt and Margaret Seaver were married in 1816 by the same minister.

It didn't take me long to find Jonathan Seaver and Margaret Harris, married in 1792 in Boston by Rev. Samuel Stillman, were the parents of Elizabeth and Margaret Seaver.

I also found the record of the marriage of Edward Burt and Tamza Clark in 1790 in Boston, also by the Rev. Samuel Stillman. And I found records of an Edward Burt who married Elizabeth Dunham in Plymouth in 1817, whose first child was named Tamson Clark Burt.

Many of the children descended from John, William and Edward Burt carried on the Clark, Harris and Seaver

names, giving me good reason to link the three as brothers, sons of Edward and Tamza. I had no better proof then and still don't.

I got some good information from a letter dated March 14, 1971 to my parents from my mother's brother, Francis Littlefield Mahady, who had apparently heard that my brother David had been working on genealogy.

Uncle Fran wrote:

Dear Alice and Charlie,

... David [Charles David Burt] is doing well with his research.

I think you have the information on Mother's family. Grandma's maiden name was Burt. One of her amusements was to slide down the backs of whales washed ashore. She lived on the "point" of Provincetown Harbor. One winter the houses were moved over the ice across the harbor to the town.

Our great uncle Will Burt [who turned out to be Matthias William Burt] owned a schooner the "Foster" which supplied packet service Provincetown, Gloucester, Boston. I sailed on his boat once. Davis and I had the measles so we had to stay in the stern. The other kids were in the bow. I cannot understand my recollection of his whirling the wheel. On every boat I have ever steered I was cautioned not to give it too much wheel. I looked up her registry with the idea of adding it to Frank Swift's windjammer fleet in Camden, but she came to a bad end in the warm water of the Caribbean.

As you know Grandma married a Littlefield from Wells, Me. He made a lot of money but his investments went down.

If David wants any addresses I have, I'll be glad to send them. In examining the family tree I hope he does not find anyone hanging on it.



Uncle Fran's letter inspired me to go searching for any Provincetown Burts who might still be living. I scolded myself for not asking my mother questions when I had had the opportunity. I might never find out who Edward Burt and Tamza Clark were, but I might find something if I made contacts with long-lost cousins.

In 2000, I decided to try writing to all the Burts listed in the Cape Cod phone book on the outer Cape, sending a packet of pictures and what information I knew about the Provincetown Burts and my connection to them.

I hit paydirt! Laura Burt, my third cousin once removed, descended from my great-grandmother Mary Burt Littlefield's younger brother, Matthias William Burt, left her groceries to thaw on the kitchen counter and called me immediately on opening my letter and seeing pictures of her ancestors. All excited, she invited me to Provincetown to show me photographs and genealogical gleanings in her grandfather John William Burt's house on Commercial Street.

John William Burt's house was full of portraits of ships and family members. Laura had spread out photographs, family trees and hand-written notes all over the dining room table. Immediately I saw pictures of people I recognized from my own grandmother's albums. I even spotted a photograph of my grandmother labeled Gertrude.

Not only did I find a new cousin interested in her ancestors, I also found records of someone who had been searching for the same information I was a hundred years earlier! Matthias William Burt, born in 1851 on Long Point in Provincetown, was seeking his Burt roots just as I was. And he had discovered the connection between his grandfather John C. Burt and brothers William and Edward, and was in written communication with some of their descendants. I was amazed!

In addition to researching the Burt family, Matthias set out to record his granddaughters' ancestry through their Cape Cod lines, not only the ones I have through Rosetta Small, but through his wife, Alma Porter Nickerson's lines. Matthias went to Sturgis Library in Barnstable where he carefully copied lineages of many Cape families.

The most wonderful record Matthais left was a poignant letter to his grandson, John William Burt, in 1924, two years before he died. He told what he knew of his father's family. He apologized for not being well educated and for not caring early enough to find out more about his ancestors when he could have asked his grandmother for information.

Here is the letter:

Provincetown, Mass. 1924

To John William Burt from his grandfather Matthias William Burt.

What I know about our ancestors: not as much as I wish it was, but all that I have been able to find out. If I had thought or cared as much about it when I was the age you are now, I could have found out a lot from my grandmother Small [Tamsin Lombard Small] about my mother's people.

She was born in Truro in 1785 and always lived there, and was 89 years old when she died. She was an interesting talker and had a good memory, and knew the history of Truro and all the people that lived there in her day.

All I know about my father's people is what I remember hearing him [John Burt] or uncle Edward say. They were born on Essex St. in Boston. The house they lived in was near the water and must have been somewhere between South Station and the Hotel Essex.

When my father was about 10 years old his father [John C. Burt] was killed in a mill that stood on Wheelers Point. It was in the vicinity of their house.

I think I have heard Uncle Edward say they ground plaster in the mill.

My grandmother [Elizabeth Seaver Burt] was left with three small children. My father, John, was the oldest, about 10, Uncle Edward about 2, and Aunt Elizabeth between the two.

My father was playing about the docks one day and Capt. Paul Bangs of Provincetown was there in a fishing vessel. He took quite a liking to my father and found out about him and asked him if he did not want to go fishing with him and live with him in Provincetown.

My father told him he would go if his mother was willing, so Capt. Bangs went to his house and talked with his mother. She thought it would be the best thing for him, so she let him go.

He came to Provincetown and lived with Capt. Bangs, went fishing with him, and when a young man, was Capt. of a fishing vessel himself.

His mother married again. She with her husband [Israel Russell] and other children [Edward Clark Burt, Elizabeth Burt, and Louisa Russell] came to Provincetown to live, and all died there, and are all buried in Provincetown soil.

My father went to sea about all his life or as long as he was able – cod fishing, whaling, mackerel or halibut fishing. The

last of his going he ran a packet between Provincetown and Boston.

At one time he bought a house on Long Point and lived there about 15 years and went fishing from there. Then he moved the house to town and lived in it until he died. At one time there were about 40 houses on the Point, but they were all moved to town and most of them are at the west end.

My Uncle Edward, fathers brother, came here when a boy, and went fishing until the Civil War. He was the first one that enlisted from Provincetown, and was in the Navy during most of the war.

After the war he went to New York for a small steamboat named the Tourist to be used in the engineers' department around Boston Harbor. He was Capt. of her over thirty years, as long as his health and age would let him.

His wife [Ruth Lecount] died some years before he did, and when at home he lived with his daughter until she died just a few years before he did, so he left no descendants.

My Aunt Elizabeth, my fathers sister, came here when a girl. She married Capt. Myrick Cook. He was Capt of a whalerman a good many years. The last of his days he kept a grocery store.

They had two children that lived to grow up. One was Edward Burt Cook. When he was 22 he was Capt of a whalerman. One day he was out in the boat and struck a blackfish. The line got around his leg and hauled him overboard, and he was drowned. They got his body and brought it home in a cask of oil. He is buried here.

The other son, George Myrick Cook, went fishing when young, then got into large vessels and was Capt of a four masted schooner, and died of a fever in a port in South America and was buried there. He was married and left one son whose home is in Philadelphia.

My fathers half sister, Louisa [Russell], came here with her mother. She first married a man named Blake. He was lost at sea and she was left with a little boy named James H. Blake who is now living in Cambridge.

Then she married Capt. Nathaniel C. Atwood. He was a great authority on fish. They had three children: Myrick, who is living here now and is collector in the Custom House, and two daughters who are not living here.

I was born on Long Point near where the end of the break-water now is, and not far from the place where the first boat from the Mayflower landed Nov. 11th 1620. I was born on the same day of the same month 231 years after.

When I was 4 or 5 years old, father moved the house over to town and it is in the same place now that he moved it. Some years after he moved it he raised it up and built a story under the old part. The house is now owned by William Wolf.

When I was 10 years old I started in fishing and went 14 years in that business. Then my father bought the packet James P. Foster Jr. I went in it with him as long as he went, then I took her and went altogether 40 years. Then I sold her to Gloucester parties. They kept her three years then sold her to the West Indies.

The vessel was built in 1862 in East Haddam Conn., was 14 years old when father bought her. I went in her 40 years. She was owned in Gloucester 3 years, so was 57 years old when she went to the West Indies.

When I first went in her lots of business was done by packets. Provincetown had 3 or 4 in summer and 8 or 10 more carrying fish in winter, besides a steamboat. Wellfleet had 2 or 3 packets, Eastham 1, Barnstable 1, Plymouth 1, Scituate 1, Cohasset 1, Salem 1, Gloucester 2 or 3, Rockport 1, and a lot from places in Maine.

When I sold her after 40 years there was not one left. She [James P. Foster, Jr.] was the last of the packets.

Since then I have worked at different things on shore and will keep at it has long as my health and strength will let me. I have worked ever since I was big enough, and want to as long as I can.

I had two brothers and two sisters. I was the youngest. My oldest brother died young. My oldest sister [Mary E. Burt Littlefield] is living now with her daughter [Alice Gertrude Littlefield Mahady]. She was 85 last October. Her husband [Joshua Owen Littlefield] is dead, and of 4 children, 1 is living and 7 or 8 grandchildren.

My other sister [Rosetta Small Burt] died a few years ago. She was married twice. Her first husband was Capt of a whaleman and lost at sea. Her second husband was a store keeper and died at home. She had 3 children. 2 died young. One grew up to be a young man then died, so she left no descendants.

My other brother [John Seaver Burt] was lost at sea in the same vessel with my sister's husband. He was married about two months before he sailed. The vessel sailed from here on the 25th of Jan 1867. A heavy gale came up on the 27th and [I] suppose she was lost in that gale with all her crew, as she was never heard from after she sailed. She was a new vessel and had been fishing only a few months. Her name was the Willie Irwin. Some called her the Little Willie. My brother left no descendants.

I have two children, one son [John Seaver Burt], one daughter [Myra Cook Burt]. The son is married and has a son [John William Burt], the daughter is married and has a daughter [Lucia Burt Jones].

I am in hopes my grandchildren will leave some descendants. I hope the name Burt will not die out. My grandfather's name was John [C.] Burt my father's name was John [Graham] Burt my brother's name was John [Seaver Burt]. My son's name is John [Seaver Burt] and his son's name is John [William Burt], and I am in hopes he will live to have a son he can name John Burt.

I have written this so that my descendants will know something about their ancestors after I am gone. They would find it hard work to find out if they wanted to. Every generation makes it harder.

I know this is not written well, but it is the best I could do. I have wished a good many times my education was better, but I never went to school in the summer after I was 10 years old. I went to the winter school but there were so many boys there they could not learn much if they tried, but I did not try as hard as I wished I had after it was too late.

Most all the men here went to sea, and I thought it did not require much of an education to do that. All I thought was to be smart and catch as many fish as any one, so that is what I tried for, and I caught my share of fish and did my share of work, but in later years I found out my mistake, as we have only one life to live and mine is nearly over now.

It is too late to alter it, but in looking up my ancestors I have found out that some of them were very smart men in their day, and when I think what they were and think what my life has been, I feel ashamed of myself.

But I have the satisfaction of knowing I have used everyone as near right as I knew how, and am not ashamed to look anyone in the face.

My father and all my relations that I can remember have been honest, hard-working people, and I had rather be descended from such people than a man that is worth millions that got it dishonest.

So now William I will close what your grandmother calls truck and write down what I know about the different families we are connected with but I wish some of my ancestors a 100 or more years ago had written down the same kind of truck for me. Your education is better than mine and [you] will see my mistakes but it will answer the purpose it was intended for, to know some of your ancestors and where they came from.

Postscript

As a postscript I want to report that Matthias Burt's name does live on. Though his grandson never had a son to name John, one of his daughters had a girl who felt terrible about the Burt name dying out and changed her last name to Burt. When she married and had a son, she talked her husband into giving the baby the surname Burt.

I am talking about Laura Burt, my 3rd cousin once removed, who opened her grandfather's home to me in 2000 to share her ancestor Matthias William Burt's genealogical gleanings, photographs and stories. Laura and her husband Alan Gonsalves named their son Matthias Alan Burt.

I still hope to discover an early connection between Edward Burt and Tamza Clark who married in Boston in 1790, and my father's Burt line, but I know that I have forged an immediate connection between my maternal and paternal Burts. I am thrilled about that.

After meeting Laura Burt, I connected with Jeannette Burt Priestley online, a descendant of Edward and Tamza through their son Edward and his wife Betsy Dunham. Jeannette was so excited about my tale of meeting Laura that we all gathered in Provincetown with our husbands to meet each other and bond.

I have recently made contact with Emily Hills Aasted, the daughter of Lucia Hills Jones, one of Matthias Burt's descendants. Emily has shared photo files and other information.

And I've gotten my brothers involved too. David and I enjoyed a photography trip to several cemeteries in Truro and Provincetown to shoot ancestors' gravestones. David particularly liked finding Burts clustered together in the shadow of the Provincetown Monument.

A couple of years ago I took my son, Jeremy Burt Chalmers, and his family to Provincetown to climb the monument, gaze down on Long Point and the cemetery where their Provincetown ancestors are buried, and see John William Burt's house where I made my first connection with our cousin Laura Burt.

Naturally, I told my grandchildren, Hadley and Charlie, all the tales I knew about the Provincetown Burts, hoping I was planting the seeds of interest in genealogy in them.

Last year at Thanksgiving, Jeremy's family and my daughter Sarah's family met with us at Plimoth Plantation to see the

Pilgrim village and meet some of the people impersonating Mayflower passengers. We took a family photo in front of Elder William Brewster's house, and talked with Stephen Hopkins and Thomas Rogers, all Mayflower ancestors of ours through Rosetta Small Burt.

Though my mother knew one Mayflower line from Elder Brewster, I had found another, plus two from Stephen Hopkins and one from Thomas Rogers. It is important to me that my grandchildren know that information.

One more thought:

It has been apparent through the years that the common essence my brothers and I share is a love for the sea and an innate ability to sail well. From childhood, I always attributed our sailing finesse to our father who loved boats and gave us endless opportunities to enjoy both pleasure sailing and racing.

After discovering the character of the Provincetown Burts, however, I wonder if our genes got a double dose of passion for the sea. I like to think that David, Ted and I are as much Provincetown Burts as we are Springfield Burts, and that we are the link I have been searching for all these years.

I feel happy for all my extended family that the Burt surname continues in our family through my parents' great-grandchildren, and that the interest in our ancestors continues to be sparked.

A couple of nights ago I got a call from my nephew Jon Burt, son of my brother Ted Burt and his wife Eileen. Jon put me on to his son, eight-year-old Ethan Burt, who was studying the Mayflower in school and wanted to know about his ancestor who was a Mayflower passenger.

Delighted, I told Ethan a few tidbits including the story of his great-grandmother writing her Mayflower descent from Elder Brewster as a penmanship exercise. I also told Ethan that he was descended from Stephen Hopkins and Thomas Rogers, two Mayflower passengers my mother didn't know about.

I want to thank my parents for introducing me to genealogy by melding the Burt lines. I hope I can instill a passion for genealogy in at least one of my five grandchildren.

Janet Chalmers wishes to thank the members of the Society for the lovely arrangement of flowers recently sent to her while she was in the hospital.

Book Review: *American Crisis*, George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years after Yorktown 1781-1783, by William M. Fowler, Jr.

Bill Fowler, former director of the Massachusetts Historical Society and present Distinguished Professor of History at Northeastern University has brought us a closely researched and fascinating account of George Washington's struggles with a bankrupt and intransigent Congress in the years between his victory at Yorktown and final ratification of the peace treaty. From a genealogical point of view there are a number of personal sketches of certain of Washington's officer corps as well as his opposites on the British side. (Fowler gives NEHGS' Gary Boyd Roberts a thank you for help in these matters). In this writer's opinion however, the most interesting part of the book, is the description of the manner in which both sides handled the Loyalist migration into New York City prior to the British withdrawal in late November 1783. Perhaps 20,000 loyalists left the New York City area in that year, with many going to Nova Scotia. Another interesting aspect of this period is Washington's concern about the number of slaves being included as part of Loyalist property, probably due to his own position as a slaveholder. It probably also reflects southern interests in Congress because blacks were included with Loyalist departures in both Savannah and Charleston when the British withdrew from those cities earlier in 1783. If you have a Loyalist in your ancestry, this source will provide valuable background on how their interests were managed (or not). The book is available through CLAMS.

THE 1940 CENSUS: COUNTDOWN TO APRIL 2, 1940

January 14, 2012 FGS program, presented by MICHAEL BROPHY

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG

The good news is that as you read this, the 1940 census is about to or may already have been released. It is said to be one of the largest collections of genealogical information ever released. The bad news is that there will not yet be an index. Volunteers are currently compiling indices, but it is a huge project.

Before indices have been compiled, to locate the people of interest to you in the 1940 census, you need to know

where they lived to find the Enumeration District (E.D.) in which their names are included. Once you know the E.D., you will have to scan the pages of that E.D. to find your people. Sounds like fun! The web site <http://stevemorse.org> gives E.D.s for cities and rural areas.

U.S. Censuses have been taken every ten years since 1790 and are released after 72 years. From 1790 through 1840, only heads of household were listed with a count of household members by age and sex only. Beginning in 1850 every member of the household was listed, and as the decades progressed, more and more information about each person was collected. This is true for 1940 as well, with about 20% more questions asked, especially about employment, a concern at the time. The name of the person giving the information was indicated in 1940. The format for display of information has been changed, as well, with names in the center of the line rather than at the left side.

When looking at census data, always remember that the person who gave the information may have intentionally or accidentally provided false information (especially about age). Errors in transcription can occur and not everyone was counted.

Mr. Brophy recommended using information and the tutorial on Steve Morse's web site <http://stevemorse.org/ed/ed.php> to get started. Ancestry.com also has a 1940 census substitute database. Start out by compiling a list of people you want to find. The crucial factor is to know where each individual lived on April 1, 1940. If you think they did not move between 1930 and 1940, look them up in the 1930 census and note their E.D., found at the top of the page. The E.D. could have changed, even if they did not move. If you don't know where they lived, interview living relatives; see if you can find their names in city directories; look for probate records, deeds, obituaries, vital records, and personal papers.

Sources

Morse, Steven P., Find ED Definitions in One Step, (<http://stevenmorse.org/ed/ed.php>)

Ancestry.com 1940 census substitute, 1940 Census Substitute Database (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/grouplist.aspx?group=1940+census>)

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

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

Falmouth Genealogical Society

President's Report

Ralph Wadleigh – June 9, 2012

Once again it has been my privilege to serve at FGS's President during the past year. 2011-2012 has been relatively stable. Membership had held about even and meeting attendance has been satisfactory. Meeting attendance depends greatly of course, on the weather and the topic! Interest continues strong in our Tuesday help sessions at the Library. This activity plays an important role in attracting new members and teaching research skills. Our financial condition continues to be excellent. Our attractive newsletter continued to be published.

Recently, I took steps to improve the governance of the Society. Today we will be voting on some new board members and we will institute more frequent board meetings. This will improve communications among the membership, foster a better exchange of ideas and insure a smooth transition a year from now when my second term as President expires. Thanks to those who volunteered to join the board.

Some work remains on our two data projects, cemetery transcription and obituary index. Photographs still remain to be done at Oak Grove Cemetery. The obituary project

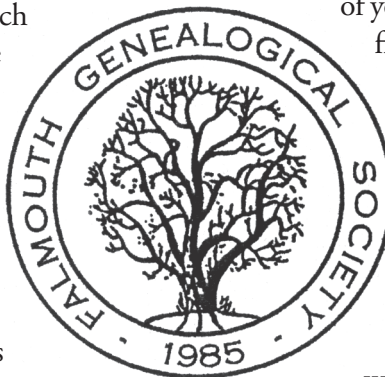
simply needs to be consolidated into one file, printed and uploaded to the web. This will provide an obituary index for the Falmouth Enterprise from 1960 through 2011. I am indebted to several of you for help on this project.

The biggest task in the upcoming year will be to address the need for an improved design of our website. Several of you have volunteered to help in this matter. The first step that needs to be taken is to hold an initial meeting and designate a chairperson.

I wish to salute two members of the board who are resigning. John Peri and Bob Rice both are long term FGS members and have faithfully served in many capacities over the years. Fortunately they will be close at hand and hopefully will continue to help in whatever way they can.

Finally, I wish to thank you for your support and encouragement

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Wadleigh, President



Calendar of Meetings for 2012

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

Sep. 8: Richard Harbison - German Research at the Family History Library

Oct 13: Al Moniz - A Research Trip to Portugal

Nov 10: Joint Meeting with CCGS featuring two lectures by Marcia Melnyk

Dec 8: Annual Holiday Food Fest

Program Notes From Meetings

Using the Internet for Irish Research

June 9, 2012 Program presented by Dennis J. Ahern

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, C.G.

Irish genealogy specialist Dennis J. Ahern of Acton, Mass. presented an informative, interesting, and amusing talk on "Using the Internet for Irish Research" at the annual meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society on June 9, 2012.

For more than twenty years, Ahern has been tracing all branches of the large Irish Ahern (by several spellings) family in Ireland and anywhere they may have settled. As a result, he has created a huge database of information, available online at <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~aherns>.

Ahern's handout included a list of web sites for Irish research that he recommends, also available online at <http://world.std.com/~ahern/class5.htm>. Just click on any of the websites on the list to open it. He discussed several of the web sites:

* Cyndi's List for Ireland, a very comprehensive list of Irish web sites and information.

* Castle Garden, the principal point of emigrant entry before Ellis Island.

* Commonwealth War Graves, with information about war-related deaths of British citizens.

* Irish Atlas Townland Database.

* Griffiths Valuation Survey, taken between 1848 and 1864 of all the land of Ireland to establish the local tax rate. Information includes names of each land owner and householder or leaseholder, a description of the property (land, house, outoffices), plus maps showing the location of the properties. The townland must be known to use these records.

* Rootsweb Irish databases.

Helpful information for Irish research can also be found in:

* The 1930 U.S. census which makes a distinction between those born in the Irish Free State and in Northern Ireland.

* The Irish Civil Register of births, marriages, and deaths that began in 1864. Registration of Church of Ireland marriages began in 1845. To use these records, the parish must be known.



* Unfortunately, 19th century Irish census records were destroyed.

For Irish research, knowing the location where ancestors lived is very important. In response to audience questions, Ahern described the complex civil divisions of land in Ireland, noting that the divisions can overlap:

* Townland: smallest unit of land, from a few to hundreds of acres.

* Civil parishes: groupings of townlands for record purposes

* Barony: a portion of a county or group of civil parishes.

* Poor Law Union: collection of civil parishes for taxation to support poorhouses and workhouses

* General Registrar's District, region for keeping of vital records, not necessarily according to county boundaries.

* County: major division of land, divided into East Ridings and West Ridings.

Sources of general information about Irish genealogy include the *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* by Brian Mitchell (2009), web sites for Irish County Libraries, and speaker Dennis J. Ahern, whose email address is: ahern@world.std.com (mention Falmouth Genealogical Society).

Sharon Sergeant: Investigative Genealogy

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, C.G. – August 11, 2011

Sharon Sergeant, our August speaker, is an investigative genealogist. She specializes in forensic genealogy pertaining to legal issues, including heir searching, and solving of difficult genealogical problems that seem to present brick walls.

She used research on her own ancestors to illustrate many of the important issues and pitfalls genealogists face when trying to avoid genealogical traps. Family myth linked her Varnum ancestors to a well known old New England family of that name with English background. She carried out intensive research and a one-name study on that family, but could never link her ancestors to that family. Finally, through a cousin, she learned that her ancestors were French Canadians who changed their name when they immigrated. At that point, with new research, everything fell into place.

Using and understanding the genealogical proof standard, as set forth by the Board for Certification of Genealogists, is basic to sound genealogical research. To begin, she urged genealogists to create a research plan, then to do the research, and finally to thoroughly review all information found. This includes:

- Abstracting and documenting all information found in every possible available source. Find the what, who, where, when, why, and how for each event.
- Keeping a detailed list of sources and noting whether the source is original or derivative, primary or secondary, direct or indirect, and evaluating the information found accordingly.
- Questioning information that might be incorrect, such as information on death certificates that was supplied by an outsider, and resolving conflicting evidence.
- Creating, rearranging, and updating a timeline for family events, either online in a table or on index cards.
- Looking for threads like common occupations, locations, and naming patterns
- Analyzing your information and determining whether information is solid, missing, or conflicting.

- Evaluating the information and noting unanswered questions.

Sharon advised genealogists to create biographies of family members and to document photographs, memorabilia, and heirlooms. Think about the most interesting ways to present your family history: scrapbooks, photo albums, videos or audios, story boards, or even quilts. If writing a family history, be creative and interesting: hold your reader's attention.

And remember that no genealogy is ever done; question everything; leave a legacy by planning additional work for yourself and others; and make it interesting and understandable!



Introduction to Internet Genealogy at the Falmouth Night School Starts September 2012

By Richard Harbison

Based on the fun I had giving the course last year, I plan to give my Introduction to Internet Genealogy course again this fall. The course will be taught at the Lawrence School using the computers in the Computer Lab (they all use Microsoft Windows 7). It will start on 17 September at 6:30, and continue for 6 more 2-hour sessions. Each student in the class is expected to have a flash drive to store the files he or she creates during the course.

The course will cover the latest information on the best websites to look for your ancestors, and will give you a broad perspective on the many resources available on the Internet. It will start by concentrating on "The Big Three:" Google, FamilySearch and Ancestry.com. With these, you can uncover an amazing amount of information. Although the last website, Ancestry.com, is a pay site, remember that you can always use it free at the Falmouth Public Library and even download and store the information you collect, if you have a laptop computer or a flash drive.

From there, we will proceed to explore the numerous smaller databases available on the Web. These can often be rich sources of information. I plan to use examples from

my own genealogical research on my own family, and some research I have done for people who have come in for the Tuesday afternoon help sessions at the Falmouth Public Library. There will be at least one new feature. Last year, a student suggested that we devote part of each week's class time to a session somewhat like "Stump the Chumps" on the radio show "Car Talk." The idea is that we can all pool our knowledge and skills to try to solve a student's genealogy problem. This seems like a great idea to me, and I hope to start doing this after the first few lectures. This may be a useful way to break down a few brick walls.

Last year I had a teaching assistant, but this year I will not have one, which means that I will not be able to help students that do not have basic computer skills. These skills include: the ability to connect to and browse the Internet and the ability to create folders on the computer and download pictures and photos to the folders they have created. Each student should have and use an email account. If, for security reasons, you do not choose to have an email account, I can give the handouts to you at the class, and you can take them home on your flash drive.

Since the course emphasizes "hands on" skills, students are expected to follow my lecture and duplicate it on the computers in the Lawrence Computer Lab. The handouts for each lesson will be emailed to you as PDF files, and I plan to send them to you well before the next class so you can study them as much as you would like before the lesson. This should help you follow along in class.

If you have any questions, email me at gharbison@gmail.com, and I'll be happy to answer them.



WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY OR MEMOIRS?

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

Compiling a family history is a dream that overwhelms most genealogists who want to leave for future generations a printed record of what they have learned about their family, past and present. Writing short memoirs is an alternative, manageable approach that can present family members and family stories, bit by bit. A single memoir can be the description of an event or experience, or about a person or persons we care about, including

ourselves and family members. Memoirs can be short or long, serious or funny, casual or formal in style. Memoirs are truth, not fiction.

Recount family stories you have heard; describe personal experiences or experiences you have shared with family members; write about your personal tastes or interests and why they are your preferences; write about family feuds, family reunions, or family black sheep. Before you know it, you will have a dozen interesting stories to share.

One of my first short memoirs was about a July afternoon when I was seven. A woman who worked at the funeral parlor in a small Kansas town came to my grandparent's home to talk with my mother, my aunts, and some older cousins about how my just-deceased grandmother would be dressed and made up for visitation at the funeral home and for her funeral. In my memoir, I described briefly my grandmother, her illness and death; the room in her home where the relatives gathered; brief descriptions of who was there; my apparent invisibility as the adults discussed the appropriate clothing, makeup, and hair styling; and my fascination with this conversation a seven-year old should not have overheard. (I was not allowed to go to the funeral parlor or to her funeral.) Each time I visit that town, the house of my grandparents, and the cemetery where they are buried, these memories come back to me, as I hope they will to my descendants who pass by.

I wrote another memoir about my family's car trips, when I was a child, from the West Coast to the Midwest to see our relatives. My mother's careful planning included spending one or more nights visiting parents, cousins, aunts and uncles, as well as school friends, of both my father and mother along the way. I was able to describe briefly some of the relatives and friends and their families, their surroundings, their lives, and unusual occurrences.

Libraries on Cape Cod have several good books on writing memoirs, including *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington (Portland, OR, Eighth Mountain Press, 2002). The Cape Cod Writer's Center and several adult education programs offer classes on memoir writing. Try it; you might like it, as I do!

CONSTRUCTING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

October 2012

- ♣ Starting to write a family history
- ♣ Using the computer in genealogical research and much more!

Enroll now in a special Genealogy course being offered by members of the Cape Cod Genealogical Society

When: 3 Monday Afternoons (October 15, 22, and 29)
1:30-3:30 PM

Come to find out valuable information on:

Where: Barnstable Senior Center, Route 28, Hyannis

- ♣ Vital Records
- ♣ Military Records
- ♣ The Census
- ♣ Immigration Records
- ♣ Standards for genealogical evidence
- ♣ Land Records
- ♣ Probate Records

Cost: \$20 for the entire series, including handouts

To Register: complete and return the attached form with check made out to Barnstable Senior Center

Registration deadline: Friday, September 28, 2012

NOTE: Enrollment is limited to 25 participants

QUESTIONS? Contact David Martin at davidchina_2000@yahoo.com, or call 508-420-0224.

BARNSTABLE SENIOR CENTER GENEALOGY WORKSHOPS

October 2012

Registration Form

Name(s):

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

I would like to register for ___ places @\$20 per person for the Genealogy Workshop series to be held on Mondays, October 15, 22, and 29, 2012 at the Barnstable Senior Center, from 1:30-3:30PM. I realize that no prior genealogical experience is necessary.

Please send check by Friday, September 28, 2012, made out to Barnstable Senior Center, in care of:

Susan Griffin
Barnstable Senior Center
185 Falmouth Road
Hyannis, MA 02601

Brief Notes

We are proud to announce the publication of the Index of Obituaries from the Falmouth Enterprise 1960 -2011. The index has been placed in the Reference Department of the Falmouth Public Library and the Archives Department of the Falmouth Historical Society. Persons desiring copies of specific obituaries are encouraged to request them from Ralph Wadleigh at whplar@comcast.net or use the index at the Falmouth Public Library to determine the issue and page number and then obtain the obituary from the appropriate microfilm. Eventually the index will be posted on our web site. Many FGS members were involved in the preparation of the index and it represents a great service to the local genealogical community. Because editions of the Falmouth Enterprise from 1896 to 1962 are to be scanned, and will be able to searched by surname, the FGS index will not be carried to earlier dates.

It's not too early to make plans to attend the New England Regional Genealogical Conference to be held in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 17-21, 2013. It is a superlative way to absorb ways to sharpen your genealogical research, purchase genealogical books and other materials and make new friends. You can learn all the details at www.nergc.org. Check it out!

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:

#413, Donna Randleman of East Falmouth.

#414. Margaret Rioux of East Falmouth, researching Hogg and Carr of northeast England in the 1880s and earlier and McFadden of Iowa.

#415. Frances Caddigan of Teaticket, researching Havey of Winchester, MA, 1850–1870.

#416, Paul J. April Jr. of North Falmouth, researching April and Gagnon of Quebec, Ledoux of MA, Plourde of Maine, Balboni and Lavoie of MA.

#417. Allen Swift of Halifax, MA.

#418. Dottie Priestly of Pocasset, researching Barrett, Densmore, Meaney, Gilbert, and Farrow in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Canada, and Ireland.

#419. Thelma A. Spicer of North Falmouth, researching Higgs, Butlin, Allen, Clarke, Roberts, Hinson in Utica, NY, Salt Lake City, England.

#420. Cynthia J. Kaleskas of North Falmouth, researching Gassett and Miller from Lyme, CT, and Kaleskas from Lithuania.

#421: Rosanne McFarland of Falmouth, researching McFarland of Boston and Cambridge. Mooney of Boston since 1820, Grocott from Derby, England, Drain from Maine, Welch/Walsh of Milford, MA.

#422: Virginia Gregg of Falmouth, researching Morgan.

#423: Ivan William Miller of Monterey, CA, researching Allen, Bowerman, Emery, Gifford, Wing, Swift, Harper, Spooner, Bachilder, Annable of Cape Cod and Fairfield, Maine.

#424: : Ursala M. Boyce of North Falmouth, researching Murdoch and Wiley of New Jersey and Scotland, Boyce of New York, Ireland, and Wales, Roche of New York and Ireland, Brennan of New Jersey and Ireland.

#425: Maureen Steinhauser of West Roxbury, MA, researching McCarthy, Cassidy, McDonnell, Leonard Dolan, Connors, Steinhauser, and Keiser of MA, CT, NY and Ireland and Germany.

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

October – December 2012

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www.falgen.org

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Editor: C. David Burt
cdburt@comcast.net

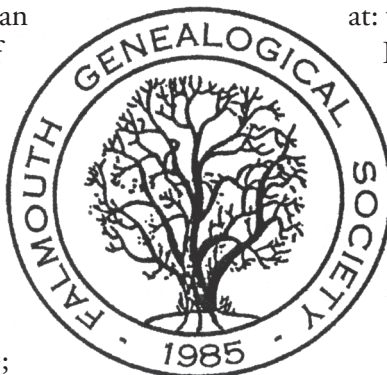
The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

Falmouth Genealogical Society

President's Report

Ralph Wadleigh – January 12, 2013

NERGC's fourth Librarians' and Teachers' Day will be held on Wednesday, 17 April 2013 at the Radisson Hotel Manchester in conjunction with the Twelfth New England Regional Genealogical Conference. The day will be devoted to showing attendees how genealogy can enhance curricula, attract new patrons, and highlight collections. Librarians' and Teachers' Day provides the opportunity for professionals to learn how genealogy can serve them in their dual roles as curators of their unique collections and as ambassadors of genealogy resources for their schools and libraries. All librarians and teachers who work with family history patrons or genealogy-related research materials will benefit from this special event. Sessions include Getting Patrons Started in Genealogy by Christine Sharbrough, MSLIS, CG;



Creating Digital Collections for Genealogists by D. Joshua Taylor; ProQuest Information and Learning by William Forsyth; Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors by Lisa Alzo; and What Genealogists Wish Librarians Knew by Marianne B. Marcussen. The cost is \$40.00 per person and includes lunch compliments of ProQuest. For information about each session, see the full conference brochure at: www.nergc.org/Program.html. To register for Librarians' and Teachers' Day -- or the entire Twelfth New England Regional Genealogical Conference, go to www.nergc.org and click on "Registration".

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph Wadleigh, President

Calendar of Meetings for 2013

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

- Jan 12: Michael Brophy: Paddy on the Net - Irish Internet Genealogy
- Feb 9: Artifact Day: members bring in a family artifact and discuss the ancestor who originally owned it. (need four volunteers!)
- Mar 9: Laura Prescott - Using Timelines to Solve Genealogical Problems.
- Apr 13: TBD
- May 11: Lori Lyn Price: Internet Genealogy In Your PJ's
- Jun 8: TBD
- Jul 13: Al Knight: A Personal History featuring the Crocker Family of Cotuit
- Aug 10: Tales of Our Ancestors - Members give a presentation on a featured ancestor. (Need three volunteers!)

Program Notes From Meetings

Reviewed by Joyce Pendery, CG

A Genealogist's Adventures Before and During a Research Trip to Portugal Allan Moniz Lecture presented October 13, 2012

Al Moniz began his talk by telling how he met with his sister several years ago to discuss learning more about their family history and to divide research responsibilities. After deciding to focus on their mother's side of the family, Al related what they subsequently learned about the origins of the Figuerido family in Portugal and their life in the Falmouth area. Al soon learned what many genealogists discover about their immigrant ancestors: that family names were not as anticipated because pronunciation and naming patterns are different in some European countries, that different names were arbitrarily assigned to immigrant ancestors at Ellis Island, and that the immigrant often stated the place of origin as the largest town or city in the area rather than their small native village.

Al and his sister contacted family members for information about their family. Although some did not respond to their inquiries, an uncle provided the place of origin. They found family photos at one cousin's as well as a family tree compiled by a deceased cousin. Other family members had stories to tell.

From *The Book of Falmouth*, Al knew that most Falmouth Portuguese came from the Azores and Cape Verde Islands, that some came from Continental Portugal, and that there was a cultural rift between immigrants from the islands and from the continent. Al talked to members of the other side of his family and to his uncle, who said

Al's ancestors did not come from Lisbon as they claimed and as was noted in obituaries, but from a village in the former Beira Alta Province in the highlands of north central Portugal.

Passenger lists were very helpful for comparing origins and destinations, especially when Al looked at variation of spellings and different surnames. He discovered that one ancestor had sailed from Porto to Liverpool

in a ship with a cargo of wine, and then continued to New York. He eventually found the names of other Portuguese immigrants next to the names of his immigrant ancestors who had all listed Falmouth as their destination.

Although his ancestors came to Falmouth before 1910, Al could find no Falmouth vital or census records for his an-

cestors until the 1940 census. He did finally find World War I draft records and family records at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Woods Hole, proof that they lived in the area.

After spending about three years learning as much as possible about his family from family members and in American records, Al went to Portugal to visit the native village his family and to continue his quest there, where he met villagers who knew of his ancestors and where he found additional family information not available in this country.



AFTERTHOUGHTS BY JOYCE

As well as enthusiastically recounting his fascinating quest to learn about his Portuguese ancestors in Falmouth and in Portugal, Al Moniz also followed the methodology that professional genealogists recommend for such a research project:

- Check for various spellings of surnames and given names, as well as naming patterns and the possibility of name changes, common in many European countries and at ports of entry into the U.S.

- Contact family members, beginning with the oldest, to ask what they know about family members.
- Check passenger arrival lists under all possible surnames and spelling variations.
- Look for primary records first: birth, marriage, and death records. Then look for census records, cemetery records, information in city directories, newspaper obituaries, and local histories.
- Plan a trip to visit the ancestral home only after you have completed as much research as possible in the U.S. and know your destination.

It's a Small World After All and Immigrant Research Strategies

Two lectures presented by Marcia Iannizzi Melnyk

November 10, 2012, Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society

Professional genealogist Marcia I. Melnyk presented back-to-back lectures at the annual joint meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society and Cape Cod Genealogical Society held on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at St. Peter's Church in Osterville. A delicious lobster roll lunch followed the program.

Copies of Marcia's extensive, detailed handouts for these lectures may be downloaded by contacting Ed Shibata at www.eis_42@verizon.net.

The focus of "It's a Small World After All" was the using the Internet, the World Wide Web, e-mail, computerized databases, and research CD-ROMS for genealogy. These resources have changed the way genealogists work and are helpful in starting and filling out the bare bones of your family tree. However, not everything from these sources is accurate or even true, and it is necessary to verify all information in primary sources,

if possible. Marcia provided advice and precautions for posting personal information on the Internet, as well as emphasizing what is important to remember when using the internet, online databases, and CD ROMS.



In her presentation on "Immigrant Research Strategies," Marcia explained how immigrant and ethnic research differs from general genealogical research, in particular regarding name changes and spellings. She presented a list of strategies for more effective ethnic research that included doing "Cluster Genealogy," Surname Searches, joining Ethnic Genealogical So-

cieties, buying books specific to your areas of research, and using Internet sources that list various overseas areas and places.

FGS Annual Holliday Food Fest On Saturday, December 8 1912



FGS has established a tradition of members preparing and sharing favorite family holiday foods and their recipes, with those attending the December meeting. Members are also invited to talk a bit about the ancestors who used the recipes. As usual, a wide variety of dishes reflected geographical areas of origin of ancestors, including Japan, northwest California, Sweden, Germany, and New England. Several members also brought favorite family cook books and explained their connection to their family history.

Cape Cod Times food columnist Gwenn Friss attended the meeting and wrote a feature article for the December 19, 2012, issue of the paper entitled “Genealogical soci-

ety hosts a holiday repast.” Gwenn explained why Janice Zlatev’s family prepared pig-shaped cookies at Christmas and how Ed Shibata’s Japanese grandparents adapted their sushi recipes to ingredients available in New Mexico. Nancy Hayward brought spritz cookies shaped by her mother’s old Mirro cookie press. David Burt wondered why his mother’s recipe, written in translated Katherine Gibbs school shorthand, did not turn out perfectly. And Marianne Shafer brought her grandmother’s 1887 “White House Cookbook” that was actually a manual for running a household, as well as a recipe book.

Needless to say, no one left the meeting hungry!

Paddy on the Net: Irish Genealogy Databases

Presented by Michael Brophy at the January 12 2013 FGS Meeting

Professional genealogist and heir tracer Michael Brophy presented a very informative talk on searching Irish genealogy websites to find information on Irish ancestors. The number of such websites has significantly increased in recent years, and the variety of information offered has expanded. As usual with Irish research, the more you know about where your ancestors lived in Ireland, the more likely you will be to find significant information. In-depth stateside research should precede any genealogy research trip to Ireland. These websites may provide the information you need!



Michael explained that while two of the best of the following nine websites he discussed are paid websites, the free websites also offer valuable information.

1. www.findmypast.ie, a new, paid website (one of the best) offers for the first time online Irish Land and Estate Records. Therein you can find lists of Irish estates, the names of their owner-landlords, and names of their tenants, plus some information about the rented property, as well as Griffith's valuation.

2. www.rootsireland.ie, the paid website of the Irish Family History Foundation, offers transcribed birth/baptism, marriage, and death records, remaining 19th century census records, and complete 1901 and 1911 censuses. They also have incomplete collections of other types of Irish records.

3. www.nationalarchives.ie, website of the Irish National Archives in Dublin, offers complete 1901 and 1911 census records with actual images, plus many other digitized records from their collections.

4. www.nli.ie, website of the Irish National Library in

Dublin, has a section entitled "Sources," with over 180,000 manuscript sources for Irish history, many finding aids, and much more.

5. www.proni.ie, website for the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, has an online database of freeholders (voters) from the 18th and 19th centuries, 19th and 20th century street directories, and more.

6. www.irishgenealogy.ie is sponsored by the Irish government to help promote tourism by offering county church records from counties Carlow, Cork, Dublin, and

Kerry, with more counties to come.

7. www.seanruad.com features the digitized 1851 index to Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies. From smallest to largest units, Ireland is divided into Townlands, Counties, Baronies, Civil Parishes, Poor Law Unions, and Provinces. The more detailed information you have about where your ancestors lived, the more successful will your search be.

8. www.askaboutireland.ie is a good guide to Griffith's Primary Valuation, the 1847-1864 effort to list and value all Irish property and to list all landlords and their tenants. Maps are included.

9. www.genuki.org.uk is a research guide to research sources, history, and travel information for Ireland's 32 counties – 6 in the North and 26 in Eire.

Copies of Michael's handouts with more detailed information about these web sites and other sources for Irish research are available by emailing Ralph Wadleigh at www.whplar@comcast.net. Michael Brophy may be contacted at mbrophy@brophygen.com or at www.brophygen.com.

Brief Notes

Book Review: *Mrs. Adams in Winter* by Michael O'Brien, Pub. By Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York, 2010

Here's an interesting book for those who like travelogues with historical overtones. It is February 1815 and Mrs. Louisa Catherine Adams is about to leave St. Petersburg, Russia and travel overland to meet her husband, John Quincy Adams in Paris where he has been engaged in negotiating the end to the War of 1812. She will be riding in a horse drawn conveyance originally equipped with runners but convertible to wheels, accompanied by her young son, Charles Francis Adams, and two household retainers. This is not your usual road trip. Researched extensively from letters and her personal diary, the story unfolds over both frozen and thawed terrain, describing the post system in place during that time, the struggle with exchange rates, political boundaries and the various risks facing a traveler in the destitute places ravaged by the Napoleonic wars. She travels through the Russian held Baltic provinces, into modern Poland, Germany and finally France. By the end of her journey she encounters a final level of drama as she races Napoleon, just escaped from Elbe, to Paris.

In addition to the travel aspect of the story, the reader will gain a new perspective of John Quincy Adams, especially his allegiance to country and to his family, his, not so much hers. Also of note are the descriptions of Louisa's relationships with the rulers in Russia and Prussia and how these interacted with her husband's responsibilities as an American diplomat. This is not a genealogical book per se, but if you have ancestors who lived in Eastern Europe in the early 19th century or if you are interested in the presidential Adams family, you will find this an interesting read. It is available on CLAMS.

Submitted by Ralph Wadleigh

It's not too late to make plans to attend the New England Regional Genealogical Conference to be held in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 17-21, 2013. It is a superlative way to absorb ways to sharpen your genealogical research, purchase genealogical books and other materials and make new friends. You can learn all the details at www.nergc.org. Check it out!

NERGC Chairs, Society Delegates, Society Presidents,

I am looking for raffle items for my Volunteer Raffle. In 2011 we had lots of raffle items and I am hoping for even more for 2013. As you know this raffle is a way to say Thank You to volunteers.

Some suggested items which are popular are:

- Membership
- Magazine subscription
- Flash Drive
- Book Store gift card
- Coffee gift card (Dunkins, Starbucks, etc)
- Books
- Software
- Archival folder or protects
- New England items (maple syrup was a hit in 2011)

You can either bring your item to the next meeting or the first day of the conference but let me know in advance so I can plan accordingly.

Thanks,
Christine
NERGC 2013 Volunteer Chair

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:

#426: Edward Enos Jr. of East Falmouth, MA, researching Bumpus of Wareham and Viera of the Azores.

#427: Sharon Mulcahy of East Falmouth, MA, researching Baum of Prussia, Schenk of Germany in the 1880s, Stoneman of Canada in the 1880s, Haggerty of Ireland in the 1730s, and Mulcahy of Ireland.

#428: Louise A. Bailey of Falmouth, MA, researching Allen in New England since 1620.

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

Vol. 24 Number 4
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536
www.falgen.org

May – July 2013

President: Ralph Wadleigh
Editor: C. David Burt
cdburt@comcast.net

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

Falmouth Genealogical Society

FAMILY ARTIFACTS DAY, APRIL 13, 2013

Reviews by Joyce Pendery

Fascinating stories about fabulous family artifacts were fantastic! If you were not present, you missed a good show and tell presentation.

MURIEL LOCKLIN brought her collection of cooking artifacts: scoop, scales, molds, cake decorating tools, and other items that had belonged to her great great grandfather Louis Joseph Adolph Blondin. For a long time, he was her brick wall, until one day she found information about him and his descendants in a genealogy at Woonsocket, Rhode Island. At age 15, he had immigrated by train from Quebec to Rhode Island, where he worked as a baker in Central Falls. Later, he had a convenience store where he sold goods he had baked, as well as other items, and probably used these tools, as have other family members

MARY LOU BOTELHO explained that she had shared a bedroom with her grandmother until she was

16, when her grandmother died. In 1896, at age 13 to 14, her grandmother, whose name was Maria Jacente Soares, crossed the island of San Miguel in the Azores on foot to reach the port of Ponta Delgada, bringing with her only one, large wicker basket with a lid that held her possessions. She boarded a ship and traveled by herself to New Bedford, where she was to work in a mill. Her grandmother taught Mary Lou many handcrafts. After she died Mary Lou became interested in genealogy, took out the basket and sought information about it. She was told that it could not be over a hundred years old. In 2007 Mary Lou and her husband went to San Miguel and in the museum of a tea factory, they saw similar baskets on display and learned that they had been used as lunch baskets for workers in the tea fields and that many were well over 100 years old. Mary Lou also brought a painting of the basket that her husband recently had a Mashpee artist paint for Mary Lou, and now Mary Lou is learning to make Nantucket baskets!



Calendar of Meetings for 2013

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

Apr 13: Artifact Day (Rescheduled from February 9th.): Members bring in a family artifact and discuss the ancestor who originally owned it.

May 11: Lori Lyn Price: Internet Genealogy In Your PJ's

Jun 8: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers

Jul 13: Al Knight: A Personal History featuring the Crocker Family of Cotuit

Aug 10: Tales of Our Ancestors - Members give a presentation on a featured ancestor. (Need three volunteers!)



Mary Lou Bothelho's basket



Virginia Gregg's doll house



Mary Barry's Trunk



Donna Walchovy's sword



Dottie Priestly's Irish lace doll dress



David Burt's Panama Canal pictures

MARY BARRY, about a month ago, discovered an old steamer trunk in the corner of an attic. In April 1907 her young paternal grandmother Mary Andersen had immigrated from an isolated island off the coast of Norway, where she lived with her widowed mother, to Hoboken, New Jersey, on the maiden voyage of the U.S. steamship United States. There, she was to be met by an old friend of her mother's. Inside the trunk were two wool suits Mary's great grandmother, a skilled seamstress, had made for her daughter. To be recognized, she was to wear one when disembarking. After working in New York for two years, she came to Falmouth in 1909, where she married. Because of stickers pasted on the outside of the trunk and information found inside, Mary is sure this was her grandmother's trunk.

DOTTIE PRIESTLY has learned a good deal from her recent research on her great grandmother Julia Herlihy who was born in Bandon, County Cork, Ireland and immigrated during the 1850's. She died in Stoneham in 1976. Dottie showed a tall doll wearing a lace dress, possibly the model for a wedding dress, that her great grandmother, who had learned to make lace in a convent school, had made. Dottie has many other lace items her grandmother also made. She had an interesting life: marrying twice and having six children with her first husband, who died while she was pregnant with the sixth child, seven children with her second husband, and an illegitimate son between husbands!

VIRGINIA GREGG and her husband found his great grandmother's doll house from the 1870's stored in a family attic. The doll house had belonged to a series of Ediths, beginning with his ancestor Edith 1 Emerson, daughter of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In the photos Ginny brought, one see first, a wood cabinet. Opening the door of the cabinet, one then sees four rooms, on two levels. Ginny brought one of the four rooms with its miniature, hand-made furnishings, as well as many furnishings for the other rooms. Her daughter Edith 2 also played with the doll house. She had six brothers and when she was 13, a sister was born, who unfortunately did not survive diphtheria at age one. Ginny showed a portrait of the two sisters, possibly painted posthumously by their mother Edith 1.

DONNA WALCHOVY was in high spirits as she demonstrated movements with a Union Civil War sword that had belonged to her distant relative President Wil-

liam McKinley, who was shot in Buffalo in 1901. She also showed the elaborate decorations on the hilt and blade. McKinley's gun and sword both came to Donna's ancestors, and because of her interest in genealogy, she got the sword!

DAVID BURT knows little about the life of his grandfather, Luther White Burt, born in Hartford in 1848. Luther was married twice and died in 1921, about the time his youngest child was born. He was a surveyor and had apparently worked on construction of the Panama Canal. David brought nine large, framed panoramic views of various stages of construction of the canal which had been found, rolled up among his grandfather's belongings.

JAY SHERLOCK showed a hand-held noisemaker that had been used by his great great grandfather Frances Johnson Day during the Civil War to wake up troops without signaling the enemy. Other uses of similar noisemaker have been to assemble church goers and to scare birds away from fields or trees.

JOYCE PENDERY showed a miniature water color on ivory portrait of a probable ancestor of her husband. The painting was signed "T. Young," the name of a well know artist who painted such portraits in Rhode Island. But Joseph Perkins, the probable ancestor lived in Kensington, New Hampshire! Judging by the man's clothing and haircut, the portrait was painted in the early 1800's. Joyce found it among her mother-in-law's things and was told it came from her father. The subject had a prominent nose, as do some family members! Joyce decided to have the frame opened to see if the name of the sitter was inside. She sent it to a specialist in restoring miniatures, but there was no information there.



Jay Sherlock's noisemaker

The East/West Barter System is Alive and Well!

Charlet Emery Roskovics

The following is a sampling of a letter exchange which came about because I made a Find A Grave memorial (www.findagrave.com) from the Cape Cod Times for James Contonio who died in Dennis, MA.

April 20, 2013

Hi Charlet,

I am a researcher for the Contonio family. I recently saw that you created a Find A Grave page for the late James "Jim" Contonio, who just died April 12, 2013 and was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, South Dennis, Barnstable County, MA. I read that James' brother, Guerino Contonio, was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery as well as his parents, Anthony and Angelina. Do you have any information on these other Contonio family members buried there, for example, cemetery records or tombstone pictures? I am anxious to locate information on Guerino, Anthony and Angelina. Do you or anyone else do lookups for this cemetery?

Thank you for your help,
Clarissa

Los Angeles, California

April 20, 2013

Hi Clarissa,

Sorry--I live in North Falmouth and simply copied the obituary for Jim Contonio from the newspaper for Find A Grave. South Dennis is quite a drive from where I live so I wouldn't visit a cemetery in that area.

If you know the dates of death it is possible there would be obituaries in the Cape Cod Times that could be researched...

Good luck,
Charlet

After thinking about it overnight, I had a thought:

April 21, 2013

Clarissa, hi again!

I have a proposition for you: if you could furnish the death day, month and year of the Contonio family members you are seeking, I would be pleased to help you obtain Cape Cod Times obituaries through Falmouth Public Library microfilm, if they were written, and e-mail them to you.

I've been trying to find Alice Jane (Bard) Stephenson's

obituary (my grandmother's sister) but believe there likely was never one written. I know she died 16 May 1951 in Orange, California and have a death record to prove the fact. If you could come up with an obituary or, at least, a cemetery where she is buried, I'd be happy to research the Contonio family for you.

I've attached the death record for Alice Jane (Baird) Stephenson.
Sincerely,
Charlet

April 24, 2013

Hi Charlet,

Today started with a wild goose chase at the Orange County Genealogical Society Collection, and they were of absolutely no help. They had no newspapers back to 1951, no obituaries, no cemetery records; it was ridiculous. So then I decided to head to the Orange County Clerk's office for the State of California. After swearing to them that Alice was my great-aunt and paying them \$16, they printed off her actual death certificate for me! Victory! It lists all the usual info about parents and husband, then it goes on to list her city of death (San Clemente), house address (211 Valencia St, San Clemente), and burial information! She was buried in the Melrose Abbey Memorial Park Cemetery in Anaheim, Orange County on May 19th, 1951. I will mail this certificate to you, if you provide your address. I have a doctor's visit near the cemetery around the 3rd week of May, so I would be happy to drop by the cemetery and try to photograph the headstone for you if you want. I already called the cemetery to find out what part of the cemetery she is buried in to save a little time.

Okay, I hope this is the info you wanted! I was so happy when I got the certificate that tears were in my eyes!
Clarissa

So--out of this whole exchange, we both got what we wanted!!! I researched four Cape Cod Times Contonio obituaries and cemetery records for family members buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, South Dennis plus eight additional cemetery records for their relatives buried in St. John's Cemetery, Worcester, MA. The Worcester Public Library offers free obituary lookups if the researcher is a Massachusetts resident so I'm still hoping to obtain additional obituaries for Clarissa! And, having enlisted Bebe Brock into this project, she found--and is offering--a Contonio Family Tree that she found on www.Ancestry.com Home Edition!

As a footnote to this story, I'd like to add that when I received the snail-mailed death certificate from Clarissa, she had put on the envelope a return address of "RPV, CA 90275". Not recognizing the letters, I then googled the zip code and was amazed to find it to be Rancho Palos Verdes. When I was 16 years, prior to moving to the East Coast in 1962, my family lived in Rolling Hills which is located nearby Rancho Palos Verdes. Clarissa lives 4.75 miles and/or ten minutes from our old house!

Book Review

Megan Smolenyak has written a new book entitled *Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing*. We are probably all familiar with her from her work on the TV show "Who Do You Think You Are?" In this book Megan has written about the many other ways she has used her genealogical training to solve mysteries.

For a decade Megan has done forensic genealogy for the U S Army. She has worked with the military to identify remains that have been recovered and to try to find the primary next of kin. Many military personnel records were destroyed in a fire in 1973 so there was the need for the research skills of a genealogist to trace the families. Many were from World War II or the Korean Conflict, but the oldest was from the USS Monitor sunk in the Civil War in 1862.

As Megan writes about her quests, she also includes comments on the value of different types of records, the ease of research in various states and countries, and a few tips on getting around "dead ends". In addition to her research for the military, she also expands her skills into other areas. Before becoming a professional genealogist, Megan was a management consultant who travelled a lot and made contacts in many places. Sometimes these contacts have been invaluable in her research as they, in turn, lead her to other contacts for local research. She also tries all the different DNA tests available to check for accuracy using her own extended family.

Megan has done research on the roots of famous people, sometimes in a matter of days for a TV show, as well as research to find relatives of unclaimed persons whose names are known, but nothing else. Her final chapter is about Annie Moore, the first arrival at Ellis Island, and how her identity was "stolen". Megan also

reiterates that names were not changed at Ellis Island. The names are from the ship manifest compiled at the port of embarkation.

All together a very interesting read.
Janice Zlatev

FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MONTHLY MEETING

Saturday, May 11, 2013

10 a.m. – Noon

PROGRAM: Genealogy in Your Pajamas: Put Your
Library Card to Use

LOCATION: Falmouth Public Library, 300 Main
Street,

Falmouth, MA 02540

On Saturday, May 11, Lori Lyn Price, a professional genealogical speaker, will present a program on the electronic resources available free to Massachusetts residents through the Boston Public Library. She will also cover some of the more popular electronic resources that might be available through your local library (each library decides which databases they will carry).

Ms. Price focuses on connecting with ancestors via social history, bringing ancestors' traditions and culture to life. She has been working on her personal genealogy for over ten years and is currently working on a graduate degree in history from the Harvard Extension School.

Those attending the May meeting will be treated to an informative session where it will be evident that Lori Lyn Price loves sharing her knowledge and passion of both genealogy and history with others.

Everyone interested is invited to attend. For further information please call 508-548-3408 or 508-548-4418.

From the President

Ralph Wadleigh

FGS Annual Meeting

Hello. It's getting closer to the time when we have to again elect officers and directors for the next year. The Annual Meeting will be held June 8. I would like to pull together a nominating committee and am open to volunteers join in this effort. It appears this committee should be led by the Nominating Chair, Donna Walcovy. Personally, I have been President for two consecutive terms and I do not wish to continue as President. I would however like to stay on the board. For the record, here is the current roster of officers and directors as chosen in June 2012:

FGS Officers and Directors 2012-2013

President	Ralph Wadleigh	June 30, 2013
First VP	Richard Harbison	June 30, 2014
Second VP	Mary Barry	June 30, 2014
Secretary	Sue Hutchinson	June 30, 2013
Treasurer	Ed Shibata	June 30, 2014
Membership	Joan Croce	2014
Library	Jan Zlatev	2014
Newsletter	Janet Chalmers	2013
Nominating	Donna Walcovy	2014
Program	Ralph Wadleigh	Volunteered/also Pres.
Publications	David Burt	2014
Publicity	Marianne Shafer	Volunteered/also board member
Budget & Finance	Ed Shibata	2014
At Large	Joyce Pendery	2013
At Large	Marianne Shafer	2014
Website	Jeramie Hammond	2014

New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Falmouth Genealogical Society:

#429: Harriet Swift of New Orleans, Louisiana, researching Swift and Bourne.

#430: Gerald Luby of North Falmouth, MA. researching Luby in Ireland (1830-1847), Lacsse of Canada (1800-1900). Corbit of Scotland (1800-1900), Lyons of New England (1800-1920s), Markakis of Greece (1810-1910).

#431: Joseph L. Ferreira of East Falmouth, MA, researching Ferreira and Mayne.

#432: Lorraine Nagy of East Falmouth, MA.

#433: Alice Miller Batchelor of Falmouth, MA. She is researching Weed of Marblehead, Massachusetts, and Phelps and Danforth of Massachusetts.

#434: John C. Checklick of East Falmouth, MA, researching Checklick of Galicia prior to 1909, Megles of Slovakia from 1890, and Childs of Waquoit from the 1700s.