



FALMOUTH
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

FGS Newsletter

JANUARY-MARCH 2025

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1

Monthly Talk Recap

Artifacts Day: Members Share Family Heirlooms

By Caroline McKee Anderson

Artifacts Day! held on October 19, 2024, at the Falmouth Genealogical Society, provided an informative and fun opportunity for members to share treasured family heirlooms



FGS Members Who Shared Artifacts:
Deborah Pickett Mills, Shirley Lombardozzi,
Dan Roy and Bill Gilbrook

and the stories of the ancestors who owned them. Hear their full stories at our website falgen.org. They can be found under Speaker Notes and Videos in the Members Only Section.

Bill Gilbrook

Bill shared his own “Photo Angel” story. The photo of the Alexander (1871-1956) and Rosina Johnson (1873-1947) Gilbrook family was taken in London in February of 1922. It was found about eight years ago in a flea market in Beacon, New York by a good Samaritan interested in genealogy who returned it to the family.

Shirley Lombardozzi

Shirley showcased John McDermott’s Hand-Carved Cane. John McDermott (1841-1914), served as a corporal in the 25th Massachusetts Infantry, Company E during the Civil War. He was wounded and his right leg amputated. He hand-carved this exquisite cane while imprisoned in Andersonville, Georgia.

Deborah Pickett Mills

Deborah talked about Henry Pickett (1827-1904), her great-great grandfather. He served as a private in the North Carolina 27th Regiment, Company G. On October 14, 1863, during the battle near Bristoe Station, Virginia, he was injured and admitted to the Richmond hospital where his right leg was amputated six inches below the knee.

Dan Roy

Dan shared several family treasures including Nellie M. Thayer’s (1860-1934) 1878 dance card from Nonotuck Hall in Northampton, Mass. Note that she reserved two quadrilles for her future husband, Lucius B. Warner (1858-1892).

See their artifacts on page 11.

We’re Turning

40



**CELEBRATING A SPECIAL YEAR
INTRODUCING A NEW LOOK**

Calendar of Events

Meetings are held at the Falmouth Public Library in the Hermann Foundation Room and virtually on Zoom unless noted otherwise. See falgen.org for updated information.

New meeting start time is 10:00 am; 10:00—10:30 Refreshments and Socializing; 10:30—Noon: Program.

Saturday, January 11

10:00 am

Research Process and Vignettes from *A Home in Woods Hole*

Elizabeth Heslop Sheehey

Saturday, February 8

10:00 am

Genetic Genealogy, Empathy, and the NPE Community

Kate Penny Howard

Saturday, March 8

10:00 am

Brick Wall Solved with Oral History, Research, and DNA

*Michael Proctor, Historian & Officer
Massachusetts Society of
Mayflower Descendants*

Continued on Page 11

FGS Celebrates 40th Anniversary and Looks Toward the Future

By Tim Martin, FGS President



Welcome to the 40th Anniversary year of the Falmouth Genealogical Society! Throughout 2025, we'll celebrate our past, add fun elements to our current activities, and plan for our future.

Forty years ago, a group of individuals rallied to build a local group that saw the value of each of us building

and understanding our family history. We are indebted to these founding members who established a strong foundation and tradition of outstanding programs, collaboration with local and regional partners, and excellence in genealogical research. We are honored that some of these early pioneers remain members of FGS including founding President Eleanor Baldic, Marguerite Riley, Chief Paul Bunnell, and Virginia Nielsen.

To mark our 40th, I am pleased to introduce the inaugural issue of our renewed newsletter, encompassing a new logo, design, and vision. A huge thanks to board members Caroline Anderson and Dottie Priestley who have encouraged us and done much of the work to refresh our vision as well as our spirits.

While the Internet arrived, bringing more of the world to us, the role of locally purposed communities like FGS remains more important than ever. We're focused on getting to know you—we want to learn how we can help you in your family history research. We all benefit by working together. Drop by our Tuesday Help Desk or attend a monthly program. You'll enjoy networking with others who share your passion for genealogy.

And mark your calendar for the afternoon of Thursday, September 11, 2025. We're planning a very special 40th Anniversary Celebration. Details to follow.

We're excited about this special anniversary year—and what we will be doing together!

(See page 11 "Moments in History: FGS Celebrates 40th Anniversary")

Monthly Talk Recap

Probate and Beyond and Understanding Old Documents

By Caroline McKee Anderson



Michael Leclerc, CG

Michael Leclerc, CG delivered two interactive and engaging presenta-

tions at the November 16, 2024 joint meeting of the Cape Cod and Falmouth Genealogical Societies.

In *Probate and Beyond*, Michael said that information-rich probate records are key resources for genealogists. Estate administration is handled at the state level—and the laws vary by state and timeframe. Thus, it is critically important to understand the laws of the time and place of your search. To illustrate this point, Michael used *The Perpetual Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (1780-1789)* for his case study. At that time, each county had one probate judge and one register, each with specific duties. Anyone with lands, tenements (buildings), or hereditaments (personal property) had

to leave a will. He had to be age 21+ and sane (determined by the judge). Michael walked the audience through the requirements of the time for written wills, oral wills, post-mortem children, widow's choice, the responsibilities of the executor—and the harsh penalties if probate was not filed in due course. Michael also explained that it is important to look beyond the Probate Court records for a full picture. During this period, some activities related to Probate were actually handled by the Court of Common Pleas or the Supreme Judicial Court. He said that researchers can go to the State Library to find the set of laws for a specific time period.

Continued on Page 11

Monthly Talk Recap

On the Road to the Mayflower

By Caroline McKee Anderson



Karen Rinaldo and Kevin Doyle

On December 14, 2024, Karen Rinaldo and Kevin Doyle presented *On the Road to the Mayflower*. The presentation featured their 2023 trip to Amsterdam and Leiden while also exploring the Pilgrims' experiences in the Netherlands and their ultimate departure to the New World.

According to Karen, this trip came about as the result of their earlier work and interest in this period of history. It began in 1995 when Karen was commissioned by the National Association of Congregational Churches to create an historically accurate image of the first Thanksgiving. The result is the much acclaimed "The First Thanksgiving 1621", an oil on canvas measuring 5 feet by 3 feet. Karen and Kevin then co-authored and published *In the Wake of the Mayflower* in 2019. Short historical vignettes and images present a lively brief history of the Pilgrims, the Nausets and Wampanoags, and the towns of Cape Cod.

In their presentation, they combined their talents as storytellers and historians with striking photographs and images of many of Karen's celebrated paintings.

Kevin provided a brief history of what led the Pilgrims to leave first England and finally the Netherlands. The Pilgrims (Separatists) objected to the edicts of the Church of England established under King Henry VIII.

Separatists first went to Amsterdam and then on to Leiden. After about 12 years, the Pilgrims departed on their perilous winter journey. Kevin shared that at the time of the Pilgrims' stay, Leiden's motto was aptly "For the Sake of Freedom".

Karen and Kevin led the audience on a visually stunning 400-year journey that included teeming canals, historic churches, the famed Leiden University, historic markers, and current-day memorials that stand as testament to the Pilgrims. Karen said the Pilgrim Fathers Monument De Vliet seems to capture both the uncertainty of the planned voyage as well as the promise of what was to come.



In this photo, Karen and Kevin are standing close to the Pilgrims' departure point from Leiden. They agreed that it was remarkable to walk in the footsteps of history and how valuable it was to their continued research and understanding.

This presentation is truly a "must see" to truly appreciate Karen's and Kevin's journey—and their ability to bring history to life. Members can view the talk at falgen.org.

FGS Talks on YouTube: Members Only Benefit

Miss a monthly talk? Want to rewatch a presentation? Need a speaker's handout? FGS Members can access most recorded monthly presentations and speaker handouts in the "Members Only" section of the FGS website at falgen.org. If you need the password, contact Tim Martin at fgspresident@gmail.com.

FGS Website: First Stop Resource

The FGS Website (falgen.org) is an outstanding resource for its members and the community. You can find a myriad of helpful links to genealogical research resources as well as documents to download.

Keep Learning: On-Line Programs

On-line lectures and courses, many free, are available on a myriad of genealogical topics. Check out the following for classes to expand your family history research.

The Massachusetts Genealogical Council
massgencouncil.org

American Ancestors
americanancestors.org

Cape Cod Genealogical Society
wcapecodgenealogy.org



falgen.org

Finding and Sharing Your Family History

By Steve Benton

In the fall of 2023, I attended my first meeting of the Falmouth Genealogical Society and conversations with members that Saturday provided helpful direction to my family research. Mindful of their advice, I began researching my father's World War II military experience, a subject of interest from when my work travel included Seoul, South Korea, where Dad had served.



He was drafted in the spring of 1945, a time when most of the eligible men had been taken from rural Iowa as Congress ended the farming deferment of the Tydings Amendment. When the notice arrived his family would have been preparing for the spring planting, knowing that without the labor of their oldest son, farm operations would not be sustainable. Having navigated the hardships of tenant farm life in the 1930s rural Midwest, and as descendants of farm families who migrated from colonial Virginia to Kentucky, Illinois, and central Iowa, they would have understood the reality of their circumstances. His leaving would find them off the farm by September of 1945, building a new life in town in a modest home on a corner lot. My grandfather was 45 years old, starting over, having lived his life until now with an RFD address.

Dad was inducted April 4, 1945, completed training in Texas, and departed San Francisco in transit to South Korea to support the post-war U.S. military transitional government. At home on military leave in late August would be their last time together on the farm. Victory in Europe and Allied forces success in the Pacific would have eased his fear of direct combat but not the anxiety of leaving his family.

It was Thursday, November 8, 1945, four weeks before his 19th birthday, when the USATT Sea Barb, commanded by Major Thomas C. Hunt, docked at Incheon delivering Dad and other mostly young, inexperienced soldiers to waiting Army Officers who had arrived only two months earlier.

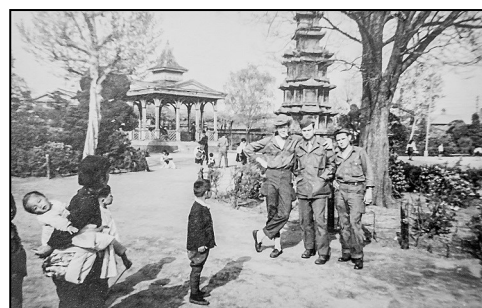
Based in Seoul, assigned to HQ Brigade, working as a mechanic, his motor pool section was responsible for maintenance of an aging fleet of vehicles that supported U.S. Army HQ staff. Work in their garage was made difficult by the lack of equipment and repair parts. While their work had challenges, Dad and his half dozen fellow mechanics would have valued their good fortune of a normal daily routine with meals and barracks unlike the many soldiers mired in chaotic often unwelcome development projects based among the population in rural locales and villages.

During his year in Korea, he would be one of 77,000 US Army personnel who supported the United States Military Government in Korea (USMGIK), a transitional administrative government in place until the Korean elections in 1948 that

When the notice arrived his family would have been preparing for the spring planting, knowing that without the labor of their oldest son, farm operations would not be sustainable.

created the democratic South Korean Republic. Late 1945 through the elections in 1948 were a period of civil unrest and rioting across the southern part of the Korean peninsula.

He departed Korea in October, 1946 and on December 29th he was separated from the Army at Fort Lewis, Washington and returned to Iowa, reunited with his family in that modest house in an unfamiliar town where he would build his post soldier life.

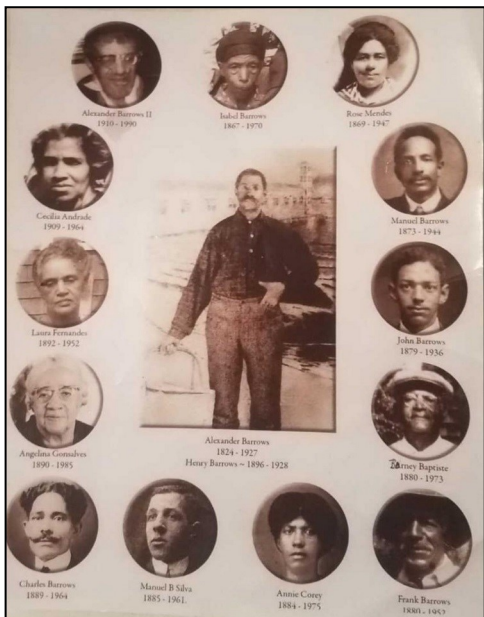


It was very basic research of my family files, census and military records, obituaries, historical literature, and conversations with family that revealed this story. I believe Dad was like other men of his generation who had conflicting and mixed feelings of these years. He was proud to have served, treasured the friendships, valued the work skills and life experience but probably felt the weight of having left knowing the impact on his family and the legacy of generations of farm lives.

FGS News and Noteworthy

We want to hear from you. Send your brief (100 words) update for the next FGS newsletter to [Caroline Anderson at caroline@gregandcaroline.net](mailto:Caroline.Anderson@gregandcaroline.net).

Note that submissions may be edited for clarity or space restrictions.



Alexander Barrows Family

Dorene Dias writes that she is working to update the Alexander Barrows Family Tree. The Tree was started by elders decades ago for a Reunion in the '80s. I'm including every descendant of my second Great Grandfather. The challenge is that he had 14 recognized children with five women but only married two. I'm searching for one contact person in each of the 14 branches of his children to help obtain missing data on my 3rd-6th cousins born between 1940- 2024. Alexander supported several households in Brava, Cabo Verde; Falmouth; and Providence, RI. His children were raised as brothers and sisters. They all got along, regardless of having different mothers, according to the statements by elders.

Lynn Slapsys and her family worked with Italia Sweet Italia, a company knowledgeable about genealogy, to plan their trip to the Abruzzo region.

She wrote: We focused on my grandfather, Giuseppe DiLello (1893-1964) who was born in the small mountain village of Villa Santa Maria. Its well-known as the 'village of chefs' with a cooking school and a chef museum. Like many from the village, my grandfather became a chef. Giuseppe immigrated in 1909 at age 17. Later, he served as a cook in the Army.

Giuseppe became a highly regarded chef in several NYC renowned hotels and restaurants, including the Waldorf Astoria and The Rainbow Room.

Our guide, Antonio arranged a tour of the cooking school and a meeting with the village Mayor who provided historical documents. We also were able to see the house where my grandfather lived and the church in which he was married. While we could not establish a direct link to the DiLellos in the village today, it was a fantastic and memorable experience exploring Abruzzo from a medieval town in the mountains to the Adriatic Sea.



Villa Santa Maria, Italy

Welcome Members

We are eager to learn more about your family history research. Please join us for our monthly programs or visit us at the Tuesday Help Desk. If you have questions about your membership, contact Caroline McKee Anderson at fgsmembership@gmail.com or 206-300-7020 .

Beverly "Lee" Burwell
Betty Mercurio
Edward Mercurio
Kristina Mousseau
Elizabeth "Liz" Pierce
Christine Gilchrist Tuttle

Membership Counts Benefit #1

The FGS Newsletter is published quarterly and sent electronically to all FGS Members (available by mail upon request). The newsletter is dedicated to providing content that will help members enhance their genealogical research and connect with others who share an interest in family history.

Volunteer Today

FGS relies on volunteers to advance its mission, produce programs, and manage all aspects of this nonprofit organization. Our goal is to match volunteers with areas of interest: research, programs, publicity, outreach, membership, cemetery project, finance, website, or your special interest. Our commitment is to tailor the activity to your time available. To explore opportunities, please contact Dottie Priestley at: rpriest1567@comcast.net.



Join the FGS Facebook Group

FGS posts program updates, new resources and helpful hints. Engage with others who share your interest in genealogy and family history. Click with Control key on Facebook Logo below to go to FGS page.

Up Next: Something New. Send a Photo.

We want to hear from you! With our newsletter “question”—this time a request to send a photo (sample below), we hope to learn more about you and have a bit of fun. For the next issue, send your earliest photo of an ancestor (or family group). Please identify the person/people in the photo with birth and death dates and include their relationship to you. Please send your photo as a jpeg file at the highest resolution possible. Send your photo to Caroline Anderson at caroline@gregandcaroline.net.



Tim Martin's great-grandmother,
Martha Weaver Mood (1864-1936)

We Asked. You Responded.

Who Inspired You to Research Your Family History?

Both a Person and a Place Inspired Me

By *Kathleen Gay MacDonald*

The person was my father's first cousin, Dorothy “Dot” Gay Lunt. The place was Prince Edward Island, Canada. This is also the story of two trips to PEI—separated by more than 65 years that connected me to my family—both past and present.

I was fortunate to be surrounded by family while growing up in Brockton. I spent a lot of time with my father's cousin “Dot” who didn't have any children. I'd spend days with her, often undertaking artistic and creative pursuits. When I was nine or ten, she took me on my first trip to PEI, the home of many of our ancestors. She said we would visit her father's home. From my child's memory, I recalled the house as huge surrounded by grassy fields leading to a steep cliff that towered over the red clay beaches below. In fact, it was a relatively small house, with no indoor plumbing, on the outskirts of the capitol of Charlottetown.

Fast forward to the summer of 2024, when I took a family trip to PEI with my husband Leo, son Craig, daughter-in-law Crystal and grandchildren Wyatt and Penny, ages three and two.

With assistance from the FGS Help Desk, I had learned that my ancestors' church was St. John's Anglican Church. Some records suggest that family members donated the land upon which the church was built. Another fun connection, my great grandparents were married there—and many of the family graves are in the church yard.

Among the headstones were those of my great-great grandparents, Stephen Coles (1819-1895) and



Kathleen in the St. John's Anglican Church
Graveyard at the Headstone of Her
Great-Great Grandparents

Elizabeth Essex Moore (1821-1895). Their stones pose a further mystery to explore—they both died on the same day, 14 September 1895.

It was wonderful to explore the cemetery with my family, including my grandchildren. It offered a connection between my ancestors, my generation and the next generation. It also provided the opportunity to remember “Dot” who was my early inspiration.

My Mother Inspired Me

By *Caroline McKee Anderson*

My mother, Betty Platin McKee (1928-2018), inspired my interest in family history and genealogy. While a French teacher by training, she would have been a fantastic research librarian or private eye. She had a

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

talent for research, terrific organizational skills, and an ability to synthesize seemingly random details. And then there was her nearly supernatural memory.

And she listened. From a very young age, she was fascinated by the stories of her Swedish ancestors. All four grandparents immigrated to the United States between 1883 and 1893. But she was frustrated that these stories were limited. Her grandparents were determined to assimilate quickly and were focused on the future, not the past.

When she married my father, R. Curtis McKee (1928-2017), she added his English and Scottish ancestry to her project list. With family lines that dated to the 1600s in New England and New York, this research proved more fruitful.

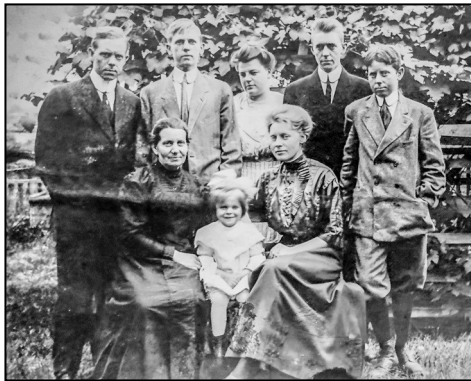
Along the way, she amassed a treasure trove of documents, artifacts,

A Family Tree in My Baby Book Inspired Me

By Phyllis Day

When I was nine years old, my mother handed me a book entitled “Life’s Milestones”, my baby book. Within the first few pages, I saw something that fascinated me—it was my family tree. I started at the bottom and saw her father’s name, Walter Jerub Richards (1888-1945) and where he was born. I was in awe! My grandfather was born in Eden. To a 4th-grader who attended Mass daily this was amazing.

My grandfather died before my mother married so I had no memories of him but heard lots of stories. One of the stories was that my mother referred to herself being the same as her dad “an only child of an only child”.



Far Right: Caroline’s Grandfather Oskar Berger Theodor Plan (1896-1961) With His Immigrant Parents Victor Wilhelm Platin (1857-1911) and Hulda Matilda Elggren (1862-1953) and Siblings.

photographs, and ephemera. As important, she began to share the stories (although I believe she thought we weren’t listening).

We learned about the Swedish farmers, weavers, King’s tax collectors—and the Lutheran who became a Mormon and moved to Salt Lake City.

I was fortunate that my grandfather was not born in Mesopotamia but Eden, Vermont where vital records are open to the public. I took my Baby Book tree and started looking. I found that he had a large family as his father re-married after the death of his mother in childbirth and had five additional children.



Eden, Vermont, the Birthplace of Phyllis’ Grandfather Walter Jerub Richards

We learned about the immigrant indentured to Thomas Dexter (of the Grist Mill) in Sandwich. Other ancestors helped to found Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford Connecticut. More farmers, some preachers and of course, some teachers. And, now with the advances in DNA, we’re on the path to prove a Mayflower line.

Mom did most of her research the old-fashioned way—trips, letters, family interviews. I cherish every record and every note—even those written on post-it notes in pencil.

Mom left us a great legacy. I know she would delight in every new discovery we make. As my sister, Joanna Christopher, and I plan to write the stories, we know she would be our biggest fan.

Fun Fact: She was Member # 16 of the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

I took three road trips to Eden, but my real success came from connecting on an Ancestry Message Board with a seventh generation Vermonter from Eden who asked if I was familiar with *Chronicling America*. I wasn’t but soon found information that was life altering. I found an 1896 newspaper notice of the adoption of Walter’s sister. WOW! I started searching for information on her. When I found a notice of burial for Walter’s dad, attendees were listed that included his sister and her adoptive parents. They were all family.

Seems his sister wasn’t big on talk either. When I found this information, I contacted her granddaughter and was told that there had never been any mention of an adoption and was equally surprised.

My grandfather’s tree contains 7,642 profiles. He has lots of family now.

The Reading Room

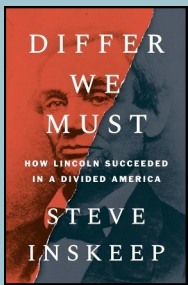
We welcome your book recommendations that focus on genealogy or history. Send ideas, with a brief description of the book, to Caroline McKee Anderson at caroline@gregandcaroline.net

Family Tree Genealogy News

familytree

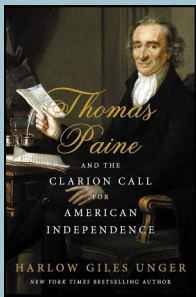
Family Tree Genealogy News is a free E-newsletter that features articles on records, research strategies, DNA, organizing and storage solutions, family history projects, and more. Receive daily or weekly—you choose. To sign up: familytreemagazine.com/newsletter-signup/

Differ We Must



Differ We Must: How Lincoln Succeeded in a Divided America by Steve Inskeep offers a compelling study on Lincoln's political acumen and strategies during unsettled times. It was published in 2023 by Penguin Press.

Thomas Paine



Thomas Paine and the Clarion Call for American Independence by Harlow Giles Unger explores the life and times of the most widely read political writer of his era. It was published in 2019 by Da Capo Press.

Book Review

American Bloods Explores Family Stories through History

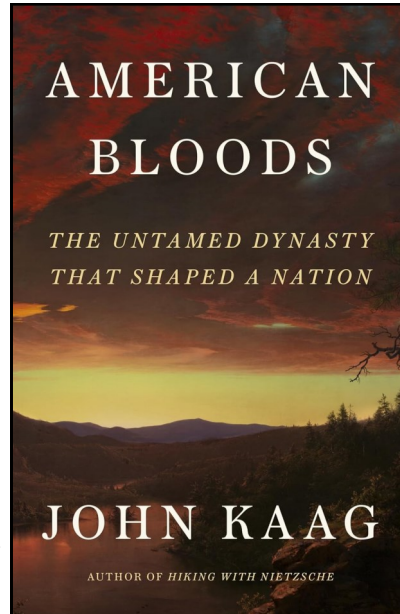
By Ralph Wadleigh

American Bloods, The Untamed Dynasty that Formed a Nation is by John Kaag and was published in 2024 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

If you are interested in books that begin with a family tree and contain almost unbelievable stories of family members intersecting with noteworthy American personages and events, then this is a book you will certainly enjoy.

In 2022, the author, John Kaag and his wife bought an ancient farmhouse in Concord, Massachusetts. In searching the nooks and crannies of their new home, the author uncovered a bag containing an inch-thick family history entitled *The Story of the Bloods*, privately published in 1960 by Roger Deane Harris. In it, they learned that their 1745 house was once owned by a Josiah Blood. They also learned about many other Bloods who during their lifetimes witnessed and contributed to many events throughout American history. Thankfully, the author felt these stories needed to be shared, hence this publication. In chronological order, he has chosen certain Bloods who, during their adventurous lives, demonstrated the family trait of living fully, sometimes out of normal convention, and always a bit on the wild side.

I must admit that at times, I felt the work was fictional: Thomas Blood steals the English Imperial Crown, is captured but is reprieved. Robert



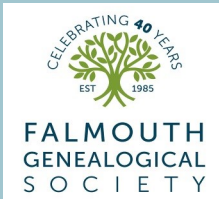
Blood becomes one of the first settlers of Concord. Thadeus Blood, born in the author's home in 1755, is a participant in the Battle of (North) Concord Bridge, Perez Blood connects with Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson and influences their thoughts on Transcendentalism. Aretas Blood invents heavier railway locomotives and enables

the West to be more quickly settled. James Blood plays an important role in Lawrence Kansas during the "Bloody Kansas" pre-Civil War days. Another James Blood leaves his wife and children to wed Victoria Woodhull, the first woman to run in 1872 for the US Presidency. Finally, Benjamin Paul Blood has a significant influence on the writings of philosopher William James. This is not fiction. The end notes demonstrate validity and the people on the tree at the beginning of the book appear in Family Search's world family tree!

One can see how the author became enthusiastic about his quasi-adopted family. As a published author of a work on philosophy, he is able to successfully weave Thoreau's, Emerson's and James' writings into the narrative. Here we have some house history, American history, American philosophy, and great stories all wrapped up in a single volume.

American Bloods is available through the CLAMS Network at the Falmouth and other local public libraries. It's a good read.

Moments in History: FGS Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Save the Date—Thursday, September 11, 2025, 2:00—4:00 pm
FGS 40th Anniversary Celebration
Details to Come!

The Founding of FGS—A Snapshot

The founding of FGS began in the Falmouth Public Library. Eleanor Baldic received permission to post fliers in the genealogical research section. She wanted to identify others who were interested in exploring their family history and the possibility of establishing a club. Marguerite “Marge” Riley volunteered and the two held the first organizational meeting on 12 June 1984. They moved quickly and by 22 January 1985, they established the “Climbing Your Family Tree Club” with 14 members. By the spring of 1985, they had written by-laws, elected officers and established annual dues at \$10. The first newsletter, *The Tracer*, was published in October 1985 with Marge Riley as editor. The first

logo, designed by Marge, appeared in the June 1986 edition. From the very first year, they produced a regular series of workshops, monthly programs, and field trips. We are indebted to the Founding Officers and all of the officers and members who followed for establishing an enduring organization committed to research excellence, collaboration, and creating a community for those interested in genealogy.

Founding Officers:

Eleanor Baldic, President
Marguerite “Marge” Riley, Treasurer
Marcia Schwiedenback, Recording Secretary
Ann Tavares, Corresponding Secretary

Reflections by Founding President, Eleanor Baldic



Eleanor Baldic at Home

With her children launched, Eleanor was looking for new outlets for her boundless energy. As an only child growing up in Quincy, she’d always been interested in learning more about her extended family but hadn’t taken the formal dive into genealogical research. That leap occurred in the spring of 1984 when she approached the staff at the Falmouth Public Li-

brary. She asked for permission to post signs in the genealogy stacks to identify people who might be interested in establishing a genealogy club. And, thus, the beginning of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. She said that everyone was eager to help, had a desire to share strategies, and really wanted to learn from one another.

She said that right from the outset, they were focused on providing strong educational programs and workshops. She added that members enjoyed field trips to research repositories like the Massachusetts State Archives. She said these trips, and lots of correspondence, were the main way research was conducted in the early days of the Society. She smiled and said that when doing research, she visited libraries everywhere she went and thought she’d been to every cemetery in the Boston area. She enjoyed early efforts to record and clean headstones.

One of Eleanor’s major research accomplishments was the publication of the *Gould Family of Boston*, written with her cousin James Warren Gould.

Eleanor described genealogy as a wonderful journey—a happy obsession. She said that it made her feel connected to new-found relatives as well as to the Kings and Queens in her more distant ancestry. And more local connections include Falmouth’s own Katharine Lee Bates and an accused witch from the Salem Trials.

We are most grateful and indebted to Eleanor, Marge and the early founders for their vision in establishing the Falmouth Genealogical Society.

brary. She asked for permission to post signs in the genealogy stacks to identify people who might be interested in establishing a genealogy club. And, thus, the beginning of the Falmouth Genealogical Society. Early on, she met a kindred spirit in Marguerite “Marge” Riley. In reminiscing about the early days, Eleanor said, “Marge could do anything. She was so generous with her time and talents.” She added that Marge made every person she met feel special.

Eleanor speaks with pride of the fabulous group of people who came together to establish first the “Climbing

FGS Members Visit the American Antiquarian Society

On October 30, FGS members enjoyed a private tour of the American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester. Founded in 1812 by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas, AAS has assembled the world's largest and most accessible collection of books, newspapers, and other ephemera printed before the 20th century in the United States. AAS is also a learned society with over 1,200 distinguished members. The Society received the 2013 National Humanities Medal by President Obama.



**FGS MEMBERS: LEFT TO RIGHT
DEBORAH MARTIN, SHIRLEY LOMBARDOZZI,
CAROLINE ANDERSON, RALPH WADLEIGH, LINDA HEALD,
MARY ANNE CONBOY, WENDA WINDBIGLER, AND TIM MARTIN**

Falmouth Cemetery Project Update

By Linda Heald



RALPH WADLEIGH ADDS TOMBSTONE GPS COORDINATES

In mid-November, we wrapped up our fourteenth cemetery survey in the North Falmouth Burying Grounds. The falling leaves naturally make finding flush mount stones easy to miss. In the spring, we will resume adding GPS

coordinates, and photos to new headstones and adding veteran designations to the three remaining cemeteries in Falmouth. In late October, three Board members visited two hard-to-find smaller cemeteries, Robinson and Crowell, belonging to early Falmouth families. Much work will be needed to preserve these burial grounds. When we started, there were little over 15,500 headstones in all 17 cemeteries. We have added GPS to 7,981 headstones or 52 percent. Though it's winter, there's still work to be done. You might find us in the library researching in which cemeteries the Falmouth Revolutionary War soldiers are buried. Next Memorial Day, we are excited to be able to produce a provisional list of Falmouth veterans by cemetery, which will contribute to both recent and previous veterans being recognized with a flag in a metal flag holder with the correct conflict.

Thanks to the volunteers who have contributed their time and talents to this project. Please consider joining us. This winter, you could help with research on Falmouth's Veterans. In the spring, we hope you'll assist as we resume our survey work in the three remaining cemeteries.

If you want to be plugged in to this exciting effort, please contact me, Linda Heald at heald30@gmail.com.

Artifacts Day

Continued
from Page
1

Artifacts members described at December's meeting:



Probate and Beyond and Understanding Old Documents

Continued
from Page
2

In *Reading and Understanding Old Documents*, Michael outlined the five critical components of using original records. 1) Understand the nature of the document (church, vital, legal, military); 2) Know the language (early records may be in Latin, French was the international language prior to WWII); 3) Reading the Handwriting (different “hands” for time periods); 4) Deciphering creative spelling (often done phonetically); and 5) Recognizing the meaning of marks and abbreviations (the lines and characters have meaning). In transcribing old documents, Michael encouraged researchers to practice, practice, practice. He strongly advised that translations be done line by line. In closing, he said that AI is not yet ready to undertake the review of old documents since it cannot discern the historical context or meaning of words.

Get Help with Your Family Research

Monthly Talks

Each month FGS hosts a talk on some aspect of genealogy or history. Expert speakers—drawn locally and nationally—dive into a wide range of topics from research strategies to interpreting DNA results. Meetings also provide an opportunity for members and guests to meet others interested in family research. Meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of the month from 10:00 am – noon at the Falmouth Public Library. Most talks are also available via Zoom. View the calendar at falgen.org.

Tuesday Help Desk

Just getting started in family history research? Have you hit a brick wall? Want to learn how to research at Ancestry.com or FamilySearch? Visit the FGS Help Desk.

FGS volunteers assist both members and community individuals with their genealogical questions. Sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Falmouth Public Library on Main Street. No appointment is needed for this complimentary drop-in session.

Team Up!

Is your genealogical question complex? Might your topic be of interest to others? Are you researching a specific country of origin or time in history? Schedule a Team Up! consult.

Based on your question, we'll identify one or more members with expertise in this area of research. Team Up! sessions are free for FGS members and are available in person or via Zoom. To schedule a Team Up! consult, contact Tim Martin at fgspresident@gmail.com.



**FALMOUTH
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY**

Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc.

PO Box 2107
East Falmouth, MA 02536-2107
falgen.org

Officers

President
Tim Martin

Vice President
Clyde Tyndale

Treasurer
Ray Howe

Secretary
Ralph Wadleigh

Committees/Chairs

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

At Large

David Burt
Jerry Luby

FGS Newsletter

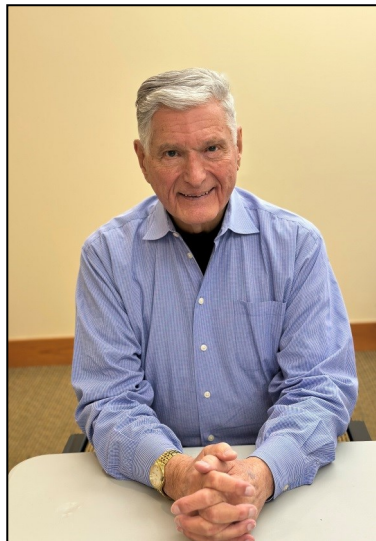
Caroline Anderson, Co-Editor
Dottie Priestley, Co-Editor
rpriest1567@comcast.net

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

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



Meet Your Board Ray Howe



Ray Howe describes genealogy as a magnificent obsession. He says it is history—and personal history all put together.

Ray joined FGS in 2008 after visiting the Help Desk to volunteer. He met then-President Ralph Wadleigh and was soon serving as the Membership Director and then added the responsibilities of Treasurer. With prodigious skill with Excel, Ray created the magnificent data base that maintains our membership roster and balances the FGS books.

Family, and family questions, inspired Ray’s interest in genealogy. Why, for example, did his parents who both lived in the Shrewsbury area go to New York City to get married? One question led to others, and Ray was hooked. His research really took off when he joined FGS and acquired the Family Tree Maker software.

For Ray, the fun is in discovering the stories. On his paternal side, the first Howe arrived in Roxbury in 1635. Howe ancestors helped found the town of Marlborough, Mass. Another Howe owned the Wayside Inn that still claims the Howe Tavern and was made famous by the poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. While still others founded the town of Jamaica, Vermont.

In more recent history, Ray recalled that his father owned a gas station on the opposite side of Route 9 in Shrewsbury from his grandfather’s dairy farm. Twice per day, Ray helped stop traffic so the cows could cross the road.

Ray has more to discover. He’d like to do more on his maternal line, including siblings. And the top project is to complete the research needed to establish his wife Gini’s link to Mayflower passenger, William Brewster. And there are the DNA matches to “meet”, including recent correspondence with an 8th cousin!

Ray encourages everyone to jump into their family research. “How can you not get excited about your personal history?” he said.

NERGC Conference

October 29-November 1, 2025

Manchester, NH

New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere



Save the dates! The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium’s (NERGC) bi-annual conference will take place in 2025. The conference theme is New Englanders: Here, There, and Everywhere. Approximately 750 attendees are expected. Information about featured speakers, Annette Burke Lyttle, Cari Taplin, and Diahn Southard is available at nergc.org. At the website, click on “E-Zine” to sign up for the NERGC newsletter and to receive updates on the conference.