

The Falmouth Genealogical Society

Newsletter

August - October 2014

Vol. 26 Number 1
P. O. Box 2107, Teaticket, MA 02536
www.falgen.org

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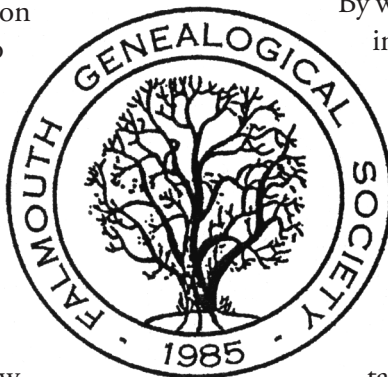
The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Mary Barry

It is hard to believe that the summer is coming to a close and fall is moving in a bit quicker than usual. We had wonderful, informative speakers at our last several monthly meetings as evidenced by the robust attendance. In addition, we partnered with Cape Cod Genealogical Society to bring nationally known genealogist John Colletta to the Cape. John spoke about "Putting Your Ancestors in Historical Context," followed by a workshop on "Writing Your Family History." For all who dared set out on that rainy Saturday morning for Brewster's Ladies Library, it was a thoroughly entertaining lecture that held our attention. The time flew for us all. We hope to see John return to the Cape in the near future.

Members of FGS also had a notable presence at a recent 2-day workshop, "Old Towns/New Country", sponsored by the Massachusetts Historical Society and Falmouth Museums on the Green. By the end of the sessions, we had a 'historical context' for our ancestors who lived on Cape Cod or other parts of New England. We also learned about the wonderful on-line digital collection now available through the Massachusetts Historical Society.



It is a pleasure to take over the presidential role that Ralph Wadleigh so ably filled over the last five years. The Board of Directors includes some amazingly knowledgeable, experienced genealogists. We are fortunate these Board Members continue to enthusiastically support our Society in a team effort.

By way of introduction, I spent over 28 years working for the Federal Government in Washington, D.C. in various agencies. My interest in genealogy began seriously 15 years ago on a vacation here. Unlike many of you, there was no one before me who had begun to search my ancestors. However, since my Father was born here, a simple walk up and down Main Street made obtaining documents quite easy. I was also lucky to have tape recordings of my Father interviewing my Grandmother about her life here in Falmouth. I have shared my results with all interested family members including some whom I had not been in touch with for 40 years.

For me, genealogy makes history come alive. I am hooked! I am interested in writing a short book on what I have

Calendar of Meetings for 2014

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

September 13 - Workshop for Beginners, a panel discussion

October 11 - Organizing a Family Reunion, Donna Walcovy

November 8 - Immigration Research, Rhonda McClure of NEHGS (Joint Meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Wianno Ave., Osterville)

December 13 - Annual Food Fest and Holiday Party

RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY

JULY 12, 2014 LECTURE, PRESENTED BY CAROL
BOSWORTH, R.N.

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery C.G.

Our July speaker Carol Bosworth, genealogist and Registered Nurse, is Past President of the Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society and Chairman of Planning for the NERGC Conference to be held April 15-19, 2015 in Providence.

Carol began by asking why researching family medical history is important. The answer is that many medical conditions are passed down from generation to generation, including hemophilia, autism, and color blindness, and if we know our family medical patterns, we and our physicians may be able to prevent or alleviate their effects.

Known medical conditions among several generations of family members can be listed on a Five Generation Family Tree Chart available at the web site "Obituaries.Help.org" under "free genealogy forms." A different type of form is called a "genogram." It is important to show all the descendants of our ancestors, not just our direct line of descent. Include their ages, medical problems, and if deceased list age and cause of death, as well as whether the information is medically documented.

Determining the causes of death for our ancestors and family members can be challenging due to the guarantee of privacy under HIPPA or to death certificates that state "pneumonia" or "heart attack" as the cause of death, when the underlying cause may have been a different terminal illness or cancer. Interview family members about your family health history, and ask if family medical records have been kept or if they were destroyed.

ONLINE FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORY AND TOOLS RESOURCES:

For cancer and heart disease: <http://familyhealth-link.osumc.edu>

For family history resources & tools: <http://www.cdc.gov/genomics/>

For creating a family health portrait: <http://www.genome.gov/27527640>



President, Mary Barry

found and developing a creative visual representation of my families past through a painting and fabric (quilted) medium. I would also like to visit additional places where my ancestors lived.

I was asked what I hoped I could help the Society accomplish. First, I would like to say how impressed I am with the activities already being done and the many members who contribute to make them happen. Over the next year, we will have plenty to keep us all busy. During 2015, we will be celebrating FGS's 30th anniversary. Getting on-line the new content for the FGS Website (proposed by the Website Committee) is a high priority. And, supporting the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium's Conference scheduled for April 15-19, 2015, in Providence will require a big effort by us all. If all that is not enough to keep us busy, we might consider reaching out to community schools to help students develop analytical and research skills used in genealogy that are also applicable to a variety of career choices.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all of the members who give their talents to this organization. Nothing is possible without your help and everything is possible with it.

For information on collecting family health history:
<http://www.nsgc.org>

For Mayo Clinic: <http://www.mayoclinic.org> –
search web site for compiling your family medical
history

HOW TO WRITE A GENEALOGICAL SKETCH

AUGUST 9, 2014 LECTURE, PRESENTED BY
RALPH WADLEIGH

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery, CG



Ralph Wadleigh, Past President of FGS, former board member of NERGC, and author of numerous published articles on genealogy, presented a very informative talk on “How to Write a Genealogical Sketch.” His focus is writing about one ancestor and his or her descendants, without going into the entire family tree. Although Ralph’s approach to research and writing is scholarly, less formally documented approaches were also discussed.

Most genealogists eagerly engage in the “hunter-gatherer

phase” of collecting family information from relatives, Bibles, archives, newspapers, other genealogists, etc. Then, they are faced with the question: “What will I do with all this information?” Ralph’s advice is to keep it simple and focus on one person or ancestor at a time.

The writer needs to answer several questions: (1) Who is my audience? My family or the world? (2) How comprehensive will the article be? (3) Will it be published, and if so, where and how? (4) What is my goal?

Why write a genealogy sketch? The principal reasons are to develop skills and to share what you know with others. A genealogy sketch is, in fact, an article about “The Who” or one person, starting with birth, marriage, and death information in chronological order. The body of the sketch includes life events in chronological order or the biography; then photographs; and finally, a list of children with dates of their births, marriages, and deaths in chronological order, and the same information for their spouses.

The “How To Do This Tool Box” includes Microsoft Word for the text. The web site www.americanancestors.org for information; a copy of the NEHG Register for developing an understanding of the NEHG Register style of writing; and a template for writing a sketch (as presented by Helen Ulmann in the NEHG Register). For example, www.americanancestors.org has an online learning center with a section on writing and publishing your family history. For inserting citations, use Microsoft Word, then References and then insert Citations.

While some software programs will prepare a genealogy from information you enter, that genealogy needs to be edited. The best approach is to write what you know about your ancestor without worrying about documentation, and then go back and “shape up” what you have written into a format that can be presented to anyone, anywhere. Ralph showed several examples of his sketches that he has published with different formats.



“Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.” - Unknown



Members, Jim Cardoza (left) and Lockwood Rianhard (right) offering comments at a meeting.

USING LAND, PROBATE AND CHURCH RECORDS TO PROVE YOUR LINEAGE

Joyce S. Pendery, CG

We are now so accustomed to relying on genealogical information available on the Internet to develop our ancestries that we often forget that not all records are yet online. Examples include land, probate, and church records. Here in Barnstable County we are fortunate that land records are online, but for many other U.S. counties this is not the case. Few probate or church records are available online.

Various land records, including early land grants, deeds of various types, releases of dowers, maps, mortgages, leases, liens, and bounty land files, often provide information helpful to genealogists. Probate packets, usually found in county probate departments, often contain a variety of documents that were used by the probate courts to settle estates. These include wills, intestate proceedings,

guardianships, inventories, settlements or distributions of assets, and accounts. Names of family members, signatures, and sometimes relationships are often included in these records.

Church records include not only baptismal, marriage, and death records, but often meeting or council minutes and lists of various church officials. Quakers, for example, kept minutes for separate business meetings for men and women. Records are usually kept in the archives for each church. In a few cases, they have been deposited in regional denominational headquarters.

For Barnstable County probate and land records, go to Barnstable County Courthouse, located at 3195 Main Street, Route 6A, Barnstable, MA 02630. Hours are Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For Probate information, call 508-362-2511 and for Deeds call 508-362-7733.

AREA LIBRARIES FOR GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

We still have to go to libraries for research – at least once in a while. It has been many years since the FGS Newsletter has published information about area research facilities, so it's time to catch up.

Barnstable County:

Falmouth Public Library, 300 Main St., Falmouth, MA, 02540; (508-457-2555); Hours: Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 9:30-5:30; Tues. & Wed.: 1:30-8:30.
www.info@falmouthpubliclibrary.org

Sturgis Public Library, 3090 Main St., Barnstable, MA 02630; (508-362-6636); call for hours;
www.sturgislibrary@comcast.net

Chatham Eldredge Public Library, 564 Main St., Chatham, MA 02633; (508-945-5170); Genealogy room hours: Tues., Thurs., Sat., 1-5 p.m.
www.eldredgelibrary.org

Bristol County:

New Bedford Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., New Bedford, MA 02740 ; (508-991-6276)
Genealogy room hours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00-5:00. Genealogy Librarian is Paul Cyr.

Taunton Old Colony Historical Society Library, 66 Church Green, Taunton, MA 02780; (508-822-1622); Hours: Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
www.OldColony@oldcolonyhistoricalsociety.org

Taunton Public Library, 12 Pleasant St., Taunton, MA 02780; (508-821-1410); Hours: Mon.- Sat.:9:00-5:45;
www.tauntonlibrary.org

Wareham Free Library, 59 Marion Road, Rte. 6, Wareham, MA 02571; (508-295-2343); Hours: Thurs., Fri., Sat.: 10:30-4:30.
www.warehamfreelibrary.org

Plymouth County:

Plymouth Public Library, 132 South Street, Plymouth, MA 02360; (508-830-4250); Separate genealogy room. Hours: 10-5:30.
www.plymouthpubliclibrary.org

Mayflower Society Library, 4 Winslow St., Plymouth, MA 02360; (508-746-3188); small research fee; Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 10-3:30.
www.themayflowersociety.org/library

Cape Cod LDS Research Centers at LDS Churches:

Brewster, MA 02631; 94 Freeman's Way, (508-896-9863); call for hours: Tues. & Thurs. 9-1.

Cataumet, MA, 1220 County Road, (508-564-5437); call for hours: Tues. 2-4 and 7-9.

RECENTLY PUBLISHED GENEALOGICAL REFERENCE VOLUMES AVAILABLE IN THE FALMOUTH LIBRARY

Joyce Pendery, CG

Guide to Published Genealogies in the Library of New England Historical and Genealogical Society. Boston: NEHGS, 2012. 1515 pages. Introduction written by Gary Boyd Robert. There is an A to Z listing of surnames. Common names such as Perkins has 40 entries, while Smith has over 170 entries! Information about each volume includes title, author, publication information, call number at NEHGS, and cross references for names.

New England Historical and Genealogical Society is located at 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston 02116. Their library is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9-5 and Wednesday from 9-9. No fee for members; \$15 daily for non-members.

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 5th edition. Boston: NEHGS, 2012. 418 pages. Edited by Michael J. Leclerc.

This completely revised state-by-state guide for New England research begins with an essay on each state, followed

by standardized information, included in town-by-town tables. Statewide maps show county and town boundaries. Short historical essays present information on the types of sources and records available for each area, including standardized information found in vital, church, probate, land, court, and military records.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, 4th edition by John Grenham. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012. 579 pages, index.

This new edition of an old favorite for Irish research has been rewritten to incorporate changes in the connection between traditional Irish research and research on the Internet, now at the heart of Irish family history research. Contents include how to start, types and location of paper and online transcripts of records: including census, church, Roman Catholic registers, property, tax valuations, deeds, newspapers, directories, occupation records, county sources, wills, emigration, and Irish abroad. Northern Ireland records are also included.

NEW MEMBERS

Falmouth Genealogical Society welcomes the following new members:

Elizabeth A. Davis, 23 Knollwood Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536. Phone: 508-457-9295; email betsydavis@gmail.com. Betsy is researching Allaway in Lowe, Nebraska; Dix in Alabama, Kentucky, New England, and New York; David in Virginia, and Hayes in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina.

Sherry Carton. Sherry is researching Hoag in New Orleans, around 1848; Keller in New Orleans around 1848; Carton in New York during 1800's; and Saenger and Eisold in Germany during 1800's.

Cynthia De Bellis. Cynthia is researching Sinclair in England and U.S., Munn in Scotland, and Dale in England.

Paco De La Fuente, (no information available).

“We need your input. Please send information or articles for the Newsletter!”

Cemetery Project Report

WAR OF 1812 VETERANS BURIED IN OAK GROVE CEMETERY

Donna Walcovy

This year of the 200th anniversary of Falmouth's involvement in the War of 1812, Oak Grove Cemetery is honoring the twenty men buried at Oak Grove Cemetery who fought in the War of 1812. The Cemetery has designed a self-walking tour of the graves of these men. The map is on the office door; please take one and enjoy your walk. They are also looking for living descendents of these men.

Oak Grove Cemetery has also applied for CPC funding to repair and preserve the lots of the twenty men and is looking for volunteers who will do research on the men listed below. If you would like to volunteer or know of a living descendent please contact Donna E. Walcovy, the superintendent, at oakgrovecemetery@verizon.net or phone the office at 508-548-7510.

Their names are:

Pvt. Barah Bourne
Pvt. Benjamin Green
Pvt. Ephraim Parker
Pvt. John Davis
Capt. Weston Jenkins
Pvt. Sylvanus Robinson
Pvt. Nathaniel Davis
Pvt. Robinson Jones
Pvt. Nathaniel Shiverick
Pvt. Francis Davis, Jr.
Pvt. Ephraim Lawrence
Pvt. Oliver C. Swift
Serg. William Eldred
Pvt. Peleg Lawrence
Pvt. Thomas Swift
Pvt. James Fish
Pvt. Silas Lawrence, Jr.
Pvt. Zimri Tobey
Pvt. Asa Gifford
Lieut. Thomas Lawrence

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November - January 2014-2015

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HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY REUNION

Program presented by Donna Walcovy on October 11, 2014

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery

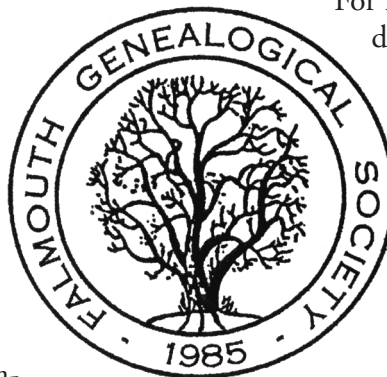
Donna Walcovy attended her first family reunion at age six and first planned a family reunion in 1990. Plan a reunion so your extended family can get together to celebrate their roots and know each other better. Organize a committee to help plan and carry out the reunion. Find out if your family has held previous reunions and determine who attended.

First, decide which family members to find and contact. Contact family communicators; look for names in family newsletters, paper and email address books; find old correspondence; search for family web sites on Face Book. Look online for cousin finders, descendent charts, family coats of arms. A reunion theme can be selected, such as the 100th anniversary of the ancestor's immigration or participation in World War I. Then decide where and when to hold the reunion. Think in terms of six months to a year in advance. Summer or long holiday weekends work best. Developing a budget is also important to cover postage, photocopies and envelopes, phone calls, name tags, refreshments, chair and table rentals, etc. Create a family email address for easier communications.

For the reunion itself: think about the place and plan the necessary furnishings: chairs, tables, etc. Plan the meal(s) as bring your own, potluck, catered, or in a nearby restaurant. Prepare and provide registration packets with information about that day and the family. Then plan games and activities, with small prizes, for children and adults, who may bring family photos, memorabilia, correspondence, etc. or items related to the theme and family to share with others. That day, take many photos and videos, as well as audio interviews of those attending.

Keep a paper copy of everything and afterwards, donate copies to the historical or genealogical society in the area where the reunion was held, as well as to other societies where family members lived, so future researchers can benefit from your planning and hard work!

For more detailed information, contact Donna at d.quenzel@comcast.net



President, Mary Barry

Calendar of Meetings for 2015

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

January 10	"A Search for Birth Parents," Cynthia Debellis
February 14	Artifacts Day: bring a family treasure to display and explain
March 14	"Holdings of the Nickerson Archives," Mary LaBombard, Archivist, Cape Cod Community College
April 11	No program due to NERGC in Providence, April 16-20
May 9	"Writing Personal Memoirs," Thatcher Freund
June 13	30th Anniversary Celebration, 9:30 a.m. brunch at Coonamesett Inn and Annual Meeting
July 11	To be announced
August 8	Tales of Our Ancestors – attendees present stories from their families
September 12	To be announced
October 10	To be announced
November 14	Joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogy Society; John Colletta, speaker
December 12	Annual Holiday Food Fest with recipes and antique cookbooks

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION: *FINDING YOUR ANCESTORS*

Program presented by Rhonda R. McClure of NEHGS
on November 22, 2014

Annual Joint Meeting of Cape Cod Genealogical
Society and Falmouth Genealogical Society
Held at the Episcopal Church, Osterville, MA

New England Historical and Genealogical Society professional genealogist Rhonda R. McClure is a nationally recognized researcher, speaker, and writer. She specializes in New England genealogy and the compilation of genealogies of celebrated families. Rhonda is the author of ten books, including *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Online Genealogy*. Among her specializations are immigration and naturalization, the subjects of her two lectures at the annual joint meeting of Cape Cod Genealogical Society and Falmouth Genealogical Society, held at St. Peter's Church in Osterville on Saturday, November 22, 2014.

We are all descendants of immigrants. Rhonda explained why they came here over the centuries: for religious reasons, seeking a better life economically, because of wanderlust and search for adventure, or because as criminals,

they were forced to leave the old country. For the early decades, compiled, not original, ship passenger lists exist. If not of English origin, early adult male immigrants had to take an oath of allegiance and meet religious qualifications to be naturalized as British citizens. The length of residency required before citizenship was granted varied over time. The number of immigrants yearly depended, in part, on the political and religious situations in Europe. By 1819, the conditions on ships were regulated and ships logs or manifests were required. Those with undesirable backgrounds or qualifications could be denied entry.

Between 1815 and 1915, 30 million individuals immigrated to the United States in three main waves. During the first wave, between 1815 and 1860, the majority of immigrants were Protestants who came from the British Isles, Germany, Scandinavia, and Switzerland, as did the majority of those who came in the second wave between 1860 and 1890. Finally, between 1890 and 1914, the majority of immigrants came from Eastern and Southern Europe. More information about them can be found on ship's manifests. Although different nationalities tended to settle in different areas, because of the need for workers, the majority of immigrants settled in the Middle West, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

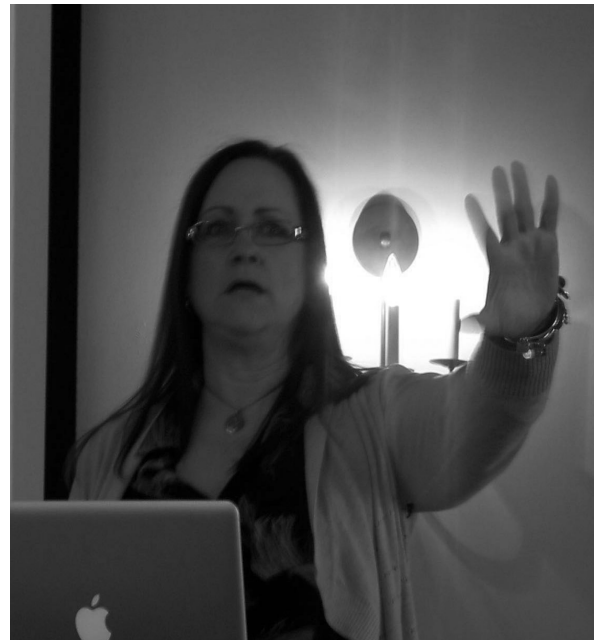
The place of application and the requirements for naturalization varied by state. Beginning in 1870, some U.S.



censuses give information on naturalization. Until 1920, women were included in their husband's naturalization. After 1920, information on women's applications for naturalization varies.

In her second lecture, Rhonda discussed the conditions of immigration. Most immigrants came here to buy land or find work. Immigration acts excluded so-called "undesirable" immigrants because of poor health, politics, or life styles potentially harmful to the American way of life. The immigration inspection for 3rd class or steerage passengers involved state of health, morality, and the ability to become economically self-sufficient by earning a living, so they would not become public charges.

Immigration records can be found in municipal, county, state or federal courthouses or at the National Archives. There are microfilmed indexes to some of these records.



Rhonda McClure



Gerald Luby with Ralph and Judy Wadleigh



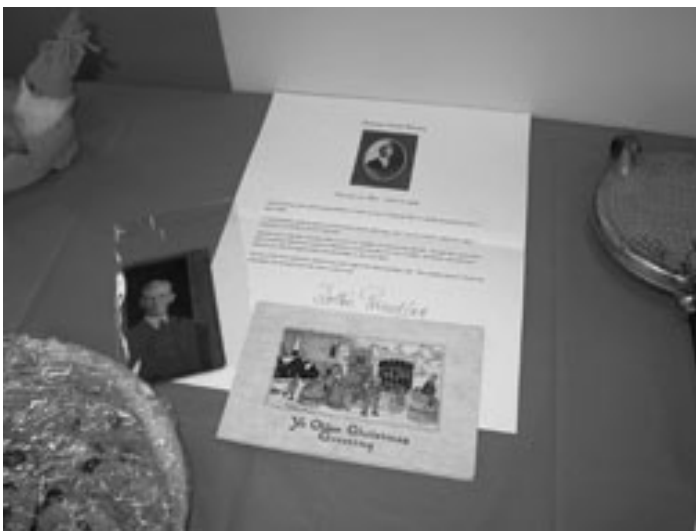
David Burt and Mary Barry

ANNUAL DECEMBER HOLIDAY FOOD FEST

The annual FGS Holiday Food Fest was held on Saturday, December 13th at the Falmouth Public Library. As is the custom, members brought one of their favorite holiday dishes, along with the recipe. Although holiday cookies are always predominate, we also enjoyed cakes, breads, and a northern California special smoked salmon treat. Members talked about their ancestors and mingled with those present. We all agree that this yearly event is also a special occasion for getting to know one another better.



Joyce Pendery and Dottie Priestly



Sample recipies

NAVIGATING THE PAST: SAILING INTO THE FUTURE

13th ANNUAL NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island, 15-18 April 2015

Have you ever attended a NERGC Conference? If you have, you will want to register for the 2015 conference at Providence. If you have never attended one of the biannual conferences, this is your opportunity. From the Cape, we can drive down for the day or stay at one of the hotels near the conference center.

During three days, experienced lecturers from all over the country will offer presentations on their fields of expertise in specialty tracks including technology, skill building, photographs, New England research, researching women, ethnic genealogy, and DNA. Luncheons and dinners have featured speakers, as well. The Exhibit Hall includes displays sponsored by member societies, many of whom have books or other genealogical materials for sale. NERGC conferences also offer many opportunities to meet other genealogists who have similar interests.

As a sponsoring society, FGS is required to provide 20 hours of volunteer services, such as taking tickets at banquets, working at the registration booth or at the Society Fair, or just answering questions of attendees. Please contact Phyllis Day if you would like to help. phyla@cape.com

While it is possible to drive to Providence for the day, two hotels are adjacent to the conference center.

Visit www.nergc.org for conference and registration information.

25 YEARS OF NERGC CONFERENCES

Joyce Pendery

About twenty-five years ago, while still living in Connecticut, I attended my first overnight genealogical conference and the first NERGC Conference, held at Old Sturbridge Village. I remember the qualms I experienced about going

there alone, and as I drove home on a Sunday morning, the feelings of satisfaction about having done so, thinking about all the new genealogy friends I had and how much I had learned. I am still as enthusiastic as I was then, after going to NERGC Conferences at Manchester, Providence, West Hartford, Boston, Portland, Springfield, and elsewhere in New England, as well as several National Genealogical Society conferences around the country. NERGC: RAH!! RAH!!! RAH!!!

Why is NERGC so great??? Because only at NERGC or other regional or national genealogical conferences does one get to learn about many specialized aspects of genealogical research and writing from national leaders in the field. Elizabeth Shown Mills, certainly the “grande dame” of American genealogy comes to mind, as do Joy Reisinger, Neil Thompson, Patricia Law Hatcher, Robert Charles Anderson, and John Coppella. And meeting other attendees to compare notes, or just to socialize, is fun and interesting. The vast number of genealogical books and supplies for sale can be both helpful and overwhelming.

You would probably enjoy a conference as much as I have, so why not give NERGC 2015 a try! For information, visit www.nergc.org online.

FROM SMALL NUGGETS---- ---DOES YOUR GENEALOGY GROW

Joyce Pendery

While lying awake one night, I tried to recall when and how my interest in genealogy began. On my father's Irish side of my family, decades ago, one great aunt had shared with her family the research she had done on her mother's Irish origins. Thanks to her notes, I have even seen where they lived north of Belfast. My father's younger sister – bless her – had kept a notebook in which she had noted all the births, marriages, and deaths in her family, as they occurred or as she learned about past events. She shared this information with me, so I was off to a good start searching for my ancestors. On my maternal side, my mother's uncle had traced his paternal family history back to early 19th century Germany. So I had a start there, too.

I also recalled that my younger son, while working at

Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, NH, during the 1970's, sent us some information he came across concerning my husband's ancestors who had lived around Exeter and Portsmouth, NH. Interested in his ancestry, he found gravestones, as well as houses they had owned. We soon went to see what he had found, and I was hooked on my husband's ancestors, as well. Some of these ancestors later went to Cincinnati, Ohio. We already had their family Bible with births, marriages, and deaths from the 18th to 20th centuries, and now we knew where everyone fitted onto the family tree.

Over the years, I have contacted, or been contacted by, distant cousins of my husband and myself who wished to share information on our mutual family members. One even sent me copies of dozens of 19th century letters, and I have shared 19th century photos with others. As we all know genealogy web sites provide a wealth of information that has to be verified, of course.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY

Program Presented by Ralph Wadleigh and Richard Harbison, PhD on September 13, 2014

Reviewed by Dottie Priestly



Ralph Wadleigh (on the left) has been researching his family genealogy for 20 years. He is a past president of

Falmouth Genealogical Society, a former board member of the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, and author of numerous articles on genealogy. Richard Harbison, Second Vice President of FGS, is a retired marine biologist. He teaches a course called "An Introduction to Internet Genealogy" at Falmouth Community (Night) School at the Lawrence School, starting again in January 2015. Ralph and Richard have helped dozens of individuals research their ancestors during our Tuesday sessions at the Falmouth Public Library.

Ralph began by asking how many attendees are just starting their genealogical search and reminding us that a journey starts with a single step. He mentioned that many people have a box containing family photos, deeds, or letters but have never done anything with them. The first step is to gather information you personally have or can obtain from family sources. Sort those pictures, ask relatives questions, write down all memories and then record everything. Organize your information with a pedigree chart using vital records. If there is "gaps," consider it a puzzle and be a detective. Ralph calls this the "hunter/gatherer" phase. Then organize these facts utilizing the computer and genealogy software such as Family Tree Maker, which works with Ancestry.com; or Roots Magic, which now has a Mac version; or Legacy; or Reunion for Macintosh. Prices start at only \$20 and many offer free trials.

On Ancestry.com, the "gorilla" of genealogical databases, you can easily enter names or topics of interest into the search function. FamilySearch.org, a free website, has family trees available for research. Richard recommends using computer software because there's less chance for errors and multiple, varied reports can be generated. Software programs also produce timelines which can be very useful. Ralph noted that US census records, especially 1850 and later are extremely useful in verifying stories passed down in families because they list names and beginning in 1880, relationships to head of household as well as other information.

The top three FREE resources Richard recommends are: Google, FamilySearch.org, and Ancestry.com (free at the Falmouth Public Library). Other useful free resources are RootsWeb.com and Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, (an informative publication by Dick Eastman, genealogist, techie guru and author). Other suggestions from Richard: make sure your sources are clear and remember that web links are likely to change. When using

Google, place quotation marks around the words you are searching if you want to locate the exact phrase. Use Cyndi's List to find genealogical resources. Get the big picture by incorporating historical records. With a few more suggestions from the experienced genealogists in the audience, such as recording the eldest relative's stories first, newcomers to family research were left with good ideas and some encouragement to begin or continue working on their family trees.

In the photo, Ralph is holding the publication, "Shaking Your Family Tree, A Basic Guide to Tracing Your Family's Genealogy" by Dr. Ralph Crandall. This publication is available at the Falmouth Public Library.



SCOUT GENEALOGY MERIT BADGES

Several local Boy Scout troops have been sent information about the availability of FGS members to work with them on the genealogy merit badge at the library. Scouts can go to the Reference Desk at the Falmouth Public Library and ask them to contact a genealogist or call member Bob Chase at 508-548-2790, David Burt at 508-444-6657, or Gerald Luby at 508-563-6775 to meet them at the library to help with their research. Girl Scouts wishing to work on their corresponding badge would be welcome as well.

FGS IS ALMOST 30!

Plans are already underway to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. Ralph Wadleigh has made arrangements at the Coonamessett Inn for a FGS anniversary celebration gourmet breakfast buffet with

entertainment from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 13th, for only \$20. So circle that date on your calendar and be prepared to sign up in April 2015! All past presidents of the Society will be invited and honored. They include Eleanor Baldic, 1985-1990; Ted Carlson, 1990-1993; Judy Fenner, 1993-1997; John Peri, 1997-1999; Donna Walcovy, 1999-2003; John Caspole, 2003-2007; Joyce Pendery, 2007-2009; Ralph Wadleigh, 2009-2014; and Mary Barry, 2014-present.

NEW MEMBERS

Falmouth Genealogical Society welcomes the following new members:

Bruce Bumpus, 16 Dartmouth Court, Falmouth, MA 02540, email: b.bumpus@comcast.net. Bruce is researching Bumpus, White, Washburn, Jorn in Northeast England, France, and Germany.

Lynn Goucher, P.O.Box 1972, Cotuit, MA 02635, email: lynngoucher4@gmail.com. Lynn is researching Goucher, Miller, Goggins, Davoren, McCarley, Dupuis, and Belterose.

Clyde Tyndale, 174 Lake Shore Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536-4792, email: ctyndale@cape.com. Clyde is researching Tyndal, Tyndall, Herring, Sparrow, in North Carolina, New England, and England.

Deborah Winograd, 174 Lake Shore Drive, East Falmouth, MA 02536-4792, email: debfwin@cape.com. Deborah is researching Frost, Peck, in New York, New England, and England.

DONORS

Falmouth Genealogical Society wishes to thank the following donors who made contributions during 2014:

Susan Hutchinson, Joyce Pendery, Sandra Sullivan, Peggy Theochares, Elizabeth King, Marie Brady, Frances Cadigan, Priscilla Fuller, Frances McLean, Shirley Dunkle, Helene Doyle, Richard Lawrence, Stephen Hemberger, Patrick Mahoney, Anne Carlson, Gerard Luby, Barbara Fenner, Leslie McDonald, John Caspole, Margaret Osborn

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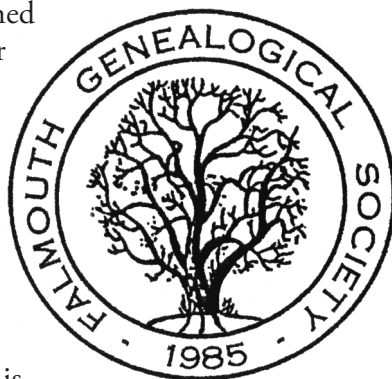
The Falmouth Genealogical Society Newsletter is published four times a year and is dedicated to news, events and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

WRITING PERSONAL MEMOIRS: WHY YOUR STORIES MATTER

Program presented by Thatcher Freund on May 9, 2015

Reviewed by Joyce S. Pendery

Thatcher Freund of Portland, Maine, published author, professional lecturer, journalist, editor and both teacher and writer of creative non-fiction, presented a program on "Writing Personal Memoirs" at the May 9, 2015, meeting of FGS. Thatcher provides assistance to those writing memoirs and will even write their memoirs for them, based on information they provide.



Thatcher asked "What Is Your Story?" There is meaning in every life. The challenge is to figure out what it is. He continued: "Everyone has fascinating stories to tell." He discussed why personal stories are important for understanding lives and the techniques for writing them down. Being an accomplished writer is not necessary. Anyone who is motivated can develop the necessary skills.

"There is a story everywhere you look" according to Thatcher. Details in stories are important in our lives. They describe what it means to be human, to meet and resolve the challenges and conflicts of daily life. Although every story is original, each is also universal. Stories are the basis of conversations. Stories connect us to the past. Everyone has been in love, but each story is different! Passing down family stories is essential for preserving family history and teaching children about their past: who they are and where they came from. Story-telling helps keep ancestors alive.

To start, ask yourself how you felt at a specific moment or during a specific event. Every experience is unique. Memories are moments of being when we learn something about our lives. Write truthfully about your experiences or thoughts. Tell some of your secrets! To give stories depth,



Thatcher Freund

place them in an historical context: a time and place, an event, a gathering, a celebration. Every story needs conflict and resolution. Every story is interesting for present and future generations. Every story is a priceless way to figure out the meaning of our lives and to connect ourselves and others to our past.

The Elements of a Good Memoir:

- Stories of the events that have shaped our lives, which require systematic reflection to uncover.



Members of Falmouth Genealogical Society man the hospitality table at NERGC

- The ideas that lie within the stories, which give them meaning.
- A structured narrative, vivid scenes, and the development of complex characters, which create the picture of a life.

FGS WEB SITE

FGS Web Master Ray Howe is redeveloping the society's web site., www.falgen.org. Keep checking it out for the latest version and up-to-date information about the Society!

GOOGLE LECTURE AT NERGC

By Joan Croce

My choice for the last afternoon at NERGC was a lecture by Lisa Louise Cooke on all the ways that Google could be used for genealogical purposes, including searching for a very common name. She used the surname "Smith" as an example for a search. By using asterisks, tildes, quotation marks, and other icons, as well as phrases for "take away," "not all," "in Boston only," "in the 17th century," "on Main street," etc., she could make Google narrow the name down to only one person – the one that fit all the categories of her input. There was more to it, of course.

But then, she told an amazing story. Once, while visiting her mother, she explained what she had been working on and the process of narrowing to find just one name. Her mother then told her that when she was young, her mother (Lisa's grandmother) was in a parade and was queen on one of the floats. She looked very beautiful! Her float won first prize! Her mother could remember seeing the film that was made of the entire parade at their Town Hall. And her mother's name was mentioned when she accepted the award for the float! She added that she would give anything to see that film again.

So Lisa plugged into Google and found the film and the name of the photographer. She contacted him, and he was so excited (after 50-plus years) that he found the film! And he bought one of the only two copies left. And then, he put it on U-Tube! Lisa's mother was so overcome that she was in tears!

It was a great talk. And there's much more in her book, *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*, by Lisa Louise Cooke, published by Lulu Press.

NERGC



Members of Falmouth Genealogical Society who attended the NERGC meeting in May reported that speakers and their topics were excellent and the banquet meals were delicious. Members of the Society who attended also helped with hosting and hospitality, as each participating society is required to contribute twenty hours of volunteer time. Start planning ahead to attend the Spring 2017 NERGC gathering in Springfield.

Calendar of Meetings for 2015

Saturdays, 10 a.m., Falmouth Public Library

June 13	30th Anniversary Celebration, 9:30 a.m. brunch at Coonamessett Inn, and Annual Meeting
July 1	Joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogical Society Sturgis Library, Jill Morelli, speaker
July 11	"Navigating Through Ancestry.com"
August 8	Tales of Our Ancestors – attendees present stories from their families
September 12	"Sturgis Library Collection", Antonia Slivens
October 10	"Conserving Our Personal Collections", Shelly Morehead
November 14	Joint meeting with Cape Cod Genealogy Society; John Colletta, speaker
December 12	Annual Holiday Food Fest with recipes and antique cookbooks

BOOK REVIEW

Swan Song, Poems and Memoirs by Adelaide Cummings in celebration of her 100th birthday!, Published June 6, 2014, King Printing Company, Inc. www.kingprinting.com, 172 pages, ISBN 13: 978-0-9855696-6-3, Reviewed by C. David Burt, editor



Adelaide Cummings, the reigning poet laureate of Falmouth is approaching her 101st birthday. *Swan Song* is a collection of her poems and memoirs reflecting on her life and showing a mirthful and positive attitude toward achieving a great age. Thatcher Freund's recent program on personal memoirs dealt with some of the blocks that people run into when trying to write their memoirs. With Adelaide Cummings this is apparently not a problem because she still seems to wake up every day with a new poem in her head, and they rhyme! Most are short, and some are two-lines like:

Abomination

What's the worst poetic crime?

To strain for rhyme!

Throughout the poems one gets a feel of the thinking and attitude of this grand old lady from the South, who still has the whimsical feelings of a much younger woman. There is great humor, deep insight, and profound confidence as she faces the end. What more can you ask of someone writing her memoirs than to let us glimpse into how she thinks? The prose section of memoirs is an equally interesting chronological retrospective on her life. Here too the poet's gift of introspection allows her to comment on her own life in a way that shows tremendous maturity of soul. There are great affirmations of faith in the prose section, just as there are in the poems. Her final poem, *Swan Song* ends with this:

Still, I sense with certainty

That somewhere there's a place for me.

Though Life her glorious gifts bestows

That I've enjoyed, right to my toes,

At long, long last I can disclose

A blessing that just grows and glows...

I who have known the highs, the lows,

Am wrapped in sunset's sweet repose.

Such a gift! Who would expect it?

May my life, dear God, reflect it!

LIBRARY HELP NEEDED

If you could spare an hour or two on Tuesday afternoons between 2 and 4 p.m. to come to the Falmouth Public Library to help genealogists who come in for research assistance, you would be VERY welcome! Old timers will show you the resources and how to help the visitors who seek genealogical information. A very small group has been providing this service for years, and they would like to have some newcomers participate so they could take some time off.

Agenda for the June 13, 2015, FGS Annual Meeting

Call to Order—President

Reading and Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes—Secretary

Nominations from the Floor and Approval of Officers—Chairman, Nominating Committee

Election of 3 members to Nominating Committee—Chairman, Nominating Committee

Presentation of Financial Report for 2015—Treasurer

Presentation and Approval of 2016 Budget—Treasurer

Submission of Reports by Officers—President

Adjourn Meeting—President

FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DUES ARE PAST DUE!!

JOINT MEETING OF FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY AND CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

On July 1, 2015, from 9:30 to noon, Falmouth Genealogical Society and Cape Cod Genealogical Society will hold a joint meeting at Sturgis Library at 3090 Main Street on Route 6A in Barnstable. (Directions can be found online.)

The guest lecturer will be professional genealogist Jill Marelli of Seattle, Washington, who will present two talks: “Soldiers and Sailors” and “Push and Pull.” Jill is a specialist in the history and genealogy of the Civil War era. She is especially interested in women’s roles during this time period.

NEGATIVE EVIDENCE

On Board, the newsletter of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, recently featured an article on “Negative Evidence” or the absence of evidence in places where information might be expected to be found. Such places include birth records, church records, marriage and death records. Genealogists then try to develop hypotheses about the event. Did a birth or marriage take place in an unexpected place or did death occur during an epidemic of illness or when the person was not at home? These hypotheses need to be tested and proved or disproved.

PUBLISHED MILITARY RECORDS AT FALMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

If any of your ancestors served in military units, especially in Massachusetts, you might find information in one of the volumes of military records at Falmouth Public Library. These include:

Massachusetts Soldiers & Sailors in the Revolutionary War, 17 volumes; a compilation from the Archives; Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co., 1899. These volumes contain brief biographies and accounts of military service.

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War, compiled and published by the Adjutant General, Norwood, MA: Norwood Press, 1931.

There are several Massachusetts Regimental Histories for the Civil War.

DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition; 3 volumes. Washington D.C.: National Society of the DAR, 1994.

Register of the Genealogical Society of the War of 1812. Washington D.C.: General Society of the War of 1812, 1972. Contains biographical sketches and lineages of members from several states.

Women Patriots of the American Revolution: A Biographical Dictionary by Charles E. Claghorn. Metuchen, NJ and London: The Scarecrow Press, 1991. Contains selected biographies.