

The Hancock Historian

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President's Column

Here we are, at the end of yet another year. Today is 12/21/12. It seems the Mayan's calendar was not correct, which is great news. Now we still have many years of genealogy research ahead of us!

You will probably see this in another section of the newsletter but I want to remind everyone that our meeting day/time has changed. We will now be meeting the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library.

Charlene Clemons will soon be revamping our Facebook page. It sounds like she has some good ideas for the page, so please take a minute and check it out.

Our annual meeting is now held in January. All officer positions are one-year terms and anyone is free to throw his or her name into the hat. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the positions and I will add your name to the slate of officers that we will be voting on.

See you in January, Please feel free to contact me at 207-669-9777 or pleland57@yahoo.com if you have any questions or comments.

Patti Leland, President

2013 Meeting Date Changes

A reminder of the change in day and time for the 2013 meetings of the Hancock County Genealogical Society as voted on at the November meeting.

Meetings will be at 9 a.m. in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library on the second Saturday of each month. The dates of the meetings:

January 12 -- Annual meeting and election of officers followed by a work session on the Moore families.

February 9	March 9
April 13	May 11
June 8	July 13
August 10	September 14
October 12	November 9
December -- no meeting	

2012 Officers

President	Patti Leland
Vice-President	Lois Johnson
Secretary	Charlene Clemons
Treasurer	Max Brenninkmeyer
Membership	Charlene Clemons
Newsletter Editor	Al Banfield

Membership Dues Due

A reminder that 2013 dues are due in January. They remain \$10 for either an individual or a couple. Dues may be sent to:

Charlene Clemons
Hancock County Genealogical Society
96 Mud Creek Road
Hancock, Maine 04640

Hancock County Genealogical Society membership has an email address if you have any questions concerning your membership: HCGSmembership@yahoo.com.

Membership cards will not be sent until after the January 12 meeting.

Please remember that I am no longer at the Ellsworth Library, so don't make a trip there to either leave your dues for me or to pay me your dues.

Thank you,
Charlene Clemons

September-November Minutes

September Meeting

The Hancock County Genealogical Society met Saturday, September 15, 2012, in the genealogy area of the Ellsworth Public Library. The meeting was called to order by President Patti Leland at 2:30 p.m. with 15 members and guests present.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and accepted. Max Brenninkmeyer reported dues of \$20, interest of \$ 0.03 for a total net inflow of \$20.03. There

were no expenses for the month. The July balance was \$3,161.25, added to that \$20.03 for August, left a total of \$3,181.28 at the end of August. The report was accepted. Membership now stands at 87 members.

Newsletter: Al Banfield hopes to do a newsletter on the road for November as he and Mary will be traveling for the next couple months. The deadline will be Nov. 1 for articles.

Tom Roderick will speak on Nov. 17 on the latest in DNA and genealogy.

In old business, Patti Leland talked about the trip to the Ellsworth Historical Society at the August meeting and the society's plans for restoring the building and preserving the collection for the future.

The Facebook position is still open. There was also an update on the Whitaker Cemetery in Trenton and the work being done to prove who might be buried there.

There will be no meeting in December as usual, and the annual meeting and election of officers will be held in January 2013.

There were questions about downloading family trees from Ancestry.Com, and Maine Old Cemeteries Association, or other cemetery records on-line. A website, [Maine.gov\megis\pdfs\Hancock\Hancockcounty\county](http://Maine.gov/megis/pdfs/Hancock/Hancockcounty/county) was given for cemetery records, some MOCA and others not.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. with a swap and share following. During the swap and share, the subject of the Moore family was brought up. It was decided to make the October meeting a workshop on Moore family research with those working on the family sharing what information they had. [Note: Moore family research postponed to January 12 meeting.]

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary.

October Meeting

The October meeting was canceled.

November Meeting

The Hancock County Genealogical Society met on Saturday, November 17, 2012, in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library. President Patti Leland called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. There were 20 members and guests present.

The minutes of the September 15, 2012, meeting were read and accepted. Max Brenninkmeyer reported an income of \$ 0.05 during the months of September

and October, bringing the total in the treasury to \$3,181.33. The treasurer's report was accepted. Membership stands at 87. A reminder that dues are due in January for the year 2013.

The November newsletter has been delayed due to Al Banfield's computer problems.

Patti Leland and Charlene Clemons explained that due to Charlene's retirement from the Ellsworth Library, the meeting time needed to be changed to a time when the library was open, thereby relieving members of the responsibility of locking and alarming the building after hours. The library director offered the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. It was voted to change the meeting time to the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m.

Charlene Clemons asked the group to purchase a drum and cleaner for the older microfilm reader at the library. The cost is estimated at slightly more than \$700. Purchase was approved by the group.

Charlene Clemons also called the attention of the group to an article in *The Ellsworth American* (November 15, 2012, section I, page 5) about the Seaside Grange in Corea raising funds to restore the gravestone of Rebecca Young, who died in December 1869 of typhoid fever at the age of 16. Patti Leland will look into the project further to see if it is something the group wants to get involved with.

The meeting was closed at 2:46 p.m. after which Dr. Thomas Roderick presented an interesting program on DNA and genealogical research.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary.

From the Library

On September 29, I retired from the Ellsworth Public Library after twenty years. The decision to retire came sooner than I had planned; but, once the decision was made, I knew it was the right one for me. And before you ask, both Marcus and I are fine – thank you for thinking of us.

When I began work at the library, I had a dream of creating a genealogy collection that Ellsworth could be proud of. I wanted us to be the “go-to” site for genealogical research in Hancock County. Fortunately I had a director, Patricia Foster, who encouraged me to fulfill that dream and trusted me to create such a collection. With the help of so many people over the years, I was able to see that dream realized. Many of those people were connected with the Hancock County Genealogical Society. The late Connee Jellison

was wonderful about suggesting titles and publicizing any new additions to the collection or any programs we had. Alice MacDonald Long also gave wonderful suggestions and donations of material she and her late husband had worked on. Austin Carter, who was then president of the Mount Desert Island Genealogical Society, was very supportive when we suggested moving the meetings to Ellsworth every other month. Eventually it became a permanent move.

Local historian, Judge Herbert Silsby, was my mentor for local history. He always said he didn't do genealogy, but he knew so much about the local families of the 1800s and was always willing to take the time to answer any question I had. His columns in *The Ellsworth American* were a gold mine of local historical information and indexing them was an education in itself for me. They remain the backbone of our local history collection.

Mark Honey has been and is a constant source of inspiration to me. He has very kindly allowed me to work on projects with him, digging out the most amazing information about people and places in the area. He, like Herb, has always been willing to answer questions for me. I could never hope to amass even a tenth of the information in his brain, but I have learned so much from him.

Last, but by no means least, is all of you. You have donated information, genealogies, money, support and time over the years, and I appreciate it. I always knew that if I had a question I could not answer, I could go to the one or two of you in the group researching that area and you would be willing to help. I have made many friendships over the past 20 years and I treasure those. I intend to still be active in the club, perhaps now doing some of my own genealogical research.

I leave the collection in the best shape possible. I had hoped to have seen the new addition built and to have seen the local history and genealogy collections moved into the Tisdale House, a fitting place for them. I left plans with the building committee with meeting rooms, archival storage units, and ways to block off the area from the noise of the main library (and the main library from the noise of genealogist talking). I have no idea who will take over the collection. I only hope the person will have an interest in local history, and a genuine appreciation of what we have created and will continue to make it grow and prosper in the coming years.

Thank you all for your support and guidance. I have learned from all of you and enjoyed every minute of the process.

Charlene Clemons

Building Brick Walls

By Richard Spinney

Anybody who has researched his/her family for any length of time has run into the infamous "brick wall." It does not help matters when one adds bricks and mortar to the wall rather than working at the chinks in it. I did this myself early 2001 while researching the parents of David Simpson of Dixmont, Maine. I just discovered my error this week.

David Simpson had a son, Aaron, who was a prominent attorney in Bangor. His obituary took up 11 column inches in the February 8, 1901, issue of *The Bangor Daily News*. Aaron was run over by a runaway horse and was laid up for about two months. He returned to his office for part of a day's work and returned home to rest in the afternoon. He died of an apparent heart attack. His obituary says his grandfather served in the Revolutionary War and had "marched with Arnold's expedition through the wilds of Maine to Quebec." Aaron's grandfather then was David Simpson's father.

I consulted Kenneth Robert's *March to Quebec*, which includes much of the source material for the famous novel, *Arundel*. I wrote to George A. Quintal Jr., historian and genealogist for the Arnold Expedition Historical Society in Gardiner, Maine. I was unable to find a probable father of David Simpson among those who marched to Quebec with Benedict Arnold. It seemed like a dead-end.

Eventually, I was able to determine David Simpson's father was one William Simpson, but that determination came from material sent to me by a woman in Indiana! There was a lengthy article about a prominent newspaperman, Richard P. Clarkson, who had moved from Dixmont to Des Moines, Iowa. Richard's wife was Mary Simpson, sister to David, and the article about Richard P. Clarkson named Mary's parents.

Although there was a William Simpson who marched to Quebec, according to George Quintal, William Simpson died unmarried.

This week, I reviewed my material about David Simpson and his family. Like the rest of us, David's son Aaron had two grandfathers: David's father and the father of Aaron's mother, Relief Jane Littlefield. I have copies of the pension applications for Relief's father, Moses Littlefield. He stated he first served at Boston Heights and then later at Fort Ticonderoga during the Revolution. Men who marched to Quebec included many who had served in Boston and then, after their defeat in Quebec, went to Fort Ticonderoga. Moses'

name has not been found among those who marched to Quebec. Happily, the Ellsworth Public Library has ordered a book that will provide yet more information about the men who marched to Quebec and perhaps Moses will be among them.

Queries

Searching for families of Foster P. Harding, b. 2 Sept. 1802, Sedgwick, Hancock, Maine, and d. 11 March 1874, Blue Hill, Hancock, Maine, and Ann Robertson Harding, b. 1806 Sedgwick, Hancock, Maine, and d. Feb. 1887. Would like to find the parents of both Foster and Ann and when the families came to America.

If anyone has information, contact Charlene Clemons at foxtail994@roadrunner.com

Searching for Wotton family of Houlton, Maine.

New England Conference

The 12th annual New England Regional Genealogical Conference, Woven in History: The Fabric of New England, will be held April 17-21 at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, N.H.

Genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds will lead numerous sessions on many topics. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Colleen Fitzpatrick, recognized for her forensic and DNA approach to genealogy, and Dr. Stephen Morse, creator of the one-step website.

For more information, go to www.nergc.org.

Trip Verifies Some Stories

By Alfred Banfield

My apologies for the lapse in newsletters. On our return from a six-week cross-country trip, Mary and I discovered that our computer had major problems that eventually required that it be stripped to its purchase condition and all programs be reloaded on it. Subsequently, the newsletter was delayed.

From a genealogical standpoint, our trip at mixed results.

In the September newsletter, I talked about trying to find some evidence to support various family stories and thus prove that they actually happened as

passed down--or disprove them. One of those family stories dealt with my great-great-grandfather Robert Hunter, about whom two great aunts in the 1950s used to regale the family with stories of his days as a muleskinner in Civil War era Kansas and Missouri. The great aunts had told of the Union Army at one point commandeering his mules and reimbursing him after the war, and of the infamous Quantrill's Raiders stealing some of his mules on another occasion and mercilessly plundering some of his wagons.

In a suburb of Seattle, we visited with a second cousin once removed who displayed a Civil War document, apparently reimbursing Robert Hunter for the mules and wagons used by the Union Army. The document did not mention what the reimbursement to Robert Hunter was for, but it definitely strengthened the story. The losses to Quantrill may never be proven, but from reading of Quantrill's violent raids, I do know that if my great-great-grandfather lost mules and wagons to Quantrill, they probably were driven by his employees, for Quantrill rarely left a survivor.

In September's article, I also wrote of the two great aunts speaking of Robert and Agnes Hunter's family chicken farm on the site of today's Washington Park next to Union Station and the Hallmark Card complex near 20th and Grand Avenue in Kansas City, Mo. My second cousin in the Seattle suburb showed me a 1919 sales agreement on land Robert Hunter had owned in Kansas City, for \$57,000, a very considerable sum in those days.

In trying to further confirm the story, on a return leg of the trip, I went to the Jackson County Courthouse in Kansas City to check on the actual deed to the property. Yet, unlike Hancock County, Maine, where deeds may be found on line using either the buyer's or seller's name so the deed might easily be found, a plot number was required in Kansas City. Nothing was listed under buyer or seller. Then, when I found the plot number for the possible farm site, the clerk showed me that the pages of the book for that time period literally were falling apart and she could not continue looking. She said they plan to digitize them some day.

In Seal Beach, Calif., we visited several days with another second cousin once removed whom I had found last year. She has provided me much information on her grandfather, George Banfield, the brother of my great-grandfather. This cousin showed me pictures of her and a newspaper article featuring her as one of the white-gowned Golden Girls who were hosts to each of the state delegations at the 1960 Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. She also showed a picture of her mother, co-chairman of the California state

committee, with a very young Teddy Kennedy.

Their political roles in 1960 fit well with the news story from *The Kansas City Star* my cousin had given me on the death of her grandfather, one of the leading early builders in Kansas City. The article detailed the actions of George Banfield, after an auditorium built specially for the Democratic Convention in Kansas City in 1900 burned late on its opening night, ignited by a gas lamp. George Banfield volunteered and supervised the building of a new auditorium in ninety days, in time for the convention. My cousin provided me a picture of her grandfather with his horse-drawn wagon in front of the auditorium.

In fact, when I left the Kansas City Public Library and rounded the corner, I spotted a familiar building, the New York Life building, the first skyscraper in Kansas City, built by George Banfield. I took a photograph of the building, now the headquarters of Catholic Charities.

Another granddaughter of George Banfield living in the Minneapolis area has given me a letter she had sent to *Architectural Digest* telling how Frank Lloyd Wright had apprenticed under George Banfield. That story still needs confirmation with supporting documentation.

In Kansas City, I also had hoped to have had a chance to peruse the extensive clipping file of *The Kansas City Star and Times*, for which I had worked in the 1960s and early 1970s. Instead I need to wait several years at least, because they were sent out to be digitized. These files contain clippings of almost any mention of individuals and groups and events, a wealth of information for genealogists.

The Writing on the Stone

By Alfred Banfield

On a local front, with regard to Mary's family, a trip to a rustic cemetery provided confirmation of my hunch.

Mary's great-great-grandfather David L. Marshall was born in 1844. His father, Lewis Y. Marshall and Phebe L. Hopkins wed in 1845. All other family trees on Ancestry.com had Lewis Y. Marshall (b. 1916) and Eleanor B. Marshall (b. 1823) being a son and daughter of Capt. David Marshall.

Something seemed unusual, however. I suppose David L. Marshall could have been born out of wedlock. Eleanor B. Marshall died in 1844, the year David L. Marshall was born. Could Eleanor have died in childbirth? Capt. David Marshall's 1840 census showed no females under 20, so that seemed to rule

Eleanor out as his daughter. Could Eleanor have been Lewis Y. Marshall's first wife and mother of David Marshall, instead of Lewis's sister?

The answer was found on Mary's and my trip to Goose Cove Cemetery in Trenton. There on the side of one of the large memorials was the answer. Lewis Y. Marshall had two wives, Eleanor B. Marshall and Phebe L. Hopkins. Eleanor, who died in 1844, was David L. Marshall's mother.

In addition, David L. Marshall does not appear in Lewis and Phebe Marshall's 1850 census with their three young children. David, however, appears with John C. Murch and Jane Marshall Murch in the 1860 census. Jane Marshall Murch, b. 1819, likely could have been Lewis Marshall's sister, one of the two females under 10 in Captain David Marshall's 1820 census, and thus David L. Marshall's aunt.

Incidentally, John C. Murch and Jane Marshall Murch were the great-great-grandparents of Fred Llewellyn Murch, who married David L. Marshall's daughter, Georgia H. Marshall. Fred and Georgia Murch were the parents of Florence Theo Murch, Mary's grandmother.

It is interesting how some of the old families intertwined as travel was somewhat restricted, inhibiting the pool for spouses.

Materials Requested

As editor of the newsletter, I could use the collective knowledge of members. If you have any information to share with other members, any queries, or historic photographs of people or places in Hancock County, please send them to me by the end of June for the July newsletter at atbanfield44@gmail.com.