

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the

Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 2, No. 5

November 1998

Nov. 21 - "Swap and Share"!!

President's Corner

Whether we like it or not, another year is coming to a close. We have set our clocks back, have treated the goblins at our doors and are making out our lists for the holidays at the end of the year. A great gift for either yourself or a fellow family-root researcher would be a membership to the Maine Genealogical Society. Although it is not a prerequisite to belong to the Maine Genealogical Society before belonging to the Hancock County Society, it is well worth the \$20 annual fee.

If anybody is interested in joining, please call me at 667-8728 as I have the forms at home. There is one at the Ellsworth Public Library on the bulletin board next to the "Genealogy Computer" which you may copy also.

I have spoken with a few of the other counties' members and, it appears, we are among the most active groups in the State of Maine. I would like to see that continue. The Hancock County Genealogical Society was established as a means of sharing information about families and sources of information. We have been fortunate too to have a number of knowledgeable speakers join us this year. If you know of someone whose knowledge would benefit the membership, please contact either the Program Chairperson or me.

Have a Happy New Year!

Richard Spinney

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Upcoming Events

MEETING DATES FOR 1999

Mark your calendars now!

January 16
February 20 — Election of officers
March 20
April 17
May 15
June 19
July 17 — Final Plans for the Genealogy Fair
August 21 — **Genealogy Fair** at Unitarian
Universalist Church
September 18
October 16
November 20
December — No Meeting. Happy Holidays!!

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Note: The next issue of the Hancock Historian will be out in March 1999.

TEMPUS FUGIT - Part Two

or: ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER....

As I'd said in the Newsletter a few months ago, being in the midst of solving a genealogy mystery has captured my attention; and being so busy with daily routines I've wished for more time to pursue the clues.

We are new to the "ins and outs" of searching family lines, so we have been learning as we go.

The "Clues":

- 1) supposed family plot in a cemetery in Berwick, Maine
- 2) photos with no dates
- 3) she: possibly a short story writer; definitely a pianist
- 4) he: possibly a street preacher; maybe a traveling salesman.

The first thing we did was get the Family Tree Maker Program installed in our computer. This to keep us organized. We also have a subscription to a genealogy rag *Heritage Quest* which has helped with some questions of "how to" search from various angles. The Internet has a list that helps amateur genealogists (and computer novices - newbies) and we have learned a lot through that (to get on this list send a message to:

GEN-NEWBIE-L-request@rootsweb.com

and write "subscribe" in the body of the message - without the quotation marks).

But now to specifics:

First I wrote to the town hall in Berwick asking they forward my inquiry about a family plot for either BARR (my great Grandfather's name) or COLOMY (his wife). We sent a SASE to give them incentive to respond. Internet searches had showed no COLOMY - the name seemed non-existent-; the BARR side is well represented and needs to be narrowed down further.

Being true to my nature thus wanting to do at least three things at once....I decided to try finding

Orlando BARR in the Haverhill, Mass. area. I used the FTM index to locate an 'Orlando BARR' (an unusual given name) in N. Brookfield, Mass. and it referred me to the Mass. 1870 Census. I wanted a peek at the Census! But how?

A library can contain the best sources! Thinking they might get that Census for me, I called into the Ellsworth Library. I was told that Charlene was the person to see; and what a great referral that has been! Through her we have met some great people, all working on their family trees; joined this Society; found the great resources available in the genealogy collection in Ellsworth Library; and located more relatives!

By obtaining the 1870 Mass. Census for us, Charlene was able to give us our first, substantial clues to these mystery people. There was an Orlando BARR at age 16 living with a 19 year old James F. (or P) BARR and a 59 year old Jerusia BARR in N. Brookfield, Mass. - no male head of household.. Could this be my great grandfather? Could this Jerusia BARR be my great great grandma?

In the meantime, the Berwick Cemetery Association sent me copy of the COLOMY family plot in their Evergreen Cemetery! The information was really starting to flow in. The plot plan showed that this gravesite held not only Abbie COLOMY BARR (gr. Grandmother to me) but also my gr. Grandfather Orlando BARR and his brother Robert Theodore BARR! There was also a Mary Emma GRANT - another mystery! And two others - Judith COLOMY and Elbridge COLOMY - more mystery! I would need to visit the gravesites in the spring to look for dates on these folks.

Back to Orlando BARR. I knew from an old letter, that before they married, Abbie COLOMY lived in Haverhill. Did they marry there? Again I checked out the library, this time in Haverhill, Mass. where they also have a very good genealogy collection. The index for the marriages was there on microfilm....I found Orlando BARR. Next came the microfilm of the registration of marriages for that city. There they were.....Orlando and Abbie, married June 1, 1893; and there were their parents

listed.....WOW!..... Elbridge and Judith COLOMY.....James P. and Jerusia A. (Woods) BARR! Some of the mysteries were clearing up right before my very eyes. Elbridge and Judith (Wallingford) Colomy as great great grandparents. James P and Jerusia (Woods) BARR as great great grandparents also! New maiden names, Wallingford and Woods, have come to light. As we solve one mystery.....another pops into view.

Springtime brought a chance to go to the family plot in Berwick. There we found a stone for Elbridge and Judith Colomy. The rest of the graves are unmarked. But at last we now had some dates for info on Elbridge and Judith. His stone states he died and was buried in the Andersonville, GA Confederate Prison. His child(ren) apparently placed the memorial stone in Berwick for him and his wife Judith who is buried there having died in 1881.

All these trails...leading me on. At every turn we learn a little more history too. At this point my father became involved as I enlisted his help writing to the folks at the Andersonville Prison Museum in Georgia. His query elicited a quick response including photos of the headstone for Elbridge Colomy in the prison cemetery along with cause of death, place of capture, rank and regiment, etc. Now we search for info on the 17th Maine Volunteers, of which Elbridge was a part when captured by the South in Virginia in 1863 or 4. He died Aug. 24, 1864 at the Prison.

So for all you new-to-genealogy folks out there.....you can see that by just a few peeks at microfilm, a query to a cemetery association, a visit to the local library, the kindness of strangers...who become friends at your local genealogy club, and historical societies things begin to fall quickly into place. And not only do you gather dates and places, you begin to 'round' out the people, personalizing history, and bringing these long gone folks back so they can be remembered again.

From the Library

The addition to the Whitmore Collection of volumes 8-17 of World Family Tree on CD- Rom

has proven to be a popular one, indeed. The "computer in the corner" has been an extremely popular place with several patrons finding long-lost lines of their families. Please, remember when using any source like the CD's to check for sources. If there are none, (and even if there are) double check the accuracy of the information before you include it in your genealogy. My own family in on one of these, with more incorrect information than I would have believed possible.

The other welcome addition to the Whitmore Collection this month is The Great Migration Newsletter put out by New England Historical Genealogical Society. This gift was given in honor of Alice Warner, and goes along with the three volume Great Migration set we have in the collection.

Check out the bulletin board in the genealogy area. I have recently posted several lists taken off the Internet. Definitions of terms we run into often, lists of epidemics, lists of wars. Feel free to copy any thing on the board. Once they leave the board they will go into the vertical file, so they will continue to be available for everyone to use.

*See you at the Library,
Charlene*

Our deepest sympathy is extended

to the family and friends of

Linda Stiles Carpenter

who passed away October 7, 1998

Another Way to Compute Birthdates

In the last newsletter, there was a column describing how one could calculate the birth date using the information commonly found on a gravestone. Here is another method using simple

arithmetic: subtract the age from the date of death. The following is for a person who died November 19, 1889, aged 77 years, 8 months, 5 days:

Date of death: November 19, 1889

Convert to Year/Month/Day format:

	1889	11	19
Subtract age:	- 77y	08m	05d

Date of Birth:	1812	03	14

Converting gives: March 14, 1812.

Not all are this simple because "borrowing" may be involved - just as we "borrow" one from the next column when we subtract as shown below:

34
- 18

16

In the problem, we cannot subtract 8 from 4 so we borrowed 1 from the 3, make it a 2 and make the 4 a 14. We then subtract 8 from 14 to get the 6; subtract 1 from the 2 and get 1. Answer: 16.

Using months, days and years, we have to remember that there are 30 days in a month; 12 months in a year. To demonstrate this process, assume a person died May 5, 1898 aged 77 years 08 months 22 days. Setting the problem up as above:

May 5, 1898 becomes:	1898	05	08
Age:	- 77y	08m	22d

We cannot subtract 22 days from 08 days. Borrow 30 days from the months column. This reduces the months from 05 to 04 (subtracting one month) and increases the 08 days to 38 days. The top line has been changed to read:

	1898	04	38
Writing age below it we have:	- 77y	08m	22d

We could subtract the days now but, we have a problem in the month column as we cannot subtract 08 from 04. To remedy this, borrow 12 months from the year. This reduces the year from 1898 to 1897 and increases the month column to 16 (by adding 12 to 4). Our problem should now look like this:

Date of Death:	1897	16	38
Subtract age:	- 77y	08m	22d
Birth Date:	1820	08	16

Converting this, the person was born August 16, 1820.

Since this method uses only 30 days per month, it will result in being a day off now and then; no one will be born on the 31st of the month; and now and then you might find someone who was born Feb 29th or 30th. These dates can be easily modified to March 1 or March 2nd.

Hancock County Genealogy Society Minutes: September 19, 1998

The September meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held September 19, 1998 in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library with 26 attending.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. Austin Carter reported a balance of \$761.65 in the treasury.

The Genealogy Fair was discussed under old business. New business included a request from Wayne Smith for the group to purchase volume 8 through 17 of World Family Tree for the Library collection. The request was approved and the CD's were donated to the Library. Tom Roderick spoke briefly on a series of Family Medical / Genealogy programs that are being held. Wayne Smith promoted his beginning genealogy class through Adult Ed in Ellsworth.

The speaker of the day was Raymond Robbins, who told us about writing his two volumes on the history of the houses in Tremont.

At the end of the meeting Erna Wentworth handed out the newsletters with membership cards to those who had not yet received theirs. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM.

**Hancock County Genealogical Society
Minutes: October 17, 1998**

The October meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held Saturday October 17, 1998 at 2:30 PM in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library.

Vice-President Betsy Eggleston called the meeting to order. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. There was no Treasurer's report.

Plans were made to hold our third annual genealogy fair, and to ask for use of the Unitarian-Universalist Church again this year. A roundtable discussion of what problems to bring to the November meeting which will be a swap and share.

Peggy Young of Creative Memories was the guest speaker. She talked about preserving pictures and documents.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary**

QUERIES

Looking for information on Jane E. or Jennie **BRIDGES**. She died July 12 1876 in Surry or South Penobscot. She married George Dudley **WOOD**, April 13, 1873. We do not know which name is correct or her birthdate. Respond to:

Peggy Ann Vipond
P.O. Box 254
Royal City, WA 99357-0254
pavipond@atnet.net

Hancock County Cemetery Project

The progress of the Cemetery Recording Project slowed almost to a halt this spring. Due to ill health, the records waiting to be printed out just sat, just as did the disc for the Tombstone Project, and I apologize both to those who put effort into the recording, and to those who are waiting to make use of the recordings. I'm hoping that at the meeting in November, someone will volunteer to head this project, and give it new energy. Please, everybody, give it serious thought. Also needed: Volunteers to (1) proof-read: do a walk-through of the cemetery recorded, to see if it has been correctly transcribed. In every such project errors can be made when copying from the gravestone, and also when entering the data in the computer. (2) Someone to do database entry. (I will be happy to work on locating and transcribing some of the pioneer and private graves. Plus I will continue my Surname Index to the cemeteries. That way I won't hold up the larger project.)

Cemeteries Recorded to date:

Birchland Cemetery - on private land 1.5 miles south of Blue Hill-Brooklin line. - Leola Mulholland.

Mount Calvary Cemetery, Ellsworth - Charlene Clemons, Charles Reid, Joann Levin

Old Garland Cemetery, Gary Moore Road, Ellsworth - Paul and Patricia Firlotte

Tinker's Island - Joyce Barr & Jim Bartlett

Bar Harbor Golf Course (!), Trenton - Harris McLean reported the existence of approximately four graves in a clump of trees near the 16th hole, dating from the days when this was farmland.

Several people have volunteered information on pioneer graves and cemeteries on private land. Also there is a strong possibility that other cemetery recorders in Hancock County (not currently members of our group) will donate their recordings to our genealogy library.

Juniper Grove Cemetery, Ellsworth

Richard Spinney submitted this excerpt from an article in the Ellsworth American of June 22, 1860:

"Notice is hereby given that the Juniper Grove Cemetery in the town of Ellsworth on the Waltham Road has been laid out in lots numbering from one to eighty-five containing four hundred and forty eight square feet...Twenty of these lots are valued at six dollars each; ten at five dollars each...

To be sold the 30th inst by auction at the school house at the Head of the Falls.

Ellsworth June 15, 1860
Per order of Com."

*Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Austin Carter, Treasurer
321 Main Street
Bar Harbor, ME 04609*

Thanks, everybody! Hope to see you at the Library soon!

- Joann Levin

Joann Also Reports that....

The Immigrant Ships Transcriber Guild, a group of many volunteers, who decided to transcribe NARA passenger lists and make them available on the Internet for free, is now online:

<http://iigs.rootsweb.com/immships/index1.html>

This site can be searched by passenger and ship name, date of departure and arrival, and also by alphabetical order of passenger names. So far a small number of people/ships have been recorded but the site's owners promise to add 6,000 records per week.