



FALMOUTH
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY

FGS Newsletter

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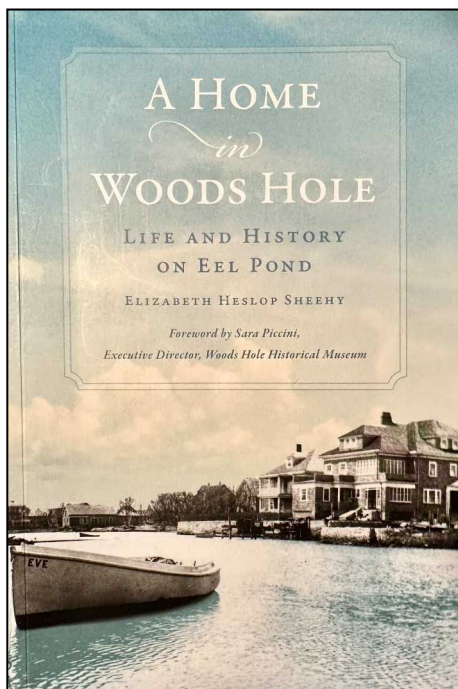
Monthly Talk Recap

A Home in Woods Hole

By Caroline McKee Anderson

On January 11, 2025, Elizabeth Heslop Sheehy presented *A Home in Woods Hole, Life and History on Eel Pond*. She said the book is about Woods Hole, old houses, interesting people with interesting stories—and the importance of preserving both the stories and the buildings and why they matter to our future. She added that the themes of serendipity, resilience and grit align with the requirements of the amateur genealogist.

The research began in 2018 when Elizabeth and her husband purchased the house on Eel Pond. With an interest in history and desire to write a book, she set out to learn about both the house and its first owners. Oral history



suggested that the house was built in 1890 or perhaps in the 1930s, that the first owner, Walter Nickerson, was a sea captain, and that treasured teacups were purchased during his journeys. Research confirmed the house was built in 1916, Walter Nickerson was a mailman (his route was Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon Island), and the teacups perhaps a child's playset.

Elizabeth undertook the house study using similar research strategies as are used to uncover the stories of ancestors. While using a wide variety of tools, she said that the Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, the *Falmouth Enterprise* archives, the

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CELEBRATING A SPECIAL YEAR

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, April 12

10:00 am

Don't Be Afraid of Technology: AI for Facial Recognition and Pairing
Tina LaFreniere

Saturday, May 10

10:00 am

The Dainty/Undy Saga: Connecting Two Identities to One Person
FGS Member Stan Vincent

Saturday, June 14

10:00 am

Architectural Ancestry: A Course in House Histories
Jill Morelli, CG, CGL

Join Us to Celebrate!

Thursday, September 11, 2025

2:00-4:00 pm

Museums on the Green, Falmouth

Space is limited. Reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis with RSVP and check payment. Invitations will be mailed in late July.

Greatest Growth in Genealogical Research is Now!

By *Tim Martin, FGS President*



At our March meeting, Michael Proctor, Historian for the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, delivered a loaded talk about breaking down a brick wall (see page 3). As Michael left, I asked what he thought about the current state of genealogy. He immediately confirmed that we are experiencing the

greatest growth in research capabilities—ever. Factors such as the automated transcription of handwritten documents, significant DNA advances, specialized applications of AI, and more have all contributed to advancements in genealogical research.

RootsTech 2025, the largest genealogical conference held each year, featured hundreds of outstanding presentations and highlighted many new features at major genealogy sites. [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) has added “Networks” so users can research variously defined “Networks” of people, such as military buddies, work associates, or neighbors in an organized manner. [MyHeritage](https://www.myheritage.com) has added a “Cousin Finder” feature that examines connections between disparate family trees and reports likely cousins that it finds for you—and it does it without a DNA test.

I think you’ll agree that it’s a very exciting time to be a genealogist. Let’s explore these new research capabilities together and share our skills and knowledge. One of my goals is to create an FGS resource network. Do you have a special area of expertise to share with other members? Do you subscribe to publications or research sites that could be helpful to others? Or do you have a specific research area where you’d like to work with others who share this interest? Drop me a line at fgspresident@gmail.com.

Excitement is growing at our monthly meetings. We have added social time for people to share experiences and meet the speaker, followed by a History Moment and a Member’s Artifact feature—all before the primary talk. Here’s to a new level of participation and collaboration. Let’s get together!

Monthly Talk Recap

Genetic Genealogy, Empathy, and the NPE Community

By *Caroline McKee Anderson*



Kate Penney Howard

On February 8, 2025, Kate Penney Howard presented, Genetic Genealogy, Empathy, and the NPE Community. Kate began by providing a brief introduction to DNA analysis and the most common testing sites. She out-

lined that DNA could advance genealogy by breaking down brick walls, aiding in adoption or unknown parent research, confirming traditional genealogy, and finding and helping unknown relatives. She counseled that DNA testers must always be prepared for surprises, including NPE (not the parent expected), intra-family or external adoption, or a donor-conceived child. Kate provided a brief history of the societal treatment of these situations that were often treated as shameful secrets. With the advent of DNA testing, more people are grappling with these surprise discoveries. Kate said that when uncovered, the question most often asked is “Why?”. When pursuing the discovery and trying to an-

swer the “Why”, Kate emphasized the need for empathy. The empathetic person responds by saying, “I hear you. I see you. You are not alone.” She said helpful responses include, “I support your choice to test/tell/contact.”, “You deserve to know your truth”, and “It is not your responsibility to keep other people’s secrets”. Kate urged care when approaching DNA analysis—asking if there is anything the tester doesn’t want to know, refraining from assumption about conception, and using great thought before contacting matches. Kate’s handout of excellent resources on this topic can be found in the Members Only section of the website under Speaker Notes and Videos.

Monthly Talk Recap

The Search for Thomas O'Connor

By Caroline McKee Anderson



Michael J. Proctor

On March 8, 2025, Michael J. Proctor presented *The Search for Thomas O'Connor*. In his detailed and well-documented talk, Michael described how he used oral family history, traditional genealogical research, and finally DNA analysis to solve the brick wall that had eluded his family for decades.

The oral family history. Thomas O'Connor, Michael's maternal great-grandfather, was born about 1880 in Western Massachusetts and died about 1915 in Boston after being struck by a train.

The research. Michael's research began with the creation of an accurate family tree. He then did a review of the census documents, including "walking" the enumerator's route.

Artifact Spotlight—Share Your Family Treasure

Do you have a family artifact, photo, or ephemera you'd like to share? Highlight your item and its history at an upcoming monthly meeting. We'll help you put together a fun and short (5 minute) presentation. This is a great way to start telling your family's history! Volunteer today—send an email to Tim Martin at fgspresident@gmail.com.

Ray Worthington brought his family heirloom, a beautifully-detailed silver coffee urn, to the March 8 meeting for "Artifact Spotlight." The urn and its rich history were

Michael followed the FAN research methodology and dug into the lives and records of all of Thomas' family, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances. Along the way, he discovered children who had adopted their stepfather's surname, common addresses and towns, confirmation of names and siblings, and occupations. He also underscored the importance of knowing the history of place—it became key to know that Chicopee Falls has once been part of Springfield. Most important, he finds the documents that update and confirm the family tree.

The DNA Analysis. Michael hoped his initial DNA test in 2016 would shed new light. It confirmed what he knew but it did not offer new leads. In 2021, during a periodic review, he discovered a new match—a close match that would be the key to solving the brick wall.

Through this presentation, Michael provides a master class in conducting thorough research using all the tools available. He said that one of the driving goals was to prepare and document an updated family history that could be passed down to future generations.

passed down from Ray's great-aunt Marguerite Caroline Deslonde (1839-1864) and her husband General CSA Pierre Gustave Toutant Beaugregard (1818-1893).



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 multitude 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

National Genealogical Society
<https://conferencekeeper.org/calendar/>



falgen.org

Witches, Pirates, and Ghosts – oh, NO!

By Meredith Loring Golden

As budding genealogists, we eagerly seek answers. Even before I started my research, many of the questions regarding my mother's heritage had already been investigated and recorded.

My mother's maternal and paternal lines are well documented and part of our family lore. Rebecca Nurse (Nourse), my 7th great-grandmother, a 71-year-old pious woman was hanged as a **witch** in Salem in 1692.



A conceptualized drawing of Rebecca Nurse (Nourse), my 7th great grandmother, at the Salem Witch Trials 1692 from *A tale of old Salem*, by Henry Peter-son in Wikipedia

The lesson learned from our “wicked” great-grandmother Rebecca Nurse (Nourse) is to speak the truth and fight for justice—no matter what the consequences. The Nourse motto is “By Courage, not by Cunning”.

While living in China in the 1890s, my grandfather's aunt, Emeline Laura (Oakman) Bryant commissioned New England genealogists to trace our family's roots. The Genealogical Accounts of the Oakmans, Hatches, Barstows meticulously cites records from state and county historical and genealogical recorders, court testimonies, depositions, land records, inventories, and wills.

Emeline's genealogy notes that many Oakman ancestors married direct descendants of Mayflower passengers: Edward Doty; John Alden; William, Alice, and Priscilla Mullins; William, Susanna, and Peregrine White; and Richard Warren. In addition, other Mayflower relatives include distant uncles: Governor

Bradford, Governor John Carver, John Howland, Thomas Rogers, and George Soule. Connections reappear and repeat in my family lines. Remember that in the 17th and 18th centuries there was a very limited pool of eligible spouses. It was not unusual to marry cousins and in-laws.

Emeline (Oakman) Bryant's documents are not dry. The historic anecdotes bring to life the ancestors and the times in which they lived. Tobias Oakman, a cousin to my line, was a sea captain in Maine. As a Patriot, he commanded a privateer during the Revolutionary War. The British considered Tobias a **pirate**. He was captured at sea and committed to “Forton Gaol Prison” in England. Af-



The Schooner Hannah engaging with the British in 1775. Samuel Oakman, brother of Tobias, had built the ship in Pittston, Maine. His son Samuel Oakman, Jr. at another time had captained it. (Lysander Salmon Richards, History of Marshfield, Memorial Press, Plymouth, 1901, cited in the Pane-Joyce Genealogy Image of Schooner Hannah published in Origin of the American Navy by Henry E. White; Naval History and Heritage Command)

ter escaping, Tobias engaged the British again near Eastport, Maine and narrowly escaped death when “a ball from the enemy” passed through his hat. His hat has remained in the family for generations as a reminder of his courage (and good luck)!

The Civil War again called my ancestors into action. My grandfather's first cousin twice removed, Hiram Abiff Oakman served in multiple engagements in the Union Army. Captain of the 7th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, he fought at the Battle of Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg and was severely wounded on May 3, 1863. On his request, Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrews sent a letter to Secretary of War Stanton for Hiram to be recommissioned. Later in 1863, despite his amputated limb, Hiram became Lt. Colonel and then Colonel by Brevet of the 30th US Colored Troops Infantry Regiment. Family lore has it that he can still be heard today as his **ghost** with its peg leg walks the hallways of his family homestead in Marshfield.

Emeline's genealogy covers more than two hundred and fifty years. My ancestors were Swamp Yankees—farmers, carpenters, fishermen, teachers, nurses, shipbuilders, and soldiers when called to arms by their country. From the earliest Puritans to Quakers, and then Unitarians, they stood up for their beliefs. Despite peril to themselves and hardships to their family, they helped create our country and defend its principles.

My very Great Aunt Emeline has inspired my siblings, my cousins, our children, and me to search, find, and share records, photos, memorabilia, and stories about these and other ancestors. Her document, published over 125 years ago, has been a springboard for more extensive and expansive research. Substantiated by the names, dates, and relationships among our ancestors, these stories give us a living history that will hopefully continue to be written for generations to come.

We want to hear from you. Send your brief (100 words) update for the next FGS newsletter to Caroline Anderson at caroline@gregandcaroline.net. Note that submissions may be edited for clarity or space restrictions.



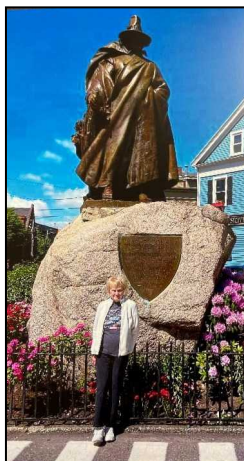
Left to right: Will Wadleigh, son; Jack Wadleigh, grandson; and Ralph Wadleigh.

Three generations of **Ralph Wadleigh's** family visited the Old Wadleigh Cemetery (Wadleigh Plot #2 in Find a Grave) in South Berwick, Maine in October. The cemetery, located in the woods behind the old farmhouse, contains just eleven memorials including Ralph's paternal great and great-great grandparents who died between 1849 and 1894.



Christine Gilchrist Tuttle, descendant of Mayflower passengers.

Christine Gilchrist Tuttle received her certificate from the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants confirming her descent from William Mullins (abt. 1572-21 February 1621). She can also trace her lineage to Mayflower passengers John Alden, Francis Cooke, John Cooke and Richard Warren.



Liz Pierce in front of the statue of Roger Conant in Salem, Mass.

Elizabeth "Liz" Pierce traces her ancestry to Roger Conant (abt. 1592-1679) a New England colonist and drysalter credited with founding Salem, Mass.



Robert C. Chase, 1929-2025

Longtime FGS member Robert C. Chase passed away peacefully on 7 January 2025 at the age of 95. After a distinguished career, Robert and his wife Hildegard, retired to their home in Falmouth. Robert had a lifelong interest in his family's genealogy, tracing his lineage to Aquila Chase, one of the original settlers of Newburyport, Mass. He authored and privately published six books on his Chase-Currier family history. He also collaborated with Hildegard on her memoir detailing life in Germany during World War II. We extend condolences to Robert's wife Hildegard and their children Robert, Karen, and Peter.

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 .

- Eino Anttila**
- Janet Burris-Wessling**
- Mary Harris**
- Patricia Kester**
- Kristina Mousseau**
- Denise Nicas**
- James Nicas**
- Charlet Roskovichs**
- Barbara Schneider**
- Gary Schneider**
- Dorothy Schrupf**
- Elizabeth Sheehy**
- Dorene Sykes**
- Ann Worthington**
- Ray Worthington**

Membership Counts

The FGS membership year runs from June 1-May 31. In late May, you will receive your invitation to renew your membership for June 1, 2025-May 31, 2026. We hope we can count on your continuing membership.

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



Engage with others who share your interest in genealogy and family history. Click with Control key on Facebook Logo to go to FGS page.

Up Next: We're Asking You.

Do you have an American Revolutionary War Veteran in your family tree? As our nation, and the Falmouth community, organize events to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, it is timely to hear about your ancestors who participated. Please send your short (300 words) biographical sketch of your ancestor. If you're lucky enough to have a photograph or other image, please send it along. Submissions to Caroline Anderson at caroline@gregandcaroline.net.



Jonathan Phinney, 1758-1832, East End Burying Ground, East Falmouth, Mass.

See page 10 for story highlighting FGS' efforts to identify and honor all of Falmouth's Revolutionary War Veterans.

We Asked. You Responded.

Photos of Our Ancestors

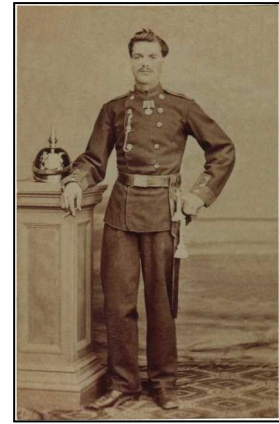
Thank you to the FGS members who turned to their family archives and sent these magnificent photos of their ancestors.



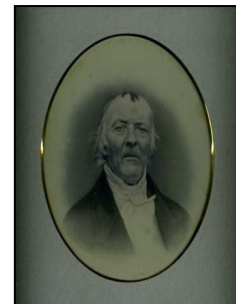
Linda Heald sent this family photo. Left to right: Leone Martha Barrett (1903-1923), Bernice Barrett Heald (1900-1989) and Ellen Barrett Ayres 1898-1991). Bernice is Linda Heald's grandmother; Leone and Ellen are her great-aunts.



Catherine Gwynn sent this family photo of her grandfather, Herbert Greene (1861-1946) with his mother Antoinette Walker (1838-1920), and likely his first wife Josephine Moroe (1862-1888) and their daughter Bertha (1883-1961). Herbert married three times. Cathy's father (Frederick E. Greene, 1908-1988) was his son with his third wife Annie Roche (1876-1957). Yes, this family history confirms that Cathy (born in 1957) had a grandfather alive during the Civil War.



Dorene Sykes shared this photo of her great-great-grandfather, Matthias Koop (1848-1892) taken circa 1870. Pictured in his Prussian army uniform, Matthias served in the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War after which the independent Kingdom of Wurttemberg, where he lived, joined the German Empire. By 1873, Matthias had joined his parents and siblings who had immigrated to Detroit, Michigan just before the war broke out.



Mary Ellen Williams wrote about Uriah Smith (1771-1855) who was her husband Richard Williams' 4th great-grandfather. A rise in new religious movements (The Great Awakening) evolved as pioneers moved away from the Puritan's traditional worship. Uria was an itinerant Baptist minister from Vermont, who preached, wrote, and lectured throughout New England. He moved to Enfield, New Hampshire where he organized the Temperance Society. One of his daughters (Susan) married James Willis Johnson who was a New Hampshire State Senator and proprietor of The Quincy House hotel in Boston. Two other daughters (Amanda and Zelinda) joined the Shaker community in Enfield. His brother (Elias Smith) was a Universalist preacher.

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Charlet Roskovics sent this portrait and short story of the Hopson family. Edward Crafts Hopson (1842-1864, bottom left) and his brother William Allis Hopson (1836-1873, top left) were Charlet's 2nd great-uncles. Edward fought and died for the Union Army while his brother William fought for the Confederate Army. Charlet's maternal 2nd great-grandmother, Elizabeth Crafts Hopson (1845-1889) is pictured between her brothers on the left. *Hidden History of Connecticut Union Soldiers*, written by John Banks, features a chapter about the brothers, titled "A Hideous Dream". The Falmouth Public Library holds a copy of this book.



Pvt. Benjamin Franklin Stone (Abt. 1845-1864) was the older brother of Ray Worthington's maternal great-grandmother. Born in Hinds County, Mississippi, "Frank" enlisted in the 3rd Mississippi Regiment, Company C, known as the Downing Rifles, in 1862. He wrote a series of letters to his sister describing daily events, originals of which the family donated to the Mississippi State Archives. He was killed at the Battle of Peachtree Creek, GA on July 20, 1864; his body was not recovered.



Herbert Henry Hilliard (1867-1912), was Ann Worthington's paternal great-grandfather. Born in Surry, England Herbert emigrated to the U.S. with his wife and two children in 1890, settling in Boston. By 1912 Herbert worked as a buyer for Jordan Marsh. Upon hearing of the Titanic's maiden voyage while on a buying trip in Europe, he booked first class passage home on it. He boarded the ship at Southampton on 10 April 1912. Herbert wrote a short note to his niece on board and dropped it in the mail sack just before the ship left Queenstown. He died in the sinking and his body, if recovered, was never identified.



Wilbert "Pete" Morrisette (1904-1966), Steve O'Brien's grandfather is pictured in a 1926 newspaper photo playing the saw like a violin. Pete and his friend Herman Masse traveled in a Model T Ford, sleeping in a pup tent, on a three-week tour throughout Maine and Quebec. They opened a concert for nationally known fiddler Mellie Dunham.



Michele O'Brien sent this circa 1914 photo of her grandfather, George Egan (1894-1986) posing with the Chase Metal baseball team in Waterbury, Connecticut. George is to the right of the gentleman in the center who is wearing a suit. Later in life, George worked for many years at the Chase Brass Company which had a long history of supporting baseball teams.



Alphonse Albert Auguste Joan (1881-1967), "Pop Joan", was Bruce Bumpus' maternal grandfather. While born in Normandy France, this photo shows Alphonse as a conductor on the Brockton Street Railway Company in the early 1900s. He later joined the George E. Keith Company, known for their Walk-Over shoes that were sold across Europe and the United States. People from Normandy always close a letter or conversation with these words, "Remember we are Norman not French." Apparently, we never got over becoming a part of France, Bruce added.

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

Katherine Lee Bates: From Sea to Shining Sea

In *Katherine Lee Bates: From Sea to Shining Sea*, author Melinda M. Ponder draws on Bates family diaries, letters, and memoirs to paint a vivid portrait of this beloved poet—and Falmouth native. It was published by Windy City Publishers in 2017.

Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson, and the Opening of the American West

This book by Stephen E. Ambrose takes the reader on Lewis and Clark's exploration of the Louisiana Purchase, the most momentous expedition in American history and one of the great adventure stories of all time. It was published by Simon & Schuster in 1997.

Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York

Generous Enemies challenges many long-held assumptions about wartime experience during the American Revolution by demonstrating that communities conventionally depicted as hostile opponents were, in fact, in frequent contact. Living in two clearly delineated zones of military occupation—the British occupying the islands of New York Bay and the Americans in the surrounding countryside—the people of the New York City region often reached across military lines to help friends and family members, pay social calls, conduct business, or pursue a better life. Examining the movement of Loyalist and rebel families, British and American soldiers, free blacks, slaves, and businessmen, Van Buskirk shows how personal concerns often triumphed over political ideology. It was published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2022.

Book Review

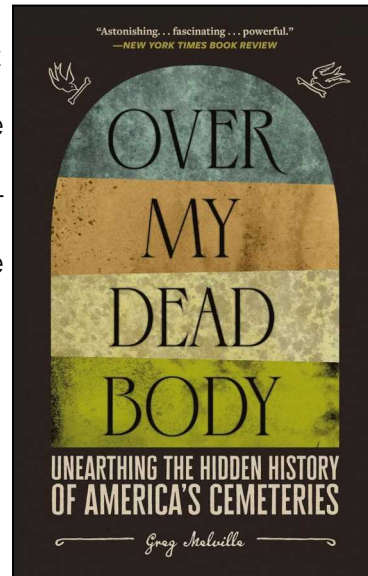
***Over My Dead Body: Unearthing the Hidden History of America's Gravestones* by Greg Melville**

By **Ralph Wadleigh**

How can we resist this book? Just the title got me hooked! Author Greg Melville takes the reader chapter by chapter, on a coast-to-coast tour of seventeen cemeteries, some of which may be familiar like Mount Auburn in Cambridge or Truro in Newport. Writing in a more entertaining than scholarly vein, he traces the development of American cemeteries from unmarked graves in 1607 Jamestown, Virginia back full circle to unmarked graves in today's suburban Philadelphia. The 1850s rural cemetery movement is highlighted in chapters devoted to Mount Auburn and Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemeteries. Did you know that certain cemeteries only became fashionable when cemetery owners brought celebrity remains to their cemetery? The evolution of the Death Industrial Complex is also described. This began with the invention of the embalming process after the Civil War. Embalming fostered the changes from coffins to caskets and undertakers to funeral directors.

Along the author's tour, the reader visits cemeteries in both the south and the west where America's cultural mores resulted in racially segregated cemeteries.

Those of us engaged in applying GPS coordinates to memorials in Falmouth's cemeteries will find the chapter covering the author's search for Walt Disney's grave at Glendale, California's huge Forest Lawn Memorial Park so frustrating that you will



want to help him by pulling up www.findagrave.com.

Finally, Melville points out that cemeteries are not immune from today's trends. Full burials are less common while cremations are increasingly chosen. Environmental concerns are spurring an increase in natural burials. And today, instead of using cemeteries, people are choosing digital im-

mortality where one's life is enshrined somewhere in the internet cloud. Are we turning into ghosts?

Over My Dead Body is available through the Clams network. It's an entertaining, informative read and could help you decide how you want to handle your final journey.

Moments in History: FGS Celebrates 40th Anniversary

A Journey into the FGS Newsletter Archive

By Tim Martin

The FGS Newsletter Archive tells the story of a vibrant, active, and impactful Society. Enjoy the archive at: <https://www.falmouthgenealogysociety.com/current-quarterly-newsletters.html>

Our founders launched the first newsletter, *The Tracer* (Vol. 1, No. 1) in October 1985. Marguerite H. Riley served as editor while also handling the duties of Treasurer. The original logo, a hand-drawn tree, designed by Marge with help from a friend, was added in 1986.

In April 1990, Paul Bunnell was editor. Beginning in January 1991 (Vol. 2, No. 1) and lasting for two years, the newsletter featured paid advertisements! Marjorie Gibson was at the helm by May 1993 (Vol. 5, No. 2) when a typeset newsletter was produced. Marjorie continued as newsletter editor into the early 2000s. In January 1995, she also published the *Historical and Genealogical Atlas and Guide to Barnstable County, Massachusetts* which is still available from FGS. Of note during this timeframe, President Donna Walcovy launched FGS' first website.

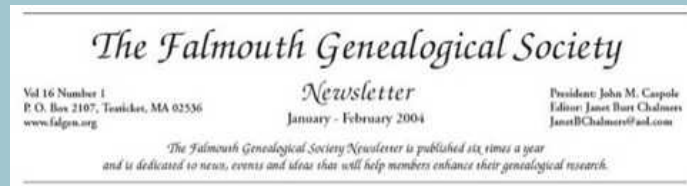
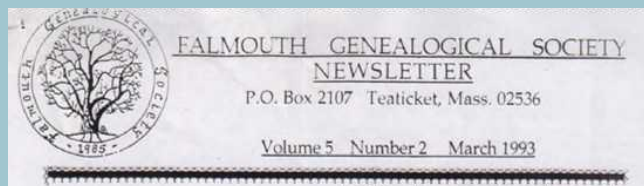
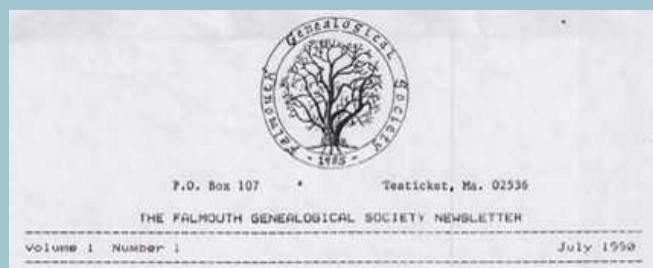
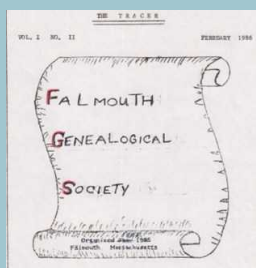
In January 2004 (Vol. 16, No. 1) Janet Burt Chalmers became editor. Janet brought her writing talent and printing skills to the table. Janet also wrote for the *Enterprise* (entertaining pieces on Quissett regattas) and owned "The Village Printer" with her husband Stephen. More technology appears by 2007, including clickable URLs.

Upon Janet Chalmers' death in May 2013, her brother, David Burt, assumes the editor post, serving from 2012-2015. Joyce Pendery signs-on as Co-Editor in August 2014. In December 2012, Ralph Wadleigh, with the help of other FGS members, completed the *Falmouth Enterprise* Obituary Index from 2011 back to 1960. In 2015, Gerard Luby led an update to the FGS website, maintained since 2017 by Tim Martin.

Dottie Priestley became editor for the Summer 2015 Issue (Vol. 27 Issue 3) while also serving as FGS Board Secretary. Dottie brought her experience writing and editing Chamber of Commerce newsletters to the table. She revised the layout and added unique design and color elements.

To commemorate our 40th Anniversary, Dottie Priestley and Caroline Anderson led an effort to update the FGS logo and brand. They introduced the new "look" in the January 2025 issue (Vol. 37, Issue 1). Enjoying this creative partnership, they now serve as Co-Editors with Dottie focused on design and Caroline on writing.

We honor all of these editors for their outstanding work! In reviewing past issues, we find style and content that reflects the technology and the research strategies of the time. What hasn't changed—the commitment to researching and sharing family history.



Get Equipped: Genealogy Tips

FamilySearch Labs is a platform where users can test and provide feedback on new, experimental features being developed by FamilySearch before they are fully released, allowing users to help shape the future of the FamilySearch website. Best of all, some of these experimental features can benefit your research today.

For example, the Full-Text Search feature makes use of AI generated transcriptions of billions of hand-written documents at FamilySearch that were previously image-only non-indexed documents. You can now search for text within these hand-written documents.

To use this feature, you will need to have a FamilySearch account. You can create a FREE account at: www.familysearch.org.

You can access FamilySearch Labs directly at: www.familysearch.org/labs.

From this landing page:

Step 1: Sign in.

Step 2: Select the “Expand your search with Full Text” experiment

Step 3: Start searching. The “Find a Collection” allows you to browse and filter by location.

When using the Search feature, we recommend trying different combinations of data to enhance results. First, try name and year. Then, perhaps try name and a keyword. You can then use the Filters (Collection, Year, Place, Record Type) to narrow your search.

FamilySearch also provides a helpful list of advanced search tips that will enhance your searches in the Full-Text search feature—and at other sites.

Falmouth Cemetery Project Update: Honoring Revolutionary War Veterans

By Linda Heald and Ralph Wadleigh



Hatch Family Plot, East End Burying Ground, Foreground: headstone for Eleazer Hatch, Massachusetts, Pvt., Capt. Palmers Co., Rev War, 1740-1809

Ralph Wadleigh and Linda Heald, with the support of Meg Costello, Archivist at Museums on the Green, have been refining a database developed by Ralph Wadleigh consisting of 365 names of possible Revolutionary War soldiers whose service is attributed to Falmouth. This information was principally sourced from the 1896-1908

Seventeen Volume Edition of *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the American Revolution*. Of this list, over 90 were identified as being buried in seven of Falmouth's cemeteries. Ongoing research shows over 10 Patriots who have no surviving headstones. We have now started installing metal markers and flags on the gravesites lacking such markings. We expect this task will be accomplished by Patriot's Day, April 19, 2025. Our fieldwork is where we must find the correct Patriot. There have been cases where there are multiple men by the same name. For instance, father and son. The old headstones are often covered with lichen or script on the stone has deteriorated. Locating these headstones takes patience. However, seeing these flags unfurled, dancing in the wind cannot be adequately described. Along with the other veteran flags, it's simply breathtaking. We are also adding the veteran designation to each veteran's FindaGrave.com memorial.

Now that the weather is improving, we will shortly restart our GPS locator grave marking project. We have three large cemeteries to complete: Village Cemetery in Woods Hole, the Old Burial Ground off Mill Road, and Oak Grove Cemetery. This process will likely take much of the summer. Any experienced FindaGrave.com user is encouraged to contact Ralph or Linda to join the team.

THANK YOU! Membership Survey Provides Valuable Information



Thank you to all of the FGS members who participated in our recent phone survey. We enjoyed a whopping 72.5 percent response rate. Most important, you provided excellent feedback on our programs and wonderful suggestions for future efforts. In short, your voice matters—and we're excited to build on your input.

Above everything else, our calls confirmed that our members are our greatest asset. The depth and breadth of talent is amazing. In response, President Tim Martin has established a goal to create an FGS resource network. Please see his column on page 2—and shoot him an email at fgspresident.com outlining your interests.

Here are some highlights from the survey:

Tuesday Help Desk—received rave reviews; many attribute some of their research success to the assistance received.

Newsletter—strong readership with many compliments for the new design and focus on FGS members and their family history research.

Monthly Programs—members are enjoying the return of social time and the addition of the Artifacts segment. And you had lots of suggestions for meetings: historical events (e.g. Irish famine or Spanish flu) and their impact on families, storytelling (writing and telling), good questions for oral histories, case studies/success stories, software options, colorful characters of Falmouth, preserving photos and artifacts, DNA (basics and beyond), country specific sessions, and more.

General Comments—the Cemetery project (past and present) is important, active participation in The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) should continue, and membership at \$25 per year is a great value.

Future Ideas—many of you want more “how to” workshops with the different genealogy websites. You'd like to see FGS develop programs to engage children/students. You'd also like FGS to expand our collaborative efforts with Museums on the Green, the Cape Verdean Museum, Woods Hole Historical Museum and others. You hope we'll offer fieldtrips to places like American Ancestors and the Massachusetts State Archives. We even had a suggestion or two to create a program like “Finding Your Roots.

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A Home in Woods Hole

Nickerson Family Association in Chatham, and Church of the Messiah cemetery records were particularly helpful.

While learning about the Nickerson family, Elizabeth discovered a puzzle: Who is Dorothy Nickerson? While initial research shed some light, more work is needed. Once she conquers the brick wall, this might be the topic of her next book.

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.com? 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.

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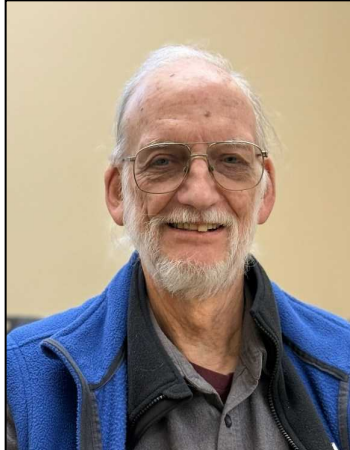
The Falmouth Genealogical Society, Inc. Newsletter is published four times per year and is dedicated to news, events, and ideas that will help members enhance their genealogical research.

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Meet Your Board

Clyde Tyndale, FGS Board Vice President



Clyde Tyndale and his wife Deborah Wino-grad joined FGS in 2014 after Deb took a class through the adult education program at the High School. His interest in genealogy was initially prompted when he inherited all of his mother’s family history research papers, including “Memory Books” about his ancestors that she had compiled. While she had compiled much information on her side of the family; there was scant information on his father’s side, likely because he had died when Clyde was quite young.

Growing up in San Diego in a very small family unit, Clyde had met only a few relatives on his mother’s side. He said that the greatest benefit for him in doing family history is discovering—and meeting—people in new branches of his family tree. He describes genealogical research as an interesting puzzle or “a rabbit hole” for discovery. He’s focused now on adding sources to all of his mother’s work and expanding knowledge about his paternal side.

Clyde spent most of his career working to design oceanographic and scientific equipment. He came to Woods Hole to work for WHOI in 1964 and was on the first crew of the Alvin submersible. His career also took him to Benthos and an NIH lab located at the MBL. He taught technical theater at Falmouth Academy for 27 years, retiring in 2018.

Clyde has deep interests in music and theater. He worked with the Woods Hole Folk Music Society for 47 years and has worked with the Falmouth Theater Guild. He is a longtime member of the College Light Opera Company (CLOC) Board of Trustees

Clyde has two children and two grandchildren.

He encourages FGS members to take advantage of all of the learning opportunities offered by the Society and to attend regional conferences like NERGC.

NERGC Conference

October 29-November 1, 2025

Manchester, NH

New Englanders Here, There, and Everywhere



Join FGS members and other family historians at NERGC. This conference, the largest in New England, is offered live and in-person only. Share in the experience of outstanding speakers, fun field trips, and a myriad of resources. The DoubleTree Hotel is currently accepting reservations from October 28 through November 1, 2025, at \$179.00 per night, plus taxes and vehicle parking. The group rate is on a space-available basis. To encourage early arrivals, NERGC will offer two bus tours, four mini-institute tracks, and five workshops on Wednesday. Conference registration will open in April. More information at: www.nergc.org.