

SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

WINTER 2017

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1

## Treats Enjoyed at Yummy Holiday Party

What do bourbon cake, snowballs, angel squares, and a WWI New Year's Eve menu have in common? They were all brought to the Annual Holiday Food Fest on December 10.

The group was in a festive mood as members described what they'd brought. Marianne Shafer shared the "snowball" cookies her mother made and even brought the grinder she used for the pecans. Jan Zlatev shared her Swedish oatmeal cookies, displaying them on a Swedish napkin with a straw Yule goat, a traditional Swedish ornament. Wenda Windbigler brought smoked



**SUE HUTCHINSON'S  
ANGEL SQUARES**

salmon which her pioneer family might have had in Northern California. They would have learned about it from the Native Americans who smoked it to preserve through the winter. The World War I New Year's Eve 1919 menu was Clyde Tyndale's father's souvenir from his quartermaster days in France right after the war ended. Eleanor Baldic brought chocolate mints in an old family dish. Ralph Wadleigh's chocolate marble cake recipe was taken from his great aunt's old Presbyterian cookbook. He even researched the woman

*(cont'd. on page 2)*

## Joint Society Meeting Focused on "Conflicting Evidence" and "School Records"



**JOAN FREDERICI, PRESIDENT, CAPE COD GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY; SPEAKER PAM EAGLESON, CG; AND MARY BARRY, PRESIDENT, FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

On November 12<sup>th</sup> members of Cape Cod and Falmouth genealogical societies were treated to two talks by Pam Eagleson, CG from Kennebunk, ME.

### "Conflicting Evidence"

Pam shared examples from her personal research and emphasized resolving or explaining rather than ignoring conflicts. The logical, 5-part Genealogical Proof Standard, GPS, includes a reasonably exhaustive search for all pertinent information, a complete and accurate citation to the source of each item used, analysis of the collected information's quality as evidence, and resolution of any conflicting or contradictory evidence to arrive at a soundly-reasoned, coherently-written conclusion. Info can be classified using original vs. derivative

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Meetings Held at 10 am  
Downstairs, Falmouth Library  
Unless Otherwise Noted

**Saturday, January 14**

**"Adding Color to Your Family Tree"**

*With Al Woollacott, III, Genealogist and Author of "The Immigrant"*

**Saturday, February 11**

**"Falmouth's Half Houses and Their Families"**

*With Marianne Shafer.*

**Saturday, March 11**

**"Collections Useful for Genealogical Research"**

*With Mark D. Procknik, Librarian at the Reading Room New Bedford Whaling Museum*

**Saturday, April 8**

**"The Story of Sgt. Homer"**

*With Margaret Sullivan, Archivist, Boston Police Department*

**Wed.-Sat., April 26-29**

**NERGC, New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Conference**

*Mass Mutual Center, Springfield (see page 2 for details)*

**Saturday, May 13**

**"The Lost Sister—Amazing and Heart-Breaking Story of an Adoptee Who Found Her Biological Family After 65 Years"**

*With Iris Burkart, the Lost Sister, And Member Dottie Priestley*

**Saturday, June 10**

**Annual Meeting and "Some Falmouth Roots"**

*With David Martin, Cape Cod Genealogy Society*

**Saturday, July 8**

**Topic to be announced**

*With Jill Morelli*

**Saturday, August 12**

**"Artifacts Day"**

*Come share a piece of your family history*



## NERGC Conference Coming in April

“THIS IS NEW ENGLAND’S PREMIER REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL EVENT.”

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) Conference, the largest genealogical event in New England, will be held from April 26-29, 2017 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA. Entitled “Using the Tools of Today & Tomorrow to Understand the Past” it will feature over 70 genealogical experts and 100 lectures as well as workshops, the Ancestor Road Show, Librarians Day, Technology Day and Special Interest Groups. This is New England’s premier regional genealogical event.

Thomas MacEntee, F. Warren Bittner, and Kenyatta D. Berry will be the featured speakers – presenting several times throughout the conference and possibly also at banquets, each brings a unique expertise to the event.

Wednesday will be filled with special tracks and events. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will be the fea-

tured days of the conference with many presentations, a large exhibit hall, meals, networking, and plenty of ‘cousin finding’! Can’t attend the full conference or one of the single-day options? You can take advantage of a Wednesday only registration with a full day of activities from which to choose.

While many think of NERGC as a Conference, it is really much more. Originally formed over twenty years ago, NERGC is an association of genealogical societies seeking to bring affordable, cutting edge, national-quality genealogical education within the reach of New England genealogists and family historians at an affordable price.

Early bird full registration continues till February 28 – 3 days cost \$120 plus add-ons (\$150 on March 1 and after). Single-day registrations are \$90 plus add-ons for Thursday, Friday or Saturday, which includes the

option to select many additional pre-conference events on Wednesday, April 26.

Go to <http://www.nergc.org> for the 20-page brochure with all the info and to register online or stop at the Falmouth Public Library on Main Street to pick one up.

*Falmouth Genealogical Society is proud to sponsor Richard Clark Roberts, President of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, as a speaker at NERGC. His topic will be “Using Connecticut’s ‘Early General Records’ to Learn More About Your Ancestors.” His presentation is scheduled for 3:15-4:15 pm on Friday afternoon, April 28, session F-225.*

**Note on Hotel Rooms:** More than 50% of the Marriott room reservations for the guaranteed block group rate are gone. However, there are other hotels in the area.

### Treats Enjoyed at Yummy Holiday Party

(cont'd. from page 1)



Deb Martin, our member hat maker, displays her festive holiday hat and fruit cake!



Wenda's smoked salmon.

who submitted it to the church and shared it. Genealogists can't resist an opportunity to find records of people in the past. He also brought his Aunt Agnes' collection of cat-themed

greeting cards. Several other goodies were shared as the genealogy friends celebrated their heritage and the holiday season.



Marianne and her grinder.



Jan's Swedish oatmeal cookies.

## Conflicting Evidence and School Records

(cont'd. on page 1)

sources, primary vs. secondary information, and direct vs. indirect evidence.

You may need to research the local customs of the area. For example, there were three or four surnames for an ancestor. She discovered that in that area of Germany the laws of the time recorded the surname as that of the original owner of the property where they resided. This was common from 1600 - 1800 despite the fact the person had a surname already. Larry Jensen's book, "A Genealogical Handbook of German Research" notes this peculiar custom of using "farm names."

In another example an individual's birth date in the 1700's and lineage from different sources did not match, neither of them primary. After exhaustive research she still had no primary or original source for his birth place. Resolution – none! Pam is still searching.

A photo labeled as a man and his wife and another as their four children turned out not to be the case. Photo Detective Maureen Taylor cautioned Pam, there is only a 50% chance the caption is accurate. Maureen told Pam the children were from two different families because their clothing and features did not match each others' nor did the timeframe fit with their birth dates and assumed ages.

Census record shortcomings include false info, bad

memory, negative evidence, misspelling, bad hearing, bad handwriting, etc.

Another ancestor, a female, was reported as a widow. However, direct evidence contradicted this because a divorce record was found indicating the husband had deserted her and moved to another state. The stigma of divorce was so strong in the 19<sup>th</sup> century that women favored saying their spouse had died [editor's note: they may have wished he had!].

Pam found a two-year discrepancy in an ancestor's birth date. Three sources revealed it to be 1814 but one as 1816. After much searching she was able to turn up the original manuscript of a transcribed version. The typist had input "1816" because the handwritten "4" resembled a "6."

### "Finding Family Info in School Records"

A perhaps less-considered means of obtaining interesting info on your ancestors is school records. However, there is no one route for finding them. Pam opened this session with a review of the history of education, which in the US began with private or church schools. "A Cyclopaedia of Education" is a resource giving random information such as the ages through which students attended school, which, for example in 1877, was 15 years. School censuses may record student's name, age and parents. This will be help-

ful for finding children who may have died between federal or state censuses, especially in the 1880 and 1900 century census "hole."

Some town reports may list the ward of the resident and even the signature of the scholar. Googling "enumeration of schools" may help find info but there is no uniformity.

Some colleges and parochial schools also have records. Princeton, for example, has the class of 1801 on its website. The University of Michigan has biographies of those at a 40<sup>th</sup> reunion.

School records can help add historical context. If your ancestor was a teacher you might find the number of students, the salary and classes taught—like temperance and hygiene. School newspapers may be available and even report cards! Some local historical societies and museums have lists of schools including graduates. Reunion yearbooks and e-books can be found online. USGenWeb offers state-by-state record information. Try Googling "history of" county or school district or "list of school houses." Search the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC) and state archives.

One adopted woman told Pam she found the only photo she has of her mother in a school yearbook!

"RESOLVE OR  
EXPLAIN RATHER  
THAN IGNORE  
CONFLICTS."

### *In Memoriam*

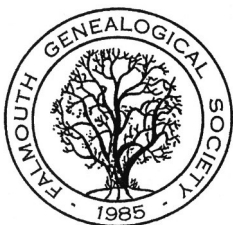
Sadly, our society lost two members in the past few months. Elizabeth King passed away in April and Barbara Peri died in September.



SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society**PO Box 2107  
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107  
Website: [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org)COMMITTED TO  
PRESERVING PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE RECORDS  
AND ENCOURAGING  
OTHERS IN THE  
PERFORMANCE OF  
GENEALOGICAL  
RESEARCH**Officers***President*  
Mary Barry*First Vice President*  
Position Open*Treasurer*  
Jerry Luby*Secretary*  
Dottie Priestley

*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.*

Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)*An Octogenarian Looks Back at Life*

By Sue Hutchinson

Bob Chase, a longtime FGS member, author of six books on his family history, a Veteran, and life-long leader in the Boy Scouts of America, presented a fascinating and nostalgic talk entitled "Echoes from the Past – An Octogenarian Look (Back) at Life." on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Bob started his presentation with a fun 'exercise' asking the audience to identify common things such as poems, songs, and quotations from our own past.

Bob spoke about the history of Newburyport, MA, the town where his family has roots going back 11 generations. Many of Bob's ancestors were involved in the whaling industry, the shoe industry, and then the rum industry up until the Depression. His large family moved 8 times, and his favorite house was once owned by a General who fought at Bunker Hill.

Bob spoke about vivid memories of the Depression, such as the eviction of a neighboring family from their home. He and his brother earned \$14 a month delivering newspapers, and all the money except for 25 cents went to help the family. At that time, the newspaper cost 12 cents a week, and people sometimes paid by check! These serious, often hard, times were balanced by fun times: rafting on the local pond in summer; skating in winter; working in his Grandfather's Country Store; collecting such treasures as Indian arrow heads, and playing with marbles and slingshots. Bob reminisced about childhood playrooms and their toy artifacts, scrapbooks, and his mother's art books and family diaries. "Rainy days in the attic", as Bob called them, were "great times, but dusty."

Throughout Bob's life, there was always an interest in learning about new things. His parents had learned to speak German, and Bob also learned to speak German - a skill that would dramatically affect the course of his life. Music played a big part in Bob's life- he learned to play several instruments, played in bands, sang in St. Paul's Choir, and even earned money in college as a dance partner at debutant balls in Boston!

**ROBIN CHASE, SPEAKER'S DAUGHTER, JERRY LUBY AND BOB CHASE**

Bob was drafted into the Army. Because he spoke German, he was posted to Nuremberg, Germany where he was a spy catcher in Counter Intelligence. Here he met his future wife, a translator at the Nuremberg trials. There were many chuckles as Bob described this "love at first sight" romance. Bob became an avid collector of war

ephemera ("things of no value") and many other German collectibles. He also learned to build model villages of Germany which were made to scale with HO model trains.

He served in the Korean War, and was then deployed to Greenland in 1959. He commented that "someone had to start collecting walrus carvings!"

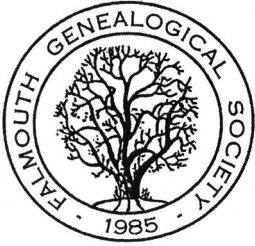
This informative and heart-warming presentation ended with this question: "How many of you have a Bucket List?" Just some of Bob's accomplishments include: learning to play piano, trombone, guitar; learning to dance and to speak German; graduating from college; serving his country in war and peace; marrying the love of his life and raising a family; being active in Boy Scouts; becoming an amateur genealogist who has published books, and travelling to 42 countries! His advice to us was -

*"Get going and have fun!"*

**Member Contribution***Need Help Searching for Dutch Ancestors?*

Here are suggested websites for Dutch research from our member, Brian Tucholke: <http://www.allegroningers.nl/>, and <https://www.wiewaswie.nl/>. They are primarily in Dutch but he feels they can be readily understood using Google Translate. The second site has a tab that will change the basic part of the site to English. Thanks for the tip, Brian.

*We want to hear from you! If you would like to make a member contribution such as a research suggestion or a good book, please let us know. If you'd like to volunteer to help with this newsletter please email newsletter editor Dottie Priestley at [rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net).*



SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SPRING 2017

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 2

## *What's At New Bedford Whaling Museum?*

On Saturday, March 11, Falmouth Genealogical Society listened to a very animated Mark Procknik discuss the extensive collections at the New Bedford Whaling Museum useful for genealogical research. The research librarian began by discussing Capt. Edmund Gardner, 1784-1875, of Nantucket whose ship "Union" was hit by a whale in 1807 in open seas and sank. The crew survived for a week, sailing to the Azores in open whaleboats. This and other stories in his log-books illustrate the hardships and dangers as well as the day-to-day experiences encountered in this trade.

The whaling museum began as the



**MARK PROCKNIK LISTENS TO A QUESTION**

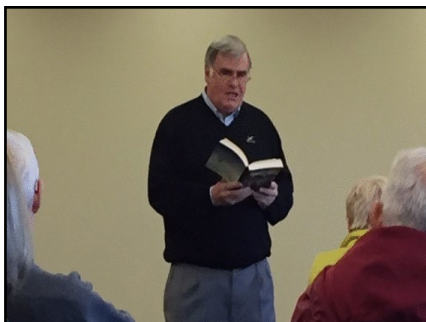
Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1903 covering Dartmouth and its surrounding communities. Its library's archives contain 1700 linear feet of manuscripts; 2300 individual maritime log-books, the largest such collection in the world;

2400 journals some complete with latitude and longitude (which served as a reference for future trips); over 700 pieces of cartographic material; over 18,000 published titles; 750,000 photographs of crews, vessels, life at sea, indigenous people, ports and buildings in Old Dartmouth.

If your ancestor was a captain he would be noted in log books. But

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

## *Speaker Tells How to Add Color to Your Family Tree*



**AL WOOLLACOTT READS FROM HIS BOOK, "THE IMMIGRANT"**

Martha's Vineyard writer and genealogist Alfred Woollacott, III, spoke January 14 on "Adding Color to Your Family Tree." He told the group he didn't begin tracing his genealogy until after he retired in

2002 with 60 hours a week to fill. The history buff just dabbled in genealogy until he saw a post online looking for info on his Fitchburg Woollacotts. From there his interest grew into an obsession.

His maternal grandmother had attended Daughters of the American Revolution meetings, so he contacted them. Within a week he discovered his patriot was a Private Rubin Law. His disappointment at his being a private soon turned to excitement when he found out Pvt. Law was at the bridge in Concord on April 19, 1775! "What was going

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

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Unless Otherwise Noted

**Saturday, April 8**

**"A Needle in a Haystack:  
Finding 19th Century Americans  
without Names or Dates"**  
*With Margaret Sullivan, Archivist,  
Boston Police Department*

**Wed.-Sat., April 26-29**

**NERGC (New England Regional  
Genealogical Consortium)  
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*Mass Mutual Center, Springfield*

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**"The Lost Sister: Heartbreak-  
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Biological Family Found Her  
After 65 Years"**  
*With Iris Burkart, the Lost Sister,  
And Member Dottie Priestley*

**Saturday, June 10**

**Annual Meeting and "Some  
Falmouth Roots"**  
*With David Martin, Member and  
Cape Cod Genealogy Society*

**Saturday, July 8**

**"Family Search: the Other 70%"**  
*With Jill Morelli*

**Saturday, August 12**

**"Artifacts Day"**  
*Come share a piece of your family  
history*

**Saturday, September 9**

**"Gravestone Repair and  
Maintenance" - A Field Trip to  
Oak Grove Cemetery**  
*With Donna Walcoy, Member  
and Professional Cemetery  
Conservator*

**Saturday, October 14**

**To be Announced**

**Saturday, November 11**

**"Social Media for Genealogists"**  
*With Mary Tedesco of TV's  
Genealogy Roadshow*  
Jointly sponsored with the Cape  
Cod Genealogical Society  
**Details to be Announced  
St. Peter's Church, Osterville**

**Saturday, December 9**

**Annual Holiday Food Fest**  
*Members bring holiday treats,  
recipes, cookbooks, Christmas  
cards*



## *Falmouth Half Houses Discussed*

Despite a recent blizzard, a crowd of over fifty people were in attendance at the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of Falmouth Genealogical Society to learn about “*Falmouth’s Historic Half-Houses and The Families Who Built Them*”.

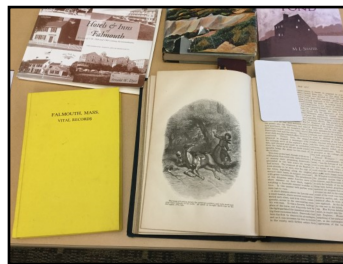


The PowerPoint presentation, given by FGS Director of Publicity, Marianne Lockwood Shafer, included street-view pictures of twenty-seven houses, built between 1724-1866, with stories about their first owners.

Introductory visuals illustrated the architecture, geology, genealogy and geography of Falmouth and the Cape, to show their influence on the early settlers.

The architecture of a half-house was demonstrated with photos of the recognizable full-Cape, a 1½ story house with a door in the middle and two windows on both sides of the door, in contrast to the half-Cape with a door to one side and just two windows. The full-Colonial and full-Saltbox were shown, as opposed to half of those styles, in the same manner.

The geology of Falmouth was illustrated by a picture from the book *These Fragile Outposts*, by Barbara Blau Chamberlain. The south and eastern parts of Falmouth lie in the “outwash plain,” formed by sediments deposited by meltwater at the end of the great glacier that pushed down from Canada 25,000 years ago. This area is where the early settlers found good soil for their large strawberry and vegetable farms. The part on the western side by Buzzards Bay has the geological name of “moraine,” a ridge, mound or irregular mass of boulders, gravel, sand, and clay that had been transported in or on the glacier. The wide distribution of stone throughout West Falmouth helped the settlers wall in their houses and kitchen gardens while the sheep and other livestock roamed free.



Genealogy was touched on with a quiz on the special contributions of some famous early families, and the geography of Falmouth’s Historic Districts illustrated the route this tour was to take to find the houses.



**MARIANNE SHAFER**

Ms. Shafer researched historic owners’ information at Cape Cod Community College, the Falmouth Library, and through the inventories of *The Falmouth Survey of Old Houses* compiled by the Falmouth Historical Commission in the years 1988-1991. She noted that the inventories are available in the Falmouth Library Reference Room on the shelf behind the librarian’s desk, and that information is to be found on all historic houses in Falmouth, not just the half-houses.

Attendees were invited to add information they might have about the family or the house as presented, and their offerings were greatly appreciated.

**Editor’s Note:** Marianne has just published a new book, “The House on Crooked Pond.” It is available online in paperback and e-book form at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

*Photo credit goes to David Burt, Board Member.*

MS. SHAFER  
RESEARCHED  
HISTORIC OWNERS’  
INFORMATION.

## *Adding Color to Your Family Tree* (cont'd. from page 1)

through his mind?" he wondered.

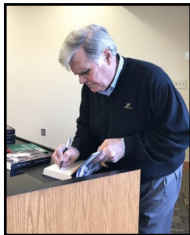
Al published a register-style genealogy, but became obsessed with filling in the facts with feelings, dialogue and drama. He knew how he felt during his own life events and needed to write about how his ancestors may have felt. In his pre-retirement field of accounting, Al would've been sued for being creative; but as a novelist, he could imagine what his ancestors felt and create stories.

The protagonist for Al's book would be John Law, Pvt. Law's great grandfather and Al's 7<sup>th</sup> great grandfather. "The Immigrant," is an historical novel based on this real ancestor.

When he was 14, Al was exuberant. But in Scotland in 1650, when John Law was that age, his mother was widowed, he had to be the man of the house and was called to war. Then in 1656 he was in West Concord,

Massachusetts tending sheep, most likely as a Scottish prisoner of war. Al did not find John's name on ships which brought prisoners here, as other indentured servants were, after the battles of Dunbar in 1650 and Worcester in 1651. He'd reached a brick wall but doesn't see any other way John arrived in America.

And in 1659 John found romance and married Lydia Draper. Al was panicked when his first baby was born; John Law's first born arrived when there were only two whites living near the Concord River. Al discussed historic events that must have affected John Law's middle age. King Phillip's War had lasted 18 months; many died as had half the Mayflower passengers earlier. Sudbury had gone up in



**AL AUTOGRAPHS HIS BOOK**

smoke; maybe the Laws smelled and saw this. Yet they didn't go back to Scotland. John Law died in 1707. Al wrote about it using what he sensed his grandmother felt as he watched her die.

Al believes it's important to work stories into family lore but is careful not to confuse facts with his fact-based fiction.

Publishers told him, "Thanks but no thanks." He went on to self-publish. On Amazon CreateSpace you can print on demand or you can self publish an e-book. You need good marketing key words.

"The Immigrant" is available on Amazon and Al's website is:

[www.myfourleggedstool.com](http://www.myfourleggedstool.com)

Al is now writing his second book, "The Believers," set in 1840 in Peterborough, NH and Nauvoo, Illinois based on John Law's descendants who followed Brigham Young.

"WHAT WAS GOING THROUGH HIS MIND?" HE WONDERED.

## *At New Bedford Whaling Museum*

(cont'd. from page 1)

crew members were not all listed unless they were "naughty." Then they would probably be mentioned as being chained or flogged for an offense such as fighting on board. A searchable Crew List Database is online [www.whalingmuseum.org/online\\_exhibits/crewlist/search.php](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/online_exhibits/crewlist/search.php).

According to Brian Nickerson, who was in the audience, Falmouth Historical Society collections include 40 digitized ship logs.

Several factors contributed to the demise of Yankee whaling: the discovery of petroleum which substituted for whale oil; Confederate pirates sinking whaling ships;

Arctic disasters; the "whaling out" of the population in the Atlantic; and Norwegian technology enabling vessels to go fast enough to catch whales other ships could not.

Mark will look for your ancestors: [MProcknik@whalingmuseum.org](mailto:MProcknik@whalingmuseum.org).

### *In Memoriam*

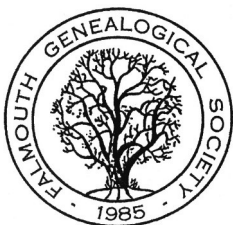
Sadly, two former members have passed away. *Dr. G. Richard Harbison* served as Vice President and taught genealogy using computers at Falmouth Community School. *Philip F. Stewart* also died recently.



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RESEARCH**Officers***President*  
Mary Barry*First Vice President*  
Position Open*Treasurer*  
Jerry Luby*Secretary*  
Dottie Priestley

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Editor: Dottie Priestley  
[rpriest1567@comcast.net](mailto:rpriest1567@comcast.net)*“Passing Strange” by Martha A. Sandweiss**A Book Report by Ralph Wadleigh*

I have my brother to thank for introducing me to this book. Knowing of my interest in genealogy and history and also knowing that our paternal grandfather for a time lived a double life, he thought I would be interested. He was right!

What genealogist could resist a book that begins: “Edward V. Brown, the census taker, moved slowly down North Prince Street...” The date was June 5, 1900. So what did your reporter do? He immediately got online and opened up the census page from Queens, New York and found the listing for the James Todd household.

And what genealogist could resist a story about a double life? In this case, the double life of Clarence King, a white, highly respected explorer, geologist and mining expert, known in the highest social circles of Washington, DC and New York City and his alternate identity as James Todd, a black Pullman porter and steelworker; loving husband to Ada Todd and father to their five children.

Improbable as this seems, the story is true and is an excellent example of family research at its best. Using historical records, newspaper archives, letters and personal interviews, Martha Sandweiss carefully reveals this radically unusual relationship to her readers in a very sensitive way considering the times in which it took place. One is taken from Clarence King’s leadership roles in the early geological surveys of the American West and his clubrooms in New York, to his alternate family homes in Queens as King/Todd moved between his very separate identities. Also treated with the utmost

of respect is the story of Ada (Copeland) Todd, a woman born in slavery, who transformed herself into a respected member of New York’s black community. Her legal struggles for financial security after King’s death make a dramatic finish to the story.

*Passing Strange* is available at the Falmouth Public Library.

*Welcome New Members*

The following individuals have joined Falmouth Genealogical Society in the past year:

*Linda Boduch  
Raymond Boduch  
Jane Charney  
Joan Conley  
Roy Daniel  
Elaine Dwyer  
Margaret Egleston  
Meredith Golden  
Kathryn Golden-Chen  
Thomas Greve  
Alan Gullicksen  
Sandra Gullicksen  
Robert Gunning  
Sandra Hadamard  
Linda Katcher  
Robert Katcher  
Constance Leak  
Deborah Martin  
Timothy Martin  
Dave Robison  
Daniel Roy  
Verne Roy  
Gail White*

Welcome! We hope enjoy all the benefits of your membership. Perhaps you will share with us your genealogical journey.

**A big thank you to member Tim Martin for upgrading software on the computer used for genealogy work at the library. Such an improvement!**







SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

SUMMER 2017

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 3

## *New Officers Elected at Annual Meeting*

At the society's annual meeting on June 10 the following officers were unanimously elected by the membership: President—Thomas Greve; Vice President—Tim Martin; Second Vice President—Mary Barry; and Secretary—Sue



**THOMAS GREVE IS THE NEW PRESIDENT**

Hutchinson. Jerry Luby continues in his position of Treasurer. Officers Thomas and Tim have been active members but are new to the board. Welcome.

Mary Barry, outgoing President, made her annual report of the past year, an impressive accounting of the group's accomplishments. From mega volunteer hours at NERGC to the same on Tuesdays at the library help sessions, to an expanded

members-only section of the website, to a well-received quarterly newsletter, to increased membership enrollment, to community involvement in the Falmouth Road Race earning \$500, to increased monetary support of the library's much

used Heritage Quest, to recording the first public service TV announcement, the society has been on a roll. She declared that Falmouth Genealogical Society is a "fabulous group."

Looking to the future, new officers bring energy and a wealth of knowledge about technology and the Internet to improve online abilities and keep us up to date.

*(cont'd. on page 4)*

## *The Lost Sister Shares Her Incredible Story*



Dottie Priestley assisted Iris Burkart in presenting her personal story of *The Lost Sister* on May 13.

Two-year old Santa Iris Guzman disappeared in Puerto Rico in 1949. When Iris Burkart joined Ancestry.com she had no idea her biolog-

ical family had been searching for her for 65 years! She was 16 when her adoptive mother, on her death bed, told her to look for papers in a closet. She found her biological parents' names in a box. She hadn't known she was adopted. She put the names in an online tree in 2014. Then this only child learned she was the eighth of eleven children. The online connection opened a whole new world to her that would change her life.

Iris used to tell people her family tree was only a stump. One evening

*(cont'd. on page 4)*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All Meetings Held at 10 am  
Downstairs, Falmouth Library  
Unless Otherwise Noted

**Saturday, July 8**

**"Family Search: the Other 70%"**  
*Learn how to find digitized records not indexed by surname*  
With Jill Morelli, National Speaker

**Saturday, August 12**

**"Artifacts Day"**  
*Come share a piece of your family history*

**Saturday, September 9**

**"Gravestone Repair and Maintenance" - A Field Trip to Oak Grove Cemetery**  
*With Donna Walcovy, Member and Professional Cemetery Conservator*

**Saturday, October 14**

**"10 Ways to Jumpstart your Genealogy" Webinar**  
*With Thomas MacEntee (Online) from High-Definition Genealogy*

**Saturday, November 11**

**"Social Media for Genealogists"**  
*With Mary Tedesco of TV's Genealogy Roadshow*  
Jointly sponsored with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
**Details to be Announced**  
St. Peter's Church, Osterville

**Saturday, December 9**

**Annual Holiday Food Fest**  
*Members bring holiday treats, recipes, cookbooks, Christmas cards*

## Membership Dues

Just a Reminder:  
Bills for the \$25 annual dues have been sent out. Thank you if you've remitted your payment. If not, please do. You can also renew via PayPal here: [www.falmouthgenealogy.com/join-or-renew.html](http://www.falmouthgenealogy.com/join-or-renew.html)

## Some Falmouth Roots Are Shared

DAVID IS  
DESCENDED FROM  
THREE PROMINENT  
FALMOUTH  
FAMILIES.



**DAVID MARTIN DISCUSSING HIS FAMILY TIES TO FALMOUTH**

Fellow member and Cape Cod Genealogical Society friend David Martin spoke on June 10 about the Falmouth connections in his personal ancestry. The names, which may be familiar to us, are Swift, Fish and Fowler. His interesting presentation included many slides of his family, their tombstones and houses.

One photo showed a wonderful primitive folk painting of Josephine Fish (1863 – 1952) at 3 years of age. She was married to Edward

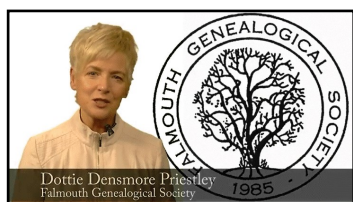
Swift and was a great-great aunt of David's mother, Elinor. The house she lived in still stands in Woods Hole where David and his brothers enjoyed visiting her as youngsters. Eliel Fish and his son were both captains of whaling ships. So David is a "Descendant of Whaling Masters," New Bedford.

David showed his lineage through the Swift family from Abraham (1762-1846), a Revolutionary War Militia member, whose father was Jabez Swift of Sandwich. Abraham's son, Jabez Swift (1805-1849), went to California in 1849 in search of gold and died while there. Perhaps the most interesting item David discussed was a letter sent to Jabez in California by his son Edward (1834-1869). It provides an intriguing look at the daily life of the family without its

bread-winner and...it even contains a juicy bit of gossip about a man and woman who left town at the same time. To earn money the family sold a cow and a horse, rented out their house and some furnishings; sold wood, pork, salt and even food that might spoil. Also mentioned was the fact that the mother's health had improved since her husband left!

Sarah Swift (1859-1934) married Frank Fowler (1856-1939), David's great grandparents. Frank worked for the Davis and Hatch Spice Company. He and other family members are buried in the Church of the Messiah Cemetery in Woods Hole.

Thank you, David, for sharing your family's stories and providing local color.



The Society's new Public Service Announcement, produced free of charge by Falmouth Community TV, is now airing and can be utilize wherever it's needed. It can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/B0K-eI4pJLA>

## How to Get Members-Only Password

Jerry Luby made a presentation at the annual meeting demonstrating the use of our website, [falgen.org](http://falgen.org), including resources reserved for members only. Besides recent issues of this quarterly newsletter, this section contains a member listing, speaker handouts and member papers and publications.

To obtain the password members can email Jerry at [jluby02@aol.com](mailto:jluby02@aol.com). After he verifies your active membership, he will send back the password. If you do not use email but would like the password to access this section, call him at 508-563-6775.

## Using the Tools of Today to Understand the Past

By Mary Barry

The 14th New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) Conference was held in Springfield, MA on April 26-29. Since Falmouth Genealogical Society is a founding consortium member, it was FGS's 14th year of participating. NERGC

Conferences are run entirely by volunteers, an amazing amount of work and dedication given that there were over 1,000 attendees. Participating includes signing a participation agreement to: 1) provide a delegate to attend most of the planning meetings in Sudbury for the years between the Conferences; 2) publicize the Conference to our society members; 3) prepare an advertisement included in the syllabus; 4) sponsor a speaker; 5) provide a minimum of 20 hours of on-site volunteer hours during the 4-days; and 6) certify completion of the requirements. The participation agreement also binds the Society to sharing the profit or loss



**FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS AT NERGC CONFERENCE: MARIANNE SHAFER, THOMAS GREVE, MARY BARRY, WENDA WINDBIGLER, RALPH WADLEIGH, TIM MARTIN AND DAVID BURT. DELEGATE PHYLLIS DAY IS NOT SHOWN.**

that is incurred by holding the Conference along with the other sponsoring Societies.

Proudly, FGS met all the requirements and had 15 members attend. Phyllis Day deserves huge thanks for not only serving as our delegate but for Chairing the Society Fair, and Libraries and Archives Collections Fair. Both were very successful based on feedback from participants. Wenda Windbigler contributed a lovely hand crocheted afghan for the volunteer raffle. Most of the 15 FGS members also participated in volunteering time. We had over 35.5 volunteer hours (15.5 hours over the required 20).

Volunteers included:

Phyllis, Ralph Wadleigh, Wenda Windbigler, Janice Zlatev, Mary Barry, Thomas Greve, and Meredith Golden.

FGS also paid the registration fee for Donna, Reference Librarian at the

Falmouth Public Library to attend the Librarian's Day program. She was excited with the information she gained by attending. FGS sponsored speaker Richard Roberts, "Using Connecticut's 'Early General Records' To Learn More About Your Ancestors". We are proud to have had the privilege of sponsoring such a high quality speaker.

Phyllis has agreed to continue as FGS NERGC Delegate for the 2019 Conference in Manchester, New Hampshire, April 3-6, 2019; at the Radisson Hotel. Without taking a break, the tireless volunteers begin planning for the next Conference.

FGS DELEGATE  
"PHYLLIS DAY  
DESERVES HUGE  
THANKS...."



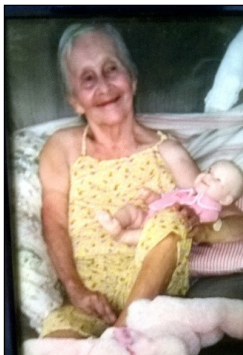
HAPPY SISTERS  
ELISA AND IRIS



IRIS MET SISTER  
GLADYS WEEKS  
BEFORE SHE DIED



WHEN IRIS MET  
HER BROTHER  
DANIEL HE  
BROKE DOWN



IRIS'S MOTHER,  
FILOMENA, WITH  
DOLL

## The Lost Sister

on Ancestry.com, a biological niece in Fort Lauderdale named Mellisa saw her great grandparents' names in Iris' post along with the name "Iris." She knew how Santa Iris had disappeared and excitedly told her aunt Elisa she may have found her missing sister. Then they contacted Iris.

The next morning Iris worried it was all a hoax. Mellisa had promised to email photos and there was no message. That is, until later that day, when her email folder "blew up" with photos and messages from excited family members from different parts of the US and Puerto Rico!

Two weeks after making the connection, Iris flew to Florida to meet her family. Elisa was there along with several cousins, nieces and nephews. A heart-warming video of this reunion is on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MFZWlrkLbo>. A few days later she met another, very ill, sister who passed away shortly after. She met

her only other living sibling, Daniel, at his home in Puerto Rico a few months later.

Iris's biological mother had passed away years before, after spending a life missing her little girl who never came home. She named her eleventh child Santa Iris after her and, in her old age, carried a doll representing the little girl. She told the family never to stop looking for her. They suffered a series of other losses over the decades, including the tragic death of the second Santa Iris in a plane crash in the 1980's. Another daughter fell to her death off a fire escape in New York City. All of Iris' siblings except two sisters and a brother had passed away. But they never forgot the lost sister.

After she learned she was adopted, Iris tried in vain to find out more. Her adoptive father refused to talk about it. She traveled to the town in Puerto Rico where she was born and called every Guzman in the phone book. She asked other members of her adoptive family, but they

*(cont'd. from page 1)*

wouldn't say. Except a cousin said she overheard that Iris came from a large family which couldn't afford another child. When Iris needed a passport she found out the "adoption" papers were not sufficient so went back to Puerto Rico and obtained her birth certificate. The adoption doesn't appear to be legal. This could explain why baby Iris was immediately taken to New York City where she was raised to avoid detection.

Iris's siblings said their father may have sold her to her adoptive parents in Puerto Rico without her mother's knowledge. Daniel remembers him taking little Santa Iris to work with him one day and coming home without her. No one knows for sure. But now-a-days this happily reunited family hosts joyous celebrations throughout the year.

At the end of the talk, Iris thanked Dottie. She said it was Dottie's interest in genealogy which prompted Dottie's daughter Sandy, who's also Iris's daughter in law, to give them both Ancestry DNA tests for Mother's Day 2014. And that is what led to her finally finding her family.

You can read Iris' story here <http://interactive.sun-sentinel.com/lost-sister/>.

## New Officers Elected

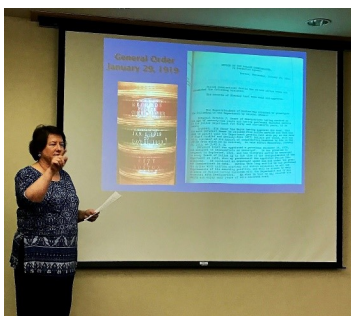
*(cont'd. from page 1)*

IN THE PHOTO TO THE RIGHT: THOMAS GREVE, PRESIDENT; TIM MARTIN, VICE PRESIDENT; MARY BARRY, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT; DOTTIE PRIESTLEY, NEWSLETTER EDITOR; AND JERRY LUBY, TREASURER. SUE HUTCHINSON, SECRETARY, WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE PHOTO.



AT ANNUAL MEETING

## Archivist Tells How She Found a “Needle in a Haystack”



### MARGARET SULLIVAN DESCRIBES HER RESEARCH

On April 8<sup>th</sup> Margaret Sullivan, Records Manager and Archivist for the Boston Police Department, gave “A Case Study in Identifying 19<sup>th</sup> Century African Americans.” She located the first African American police officer in Boston despite having no name, no date and an unmarked grave. Even his existence was doubted.

In a fast-paced, anecdote-filled talk, she said that the first officer was appointed in the 1630’s to the police department’s precursor, the Watch. She searched diverse areas including the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC. She found names of all but one of the 65 officers in 1857 but no photographs to ascertain which might be African American. A novel mentioned an African American in 1865. When Harvey Yates was appointed in 1919 there was an obscure reference to an earlier African American.

She has 15,000 boxes of material, but most of it is current. She tried following the money

because financial records survive. She read about Boston from the 1850’s to the Civil War period and wondered who might be in a role to be chosen as a police officer. There were African Americans active in business and others were promoted to positions such as judges. In a book written by an investigator, Margaret found a reference to a first “colored” officer in 1879, but who was he? Records didn’t show any being appointed.

The final breakthrough came when she utilized the 1880 census to look up the race of the hundreds of names she found listed as police department employees. There she found Horatio Julius Homer, a mulatto, who had been appointed in 1878.

She researched his life from his birth in 1848 and twice travelled to his birthplace in Connecticut. Sergeant Homer’s life was one of involvement and service. He was active in the Republican Party (President Lincoln’s party at the time). He and his first wife Sophie welcomed prominent guests at their home, he gave music lessons, formed a supper club. After Sophie’s death, he remarried and fathered two boys.

He was assigned to the Museum of Fine Arts, patrolled Copley Square, wrote letters to the editor, witnessed an oath. In 1919, he retired at 70. He died four years later. It

would be 30 years after his appointment before another African American appointment.

Margaret located two granddaughters living in Cambridge. Before she contacted them, they knew nothing of him other than what he looked like in a photo.

Margaret’s search tips include: share what you’re looking for with others; listen; know the territory geographically, historically and culturally; visit sites; revisit where nothing showed up; ask reference librarians then check back again; talk to neighbors; walk in the person’s footsteps; visit local historical societies; read about the time and place. She suggested applying for a Boston Public Library card and researching remotely.

Margaret’s quest had a very moving ending when, in 2010, the City and the Boston Police Department held a memorial service at Evergreen Cemetery for its once-forgotten hero. A tombstone was unveiled, paid for by a collection Margaret started. She said the police really know how to do ceremonies: at the proceedings were Mayor Menino, police officials and their ranks, the Tuskegee Airmen, bagpipers and the two granddaughters. How gratifying this must have been for Margaret!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMOTopD3AF8>

FOUND!  
 BOSTON’S FIRST BLACK  
 POLICE OFFICER:  
**HORATIO JULIUS HOMER**  
 1848-1923



SINCE 1985

**Falmouth  
Genealogical  
Society**

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

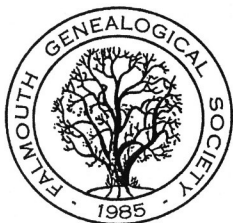
COMMITTED TO  
PRESERVING PUBLIC  
AND PRIVATE RECORDS  
AND ENCOURAGING  
OTHERS IN THE  
PERFORMANCE OF  
GENEALOGICAL  
RESEARCH

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- Treasurer*  
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- Secretary*  
Susan Hutchinson

*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.*

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



*“The House on Crooked Pond”*

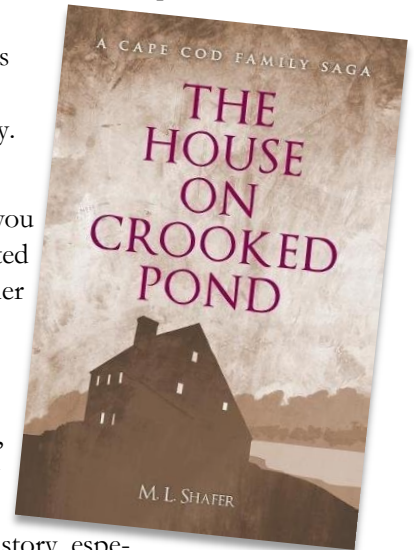
*A Book Review  
by Ralph Wadleigh*

What a treat it is to report on this book, possibly the first one published for a general audience by a member of the Falmouth Genealogy Society. Marianne Shafer has created a memorable saga of the fictional Lyman Family and its connection to the ancient family homestead on Falmouth’s Crooked Pond. Stepping away from the usual past to present format of most historical fiction, Marianne has structured her story into four parts; beginning with recent times and then moving from 1712 to the present.

The tale features a colorful cast and stretches from 1685 to 2014. Timewise it begins with the immigrant ancestor Hezekiah Lyman and includes a former movie star, a Quaker blacksmith’s daughter, a matriarch adjusting to new surroundings and a troubled jealous brother. How each of the characters and their stories are intertwined involves a good supply of suspense, drama, betrayal, affection and love. Moreover the action takes place around a number of historical events that affected the villages of Falmouth and West Falmouth. Local readers will vicariously enjoy the Lyman family’s travels around greater Falmouth.

Superimposed on the human history is the history of the house, which over time enjoys both abandonment and improvement, and of course all these changes involve the Lyman family.

If you are a genealogist, you will be tempted to put together a pedigree chart of the Lymans. Alternatively, if you simply enjoy local and family history, especially family lore, this book will be a pleasure to read. It is available in paperback and eBook forms at Amazon and Barnes and Noble on line, at Cape Cod bookstores, and on the shelves of the Falmouth Public Library.

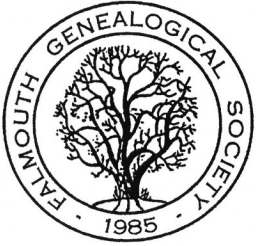


Thank you Marianne, for sharing your love of writing, genealogy and house history.

*Lifetime Leadership Award Presented*

Long-time member Joyce Pendery was presented a Lifetime Leadership Award “in recognition of a decades-long dedicated commitment to the goals and objectives of the Falmouth Genealogical Society with deep appreciation and gratitude.” Ralph Wadleigh and his wife Judy made the presentation recently to Joyce, a former Falmouth resident, at her Cambridge home. Congratulations, Joyce! We miss you.





SINCE 1985

# FALMOUTH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## NEWS

FALL 2017

VOLUME 29, ISSUE 4

### *“Family Search: The Other 70%” Explored*

The Society was pleased to once again host Seattle’s Jill Morelli, CG<sup>SM</sup>, on Saturday, July 8. Jill discussed two main topics, the first of which was how to overcome the fact that 70% of information on FamilySearch.org is not indexed by surname.

The second issue was the discontinuation of the microfilm loan program from the Family History Library. The discontinuation occurred on August 31 so it’s too late for readers of this newsletter to order films, as Jill recommended. Digitization allowing microfilms to be accessible online is expected to be completed by 2020. That means records not yet digitized will be available only at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City until then and some others not at all.



JILL MORELLI, CG<sup>SM</sup>

This digitization is proceeding at such a rapid pace that it is far surpassing that of the indexing process, meaning images of 70% of available FamilySearch records cannot be searched using surnames or other keywords. If you’ve never joined FamilySearch, opening a free account is OK.

You won’t receive emails.

Jill shared the following strategies for finding un-indexed images.

**Strategy 1** – Use the “Records” tab but, rather than filling in a surname, click on a location using the map feature. Then select from its list of places. Again, don’t use a surname search but scroll down to “Image Only Historical Records” and select from the categories listed. Those may be divided by date or alphabet, reducing the number

*(cont’d. on page 3)*

### **Mary Tedesco of PBS Genealogy Roadshow to Speak on November 11 in Osterville**

Falmouth and Cape Cod genealogical societies are proud to present Mary Tedesco at their jointly-sponsored meeting on Saturday, November 11, at 10 am at St. Peter’s Church in Osterville.

Mary will present, **Social Media for Genealogists**—Effective tips for Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Pinterest, and other social networks to foster connections with fellow genealogists; boost blog readership; generate business leads; and more.

*(cont’d. on page 2)*



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

All Meetings Held at 10 am Downstairs, Falmouth Library Unless Otherwise Noted

**Saturday, October 14**

**“10 Ways to Jumpstart your Genealogy” Webinar**  
With Thomas MacEntee  
(Online) from High-Definition Genealogy

**Saturday, November 11**

**“Social Media for Genealogists”**  
With Mary Tedesco of TV’s Genealogy Roadshow  
Jointly sponsored with the Cape Cod Genealogical Society  
**10 am at St. Peter’s Church, Osterville.** See p. 2 for cost and reservation information.

**Saturday, December 9**

**Annual Holiday Food Fest**  
Members bring holiday treats, recipes, cookbooks, Christmas cards

**Saturday, January 13, 2018**

**“What Next?: Third-Party Tools for Exploring Autosomal DNA”**  
With Thomas Greve, Falmouth Genealogical Society President and Professional Genealogist

**Saturday, February 10**

**“Italian Research”**  
With Margaret Fortier, Professional Genealogist/Mass. Society of Genealogists Board Member

**Saturday, March 10**

**“US Immigration Documents”**  
With Seema Kenney, Certified in Genealogical Research from BU; President, Worcester Chapter, Mass. Society of Genealogists

**Saturday, April 14**

**“Brick Kiln Road and Influential Quakers in early Falmouth.”**  
With Tom Sbarra, Retired Cardiologist and Falmouth Resident

## *Artifacts Shared in August*



LOCKWOOD RIANHARD, WENDA WINDBIGLER, DOTTIE PRIESTLEY AND TIM MARTIN

August's program was the popular member artifact day. First up was Lockwood Rianhard, who discussed a fabulous painting of his ancestor, Hannah Elizabeth Bagby, born in 1822 in Virginia. Hannah was an important figure in the Tidewater region of Virginia and in the Baptist Church. Lockwood, the eldest of his family, inherited the painting from his mother, also the eldest, who inherited it from her mother. He plans to donate it to Virginia's King and Queens County Historical Society. But first he will obtain an appraisal for tax purposes and have three full-size Kodak copies made on canvas for his own family.

His original painting, which was very dark, was restored in 2005,

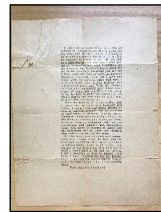
making it much brighter and bringing out Hannah's beautiful blue eyes. It is a hand-painted copy of an approximately 1830 portrait passed down to Virginia Governor Pollard, was also a descendent of Hannah's grandmother. Lockwood is not sure of the current whereabouts of the first original painting from Hannah's life.



In those days King and Queens County was Virginia's largest county and important for its merchant sailing ships and warehouses. Its courthouse, built in 1756, has 30 full-size paintings of its important people in on its walls. Twelve of them are close relatives of Lockwood's and six are close relatives of Hannah. All were active in the affairs of the

county. They were also Baptist preachers in the main county church who helped spread the religion throughout the South during the early 1800's. Hannah was married to John Gresham.

Dottie Priestley originally thought the column she found was a story her mother had clipped from a newspaper. It wasn't



dated and there were no names on it. However, as Dottie read it, it became clear it was a love letter her father, who was a linotype operator at a newspaper, had written to her mother from work on the eve of Easter 1945.

The slightly humorous, over-the-top letter revealed a man filled with love and excitement about the future. He says, "as a wife you are the best one I ever had" and "I love you more with the passing years." He mentions a child and another one on the way. He speaks about

*(cont'd. on page 3)*

*(cont'd. from page 1)*

**Mary Tedesco** is a professional genealogist, speaker, and author. She is a Co-Host / Genealogist on the PBS television series "Genealogy Roadshow" (season 2 & season 3) as well as the Founder of ORIGINS ITALY. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Boston University and a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University's Center for Professional Education. In addition to her Italian ancestry on her father's side (Calabria, Trentino-Alto Adige, and Tuscany), she also has deep American roots on her mother's side (German, Irish, Danish & English). Mary is a proud member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and is the Second Vice Regent of the Paul Revere Chapter NSDAR. She is a member of a number of local and national genealogical societies and is on the Council of New England Historic Genealogical Society.

The cost is \$15 for lobster roll or \$10 for chicken salad (with chips, brownie, and drink). Specify lunch choice when reserving—contact Judy Fenner at [bfennerpgm@comcast.net](mailto:bfennerpgm@comcast.net) or 508-776-9401.

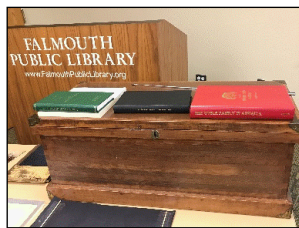


## Artifacts

his dreams for many more years of happiness. But they would not be realized. He died suddenly from a heart attack only five years later. He would not see his children grow up to be “the talk of the town,” as he had written. Dottie also shared a note her mother had written about how happy their life had been and what a shock his sudden death was.

Dottie, who was 7 when her father died, said, “If you didn’t have time to get to know your father and have only one letter from him, this is a good one.” To close, Dottie showed a few photos and a treasured 90-second full-color home movie of her parents on their wedding day in 1940.

The third presenter, Wenda Windbigler, needed family helpers to bring in her artifact, this hope chest. It was made by



her grandfather, Ernie Wahl, as an engagement gift to his bride, Gertrude. It was a gift to Wenda on her high school graduation. She uses it as a coffee table in her TV room.

Gertrude attended grade school in Grizzly Bluff, California, and graduated from Fortuna High School. She and Ernie married in 1915 in Eureka. When Ernie’s boss refused to give him a day off for the wedding, he quit. The couple had three daughters who liked to play hide and seek. When the eldest opened the chest with its key and took it inside with her to hide, the poor man had to use an axe to get her

out. Wenda said she was blessed growing up with her Poppy and Trudy living nearby.

Wenda also spoke about Gertrude’s Goble and Ferrell ancestors who journeyed to California via the Oregon Trail in a wagon drawn by 8 oxen. They settled in Humboldt County.

Wenda showed slides of the family. She said an uncle, Jim Wahl, was a USO radio announcer. He was working the night shift at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and stayed on the air all night.

Tim Martin gave a brief preview of his presentation for a future meeting about the 1833 eruption of Krakatoa. They are first-hand stories from his wife Debbie’s ancestors. It is sure to be an interesting talk.

## Family Search: The Other 70%

of images you need to review.

Next click on the matrix (see illustration) to view multiple pages and possibly the location of separators for segments, which gives you a better idea of where your record might be in the string. Then look for the individual in a smaller set of records.

**Strategy 2** – Use “Find a Collection” shown below the map. Don’t fill in the blank. Instead, click on “Browse all Published Collections.” Jill recommends

looking at all records in your set rather than selecting a date range. Those with a camera icon are images; those with a camera in a box are images found at another, maybe pay or membership-only, site.

**Strategy 3** – Use the “Catalog” button at the top of the screen. In the place field type a location. Find your record set. Open the description and scroll to the bottom to see the status of the film.

**Strategy 4** – Use “Wiki” at the top of the screen and enter a location or subject. It may contain locations not found on the map. Then click “Online Records.”

For more info: Jill referred to this blog for more info on un-indexed records on Family-Search: [OpeningDoorsInBrickWalls](http://www.falgen.org). Falmouth Genealogical Society members can find “Speaker Notes” from Jill’s presentation on [www.falgen.org](http://www.falgen.org) in the “Members Only” section.

“THERE ARE WAYS TO ACCESS THE UN-INDEXED, BUT ONLINE IMAGES, ALL OF WHICH REQUIRE A LOCATIONAL SEARCH—USING THE MAP, THE WIKI AND THE CATALOG.”

—JILL MORELLI

(cont’d. from page 2)

(cont’d. from page 1)



**DONNA WALCOVY SPEAKS AS BRAD JORDAN WATCHES**

DONNA SAYS SHE GETS GREAT SATISFACTION FROM "WORKING FOR THE DEAD."

## Donna Walcovy Discussed Gravestone Preservation . . .

On September 9 member Donna Walcovy spoke about gravestone repair and maintenance at Oak Grove Cemetery in Falmouth. She began her presentation in the Elizabeth G. Parke Memorial chapel there. Also in attendance were Brad Jordan, cemetery Superintendent, and Phyllis Hunt, President of the Oak Grove Cemetery Association of Falmouth.

Donna spoke about the history of the cemetery, which was founded in 1848, and interesting individuals who are interred there. The cemetery's original five acres have grown to the current 22 with many more places still open and two areas for cremations. The first burial took place in 1851. Elijah Swift, whom Donna calls, "the first self-made millionaire," owned salt works, built homes and ships, founded a bank, was a whaling captain. Other burials include one Revolutionary War soldier, 25 War of 1812 soldiers, 35 Civil War veterans and the first Cape Codder killed in Vietnam. There are even three individuals who were murdered. William C. Davis, who owned a furniture company was asked to make caskets, which lead to his establishing the first funeral home in the location where Barbo's is now. The cost of a funeral was \$76. A Boston Red Stocking player and the owner of some Mayan ruins are here. Donna has met some very interesting descendants of the deceased there.

When Donna was President of Falmouth Genealogical Society years ago, Eleanor Baldic enlisted her help in a newly-

formed cemetery project for a book. Donna volunteered to set up a website which lead to 15 years' work. All town cemeteries (18 places) were covered in ten years. Not included is an ancient Native American burial site in Falmouth at a location Donna keeps secret.

Donna says she gets great satisfaction from "working for the dead," which she does in several cemeteries through Community Preservation Coalition grants. She is a member of the Association for Gravestone Studies and is a Certified Cemetery Conservator.

Gravestones are subject to all kinds of damage. They can be blown over by wind and trees downed by wind. Even grazing cows knocked them down while scratching themselves in old burying grounds. Trees uprooted them. Acid rain, grass from mowing, inept preservation techniques, and the following mistakes can also lead to destruction.

### What not to do:

*DO NOT do grave rubbings. They damage the stones and are illegal in Massachusetts. Duct tape cannot be removed and Crayola destroys stones. Donna, however, is legally qualified to rub stones.*

*DO NOT power wash - it blows marble apart.*

*DO NOT use cement bases or cement to fill cracks. It does not breathe like the stones and damage is done when trying to chip it off. Donna hopes someday a solvent will be found to dissolve it.*

*DO NOT use water from rusty cemetery pipes to clean stones. Use only potable (drinkable) water from a tap or bring your own from home.*

*DO NOT use epoxy because water cannot pass through it, causing stone breakage.*

*DO NOT use shaving cream, chalk or Mr. Clean.*

*DO NOT use credit cards for scraping.*

*DO NOT use iron pins because the green from rust can't be removed. 316 stainless steel can be used by drilling holes.*

### What to do:

*USE a soft-bristle brush which you test on your face for softness.*

*USE 2 inches of clean drinkable water in a bucket, which you dump when it shows signs of dirt.*

*USE wooden popsicle sticks or wooden skewers for scraping.*

Some cemeteries must grant permission to non-family members to clean tombstones. Start cleaning at the bottom and work your way up. Realize it may take 8 hours, especially if lichen is present. Donna uses syringes and a water pic for cleaning slate.

Donna distributed examples from Lime Works' historic lime mortar, which comes in colors to match original stones. It must be kept between 40 and 90 degrees to set for 24 to 28 days.

D/2 Biological Solution is recommended by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), a government agency under the National Park Service. It bubbles as you spray it on and sometimes turns red, which is OK. Within a month of application, the stone looks much better. It is available on Amazon and Donna says you'll never need more than a quart.

*(cont'd. on page 5)*



## . . . At Field Trip to Cemetery

Headstones include slate, marble, brownstone and granite. Each has its strengths and drawbacks. **Slate**, a layered laminate, develops fissures from snow and sun when stood upright. Slate from ships' ballast was first used in early Boston. **Marble** is easier to carve but is only a 3 on a scale of 1 to 10 for hardness. It comes off in a powder called "sugar" and is also susceptible to acid rain.

Biological matter grows on gravestones when grass sticks to them, requiring preservation. HCT can be painted on after cleaning. The process requires painting with HCT three times then testing with tape until there's no more sugar. If there is, it must be applied three more times.

**Brownstone** wicks moisture up from the ground and the salt deteriorates it from inside to out. Knocking on it can determine if it's hollow. Then a tool can be inserted into a hole made in the back to clean it out. **Granite** is a #7 on the hardness scale and lasts unless rusty water, which "eats" it, is used. Sprinklers can disintegrate granite because of iron pipes.

Even the US Government has made mistakes. It used marble on its Civil War headstones and power washed them. Their stones in national cemeteries are flat markers easily damaged by lawn mowing throwing mulch onto them.

Donna took us outside to see her restoration work in progress. She showed how she had drilled out pins, clamped the stone to let the setting compound form, then pushed



down and removed excess. When she digs up stones she sometimes finds cement bases buried underneath. To replace them, she makes a 5-inch footing using dense grade crushed rock and sand from Lawrence Lynch mixed with water.

B72 mixed with acetone and injected with a syringe needle can be used. Painter tape is used to hold it until it hardens. It is then smoothed off with lime mortar. This process can be undone by dissolving and doesn't harm stone.

Donna enjoys seeing old pictures showing how graves looked. She found a stereopticon slide from 1880 showing a grave's wrought iron fence as it was before its removal. Fences were rusted or stolen or may have been removed and melted during the war.

Unfortunately, a 1919 cemetery maintenance book recommended throwing out footstones.

Photographs are excellent substitutes for illegal rubbings, as are written notes of the inscription's words. Capital and lower



-case letters as well as ends of lines should be noted. Donna demonstrated how to take pictures of gravestones

using a round, portable, foldable disc light reflector to catch the sun and create shadows on the engraved lettering. They are available from Amazon for under \$25. Or you can spray potable water on the stone then sponge off to allow accumulation of dirt in all but the letters, which must be washed off later. A floor mirror could also be used as a reflector. She suggested leaning a photo of the deceased against the stone before taking a picture.

Donna said Cemetery Superintendent Brad Jordan accidentally discovered he can not only divine where people are buried, but can even detect the gender of the deceased – without reading the marker! He demonstrated his ability, which not everyone has, using divining rods found in storage.



**BRAD JORDAN DEMONSTRATING USAGE OF DIVINING RODS.**

Donna can be reached at her business, Marking Burials, at [walcovy@gmail.com](mailto:walcovy@gmail.com), or 508-274-2978. She recommends Jason Church's instructional videos on the NCPTT YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjoYaGWmMOM&index=8&list=PL2m2mHd\\_iGy1IkzuZMCY8r4SOqxKdt2Fu](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjoYaGWmMOM&index=8&list=PL2m2mHd_iGy1IkzuZMCY8r4SOqxKdt2Fu)



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## What's In Your Genealogy Education Plan?

*by Thomas Greve*

Whether it was paid work for clients, *pro bono* work for friends, or casual research on my own family, I wanted to tell an accurate account of the past. Early in my pursuit of a career in genealogy, it became apparent that continuing education would be crucial to meeting that goal. I realized that doing research “in a bubble”—with little or no consideration of standards accepted by the larger genealogical community—would have negative implications on the validity of my conclusions. As I began to survey the options available to me, I remembered a former neighbor telling me about Falmouth Genealogical Society (FGS). She recommended attending the weekly help sessions or the monthly program at the library. The first meeting I attended included a presentation by Barbara Mathews, CG, FASG, entitled “Using Colonial Records in Family History Research.” I was very impressed that the Society engaged a speaker with the Certified Genealogist credential.

I hope that our members will consider developing their own genealogy education plan. One of FGS’s objectives is “to encourage and instruct members in the performance of genealogical research and promote the maintenance of quality genealogical standards and documentation.” (Falmouth Genealogical Society, By-Laws, amended 12 June 2004, Article II). Many genealogical organizations have worked to make educational opportunities accessible to a broader audience through live webinars. These presentations, including slides broadcasted remotely by the speaker, can be enjoyed from the comfort of home.

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) offers a monthly webinar featuring

an associate who holds the Certified Genealogist credential. See <https://familytreewebinars.com/bcg> for more information.

In addition to hosting the BCG webinars, Legacy Family Tree Webinars offers scheduled presentations on a wide variety of genealogical topics. The most recent webinars can be viewed on-demand for a limited time. See <https://familytreewebinars.com> for their full selection.

Another option to consider is the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC), an event hosted every two years by a consortium of genealogical and historical societies. FGS has been involved in NERGC since its inception. The next conference will take place in Manchester, New Hampshire from Wednesday 3 April to Saturday 6 April 2019. See <http://www.nergc.org/2019-conference/> for more information.

For those seriously interested in developing their research skills, Boston University offers two online courses through its Center for Professional Education. The Genealogical Essentials Course provides a basic overview of research strategies. The Certificate in Genealogical Research program offers an in-depth look at advanced research techniques using real genealogical problems. See <https://genealogyonline.bu.edu> for information on both programs.

Lastly, I hope that members will continue to include FGS in their education plan! There are many great programs to come in 2018.

*Thomas Greve is President of the Falmouth Genealogical Society and a Professional Genealogist.*