

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

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Plans Taking Shape for the June 16 County-Wide Conference on Digitization and Preservation Issues

In just one month, the **Conference on Digitization and Preservation Issues** sponsored by the Hancock County Genealogical Society will be opening its doors to representatives from local historical societies, libraries, and museums. We have scheduled two excellent keynote addresses and four smaller break-out sessions that will provide us with the skills and knowledge that we need to preserve our collections and make them more widely accessible through digitization.

The morning keynote speaker will be **Adam C. Fisher**, Director of Collections Development and Digital Initiatives at the Maine State Library. Adam writes: *“A series of digitization efforts in Maine are helping bring new source materials into the public domain for the first time and allowing researchers anywhere in the world to have access to historical content online. These projects are helping people make new discoveries about the rich histories of their communities and solve some mysteries relating to their family history. I will highlight some of the work that is underway right now in Maine and talk about resources available to groups with important historical content to digitize.”*

Concerning his afternoon session, Adam writes: *“Digitization is an important tool for both preservation and access to important historical materials and there are many resources available today to help individuals and organizations with digitization projects. Adam Fisher from the Maine State Library will share tips on how to get started with a digitization project and provide technical advice to guide you through the process of creating a digital collection.”*

In her morning break-out session, **B. J. Jamieson** of the Maine Genealogical Society, and Reference and Special Collections Librarian at the Belfast Free Library, will be speaking about "Making Collections Visitor-Friendly." BJ writes: *"Small historical societies, museums, and libraries have limited resources. How can a small or volunteer staff improve the experience of visitors?"*

Of her afternoon keynote presentation, entitled: *"More Than Just Scanning,"* BJ writes: *"Scanned records are wonderful for researchers ~ but much more than just scanning goes into making digital collections ready for a website."*

Two additional break-out sessions will be presented by representatives of two local historical societies that have already made great strides in digitizing and preserving their collections. In the morning, **Bob Plaskon** and **Donald Woodward** of the Jonesport Historical Society will be speaking. Bill writes: *"This presentation will explain how Microsoft Office tools were used to organize and format over 14,000 photos, 22,000 pages of text, and 15 hours of video clips, into a user-friendly Archives database which can be used by anyone to either browse through or to search by key words. A Cemeteries database containing 4300 graves in 38 cemeteries will also be demonstrated."*

In the afternoon, **Ann Durgin**, of the Blue Hill Historical Society, will making a presentation entitled *"Climbing the Ladder."* Ann writes: *"Most small historical societies are run by volunteers with limited time, minimal budgets, and little or no training in archival practices. Responsibility for collection management has often belonged to one person at a time and information about the methods and procedures used were not recorded. This session will guide volunteers brave enough to embark on the journey of bringing order to the wonderful tangle of historical society holdings."*

The conference will be held on Saturday, June 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the General Bryant E. Moore Community Center, 125 State Street, Ellsworth, Maine 04605. The schedule is as follows:

9:00 - 9:30 - Registration, coffee, donuts
9:30 - 10:30 - Morning Keynote Address - Adam C. Fisher , Maine State Library, "Digitization and Discovery - Today's Golden Age for Genealogy"
10:45 - 11:45 - Two breakout sessions: BJ Jamieson - "Making Collections Visitor-Friendly" Bill Plaskon & Donald Woodward - "The Jonesport Historical Society Archives and Cemeteries Database"
11:45 - 1:15 - Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 - Two breakout sessions: Adam Fisher - "Getting Started with a Digital Project" Ann Durgin - "Climbing the Ladder: Bringing Order to Historical Society Holdings"
2:30 - 3:30 - Afternoon Keynote Address - B. J. Jamieson , MGS Board member, "More Than Just Scanning"

A registration form for the conference is included at the end of this edition of the *Hancock Historian*. Please feel free to copy and distribute this form to historical societies, libraries, museums, and other organizations and individuals that are working to preserve the history of Hancock County. See you there!

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes - 10 March 2018

The Hancock County Genealogical Society met on Saturday March 10, 2018 at the Ellsworth Public Library with 22 members and guests present.

Mary Gibeau presented an extremely interesting program "Finding Rose" about her search for a young orphan girl from England who was lost in the system to her brother. His dying request was to find out what happened to his little sister. Mary and her friend in England followed Rose's trail to Canada and then to a living daughter and granddaughter in California.

Following the presentation, President Ralph Harris called the meeting to order. Minutes from the January and February meetings were read and approved. The treasurer did not have a final report as he was lacking the monthly statement for February.

Updates were given on the Eastern Maine DIG group, the June conference, new Facebook members and from the Library. Membership stands at 34 who have either renewed or are new members.

Under new business, Ralph updated us on MGS and the workshop in April. Proposed changes to the by-laws were discussed and approved. Woodlawn Museum (The Black House) is looking for a person to do a workshop on basic genealogy this summer.

Upcoming speakers and events for both HCGS and MGS were discussed. An in depth discussion of the June conference was held with times, locations and speakers discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes - April 14, 2018

The April meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held in the Riverview Room, Ellsworth Public Library on April 14, 2018. The meeting was called to order by President Ralph Harris.

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved. There was no report from either membership or the treasurer.

Ralph reported on the most recent MGS Board meeting. Mention was made of the MGS Spring Workshop on writing to be held in Augusta on April 21. Also mentioned was the May 19th program at the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine in Orono on beginning DNA. Nancy Mason will be the speaker that day.

Plans were discussed for the June 16th Preservation conference to be held at the Moore Center from 9:00am to 3:30pm. The cost was set at \$15.00 per person including lunch. Adam Fisher and B.J. Jameson will be the keynote speakers. June 1st will be the deadline for registrations.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:29am.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes - May 12, 2018

Members and guests of the Hancock County Genealogical Society met at 10:00am in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library. President Ralph Harris called the meeting to order. Minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. Membership stands at 35 members. The Treasurer reported for the last two months, postage costs of \$22.30, income

consisted of \$.12 with a balance of \$2,430.69 as of April 30, 2018. The report was approved as read.

Wayne Smith gave an update on the June 16th Digitization and Preservation Conference. As of today, we have 5 registrations. One breakout session is left to be filled, with a request out to Jonesport Historical Society to talk about the digitization of their collection.

Patsy Jordan asked a question about writing a family history and using names of living people. This engendered a discussion of the ramifications and legalities of using living people's names and family information.

Ralph announces that Carmel, Maine Historical Society is going to have its own Digital Maine Page. He is going to begin scanning Hermon High School yearbooks to add to the page.

After the business meeting adjourned at 10:45am, members of the group worked at cutting out obituaries for inclusion in our obituary notebooks while other members sorted out the Geneva Frost papers and notebooks.

The work session ended, with thanks for all the help, at noon.

Respectfully submitted, Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

June 9: At our regular meeting this month, we'll be putting the finishing touches on the following Saturday's conference at the Moore Center in Ellsworth. Please come and share your ideas.

June 16 - Hancock County Genealogical Society will host a gathering of representatives of the many genealogical and historical societies, libraries, and museums in Hancock County. The conference will be held at the Moore Center on State Street in Ellsworth. Registrations forms are available from Wayne Smith at: wayne@mrlanguage.com.

From Jim Gordon:

Here is an item for the next *Hancock Historian*. I've been cleaning up and looking at materials I've accumulated over the years. One of my ancestors attended Kent Hills School, so I asked them what other Gordons had attended. The results are below:

Hancock County Graduates of Kent Hills School, Kent Hills, ME

Forrest L. Gordon, from Franklin, Class of 1899, son of Charles C. Gordon of Franklin, and great-great-grandson of John Gordon original settler of Sullivan, and brother of Harry W. Gordon (below);

Harry W. Gordon, from Franklin, Class of 1900, son of Charles C. Gordon of Franklin, great-great-grandson of John Gordon, original settler of Sullivan, and brother of Forrest Gordon (above);

Etta B. Gordon, from New Sharon, Class of 1883, daughter of Edgar Seward Gordon of Eastbrook and Franklin, and great-great-granddaughter of John Gordon, original settler of Sullivan.

Maine Genealogical Society Annual Meeting in September

Mark your calendars for September 24, the MGS Annual Meeting/Conference at Jeff's Catering in Brewer.

From the Library

Recent additions to the Whitmore Collection include a three-volume *The Family Tree – The Goss Family of Danville, Maine*; the Harvey Funeral Home Records, Carmel, Maine 1919 – 1937; Hermon, Maine Cemetery Inscriptions; *The Hamlin family: a genealogy of Capt. Giles Hamlin of Middletown, Connecticut. 1654-1900*, and *Mayflower families in progress: Richard Warren of the Mayflower and his descendants for four generations*.

Thanks to the Ellsworth High School Alumni Association and many other generous folks, we now have a nearly complete collection of the Ellsworth High School yearbook, *The Jester*, from 1920 through the present. The only one missing is 1933, and there is a question about the publication of one that year, due to the Ellsworth Fire in May. The Alumni Association provides a copy of the current *Jester* each spring, for which we are very grateful.

The new digital microform reader printer is working, with a few bugs left to be worked out. Please know that we are working on correcting problems. If you encounter anything strange while using the reader, please let us know.

See you at the Library,
Charlene

Ancestor Hunting in the Azores

Presented by Wayne H. Smith at the April 14, 2018 meeting of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

Growing up, I was always told that we were part Portuguese, and the older I became, the more this piece of information intrigued me. In fifth grade, I had a classmate named Sharon Galleano, who was of Portuguese extraction, and I was all the more fascinated by this place that I knew absolutely nothing about. In junior high school, I was bitten by the genealogy bug and began drawing misshapen trees on paper trying to capture all the relatives I could fit on the page. By college, I was taking things a little more seriously, and I began doing preliminary research on all of my ancestral lines, but the ancient Portuguese roots always eluded me.

For years, all I knew about my immigrant ancestor, my famofafafa (father's mother's father's father's father), was that his name was Francis Gaspar, and that he had lived in Surry. While I was supposed to be writing my PhD dissertation, I started delving more and more into history, and specifically his story. I had done all the census research and had driven the helpful people at the Surry Town Office crazy with all my questions. I had a good idea of who all his descendants were, but short of the phrase "the Azores" and the place name "Fayal," I knew nothing about where he had come from. Fortunately, I did have some idea of his birthdate, as his gravestone in the Surry Village Cemetery indicated that he had died on Nov. 16, 1872 at the age of 81 years 7 months 19 days old. I eventually learned (from a death notice in the *Ellsworth American*) that he had died not in 1872, as the stone said, but in 1871. This allowed me to calculate a tentative birthdate of March 28, 1790.

After I finally finished writing and defending my PhD dissertation, the title of which was *The Morphological Characteristics of Verbs in Taiwan Sign Language* — hunh? — I decided to celebrate either by lounging on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, or by digging into Azorean archives. The Azores won out!

So where in the heck are the Azores? Well, get out a map or a globe and trace a line from Boston east to Lisbon, Portugal. About 2/3 of the way along that line, you'll find a group of nine small islands. They form the Autonomous Region of the Azores (Açores in Portuguese), a Portuguese possession in the middle of the Atlantic.

I landed in the Azores on Dec. 31, 1988, but my luggage decided to take a side trip to mainland Portugal. I finally was able to retrieve it about four days later. In the meantime, I became familiar with the little city of Horta, on the island of Faial (Fayal was the old spelling). During the 18th and 19th centuries, Horta was a small town peppered by various convents and churches, but had little commerce and almost no industry. Luckily due to its location, it eventually prospered as a stopover on important commercial routes between Europe and the New World and was also an important stop for North American whalers. Nowadays, Horta is the location of the District Archives which house the baptismal, marriage, and death records of the various Catholic parishes on seven of the nine islands of the archipelago. On my first visit to the archives, I was immediately faced with some challenging questions: "Which freguesia was he from?" "Fregue-what?" It turned out to be "parish." I had no idea at all, and it turned out that there are no fewer than 13 freguesias on Faial. I asked, "Is there an index to the record books?" Well, no, there wasn't, and I was told that many of the records don't include the last name of the individual in question. So, I just had to start searching through the books for each parish and hope that I could find something. I flipped through several different books of parochial registers and combed through pages and pages of unindexed mostly illegible handwriting (thanks to Mr. Teixeira, the archivist, for deciphering the parts I couldn't figure out). I kept looking for a Francisco born somewhere in Faial, probably in the spring of 1790 and diligently wrote down all the Franciscos from each of the different freguesias, until my eyes hit upon the following record from a freguesia named Flamengos:



It took a lot of work to decipher each squiggle of this 18th-century Portuguese handwriting, which made heavy use of abbreviations and non-standard spellings. Here was the first transcription:

*Francisco f.o de Me.l Fran.co n.al da villa das Lagens da Ilha do Pico e de Sabastiana
Catharina n.al de S. Sebastião de Calheta do Nesquim da d.a Ilha. nasceo em os vinte e
outo dias do mes de Março de mil sete centos noventa e foi baptizado p.lo Rd.o Vigr.o*

desta Igra Ign.o An.to da Costa em os cinco dias do mes de Abril do d.o anno. Forão Padrinhos Joze Thomas George e Sua m.er Victoria Margarida desta freg.a de N. Snr.a da Luz Tes.tas Vicente Joze eu o cura desta Igr.a q. este fiz, e a Signei.

Translated, it read:

Francisco, son of Manoel Francisco, native of the Village of Lajes of the Island of Pico, and of Sebastiana Catharina, from Calheta de Nesquim of said island, was born on the twenty-eighth day of the month of March of seventeen hundred ninety and was baptized by the Reverend Vicar of this Church Ignácio António da Costa on the fifth day of the month of April of said year. Godparents were Joze Thomas George and His wife Victoria Margarida of this parish of Our Lady of the Light. Witnesses: Vicente Joze. I, the curate of this Church, have done this and I have Signed it.

The Curate Vicente António da Sylveira Panada

Vicente João da Silveira

The Vicar Ignácio António da Costa

I knew that I had hit on the correct baptismal record for several reasons: (1) amazingly, the birthdate I had calculated from his age at death on his gravestone was spot on; (2) his father's name was Manoel, which was my great-grandfather's name and a name borne by several members of the Gaspar family in Maine; and perhaps most significantly (3) his mother's name was Sebastiana Catharina, which was also the name of Francisco's second daughter.

To say the least, I was excited and wanted to press on to see what other genealogical gems I could find in the records. So, I continued my searching in the parish registers of Flamengos. Finally, I found that he had a sister named Felicianna Roza, born in 1793 to Manoel Francisco Ramos and Sabastiana Catharina. "RAMOS???" What? I thought the name was Gaspar. I must have made a mistake." The archivist smiled knowingly and explained that Portuguese naming traditions were and are quite different from the practice in other countries. Legitimate siblings in the same family frequently have different surnames, chosen to honor this or that ancestor, friend, or relative. I wasn't feeling too comfortable about this. Nevertheless, I persisted. In another register, I eventually found a brother named after his father: Manoel Francisco Ramos, born in 1797. Finding no more siblings, I turned back to see if I could find a record for his parents' marriage.

I started my search in the late 1780s and eventually found a marriage record for Manoel Francisco Ramos and Sebastiana Catharina, but this time it included their parents' names. His father was Gaspar Francisco Rocha and his mother was Maria de Santa Anna. "Aha!" I thought. "I've found the name Gaspar!" And by then, I was open to the idea of yet another unexpected surname, this time: Rocha. It's interesting to note that the custom of the time was to identify women by their first and middle names, the middle name usually being a religious name, so this Maria was known as "Mary of Saint Anne." Sebastiana's parents were listed as Bartholomeu Pereira da Oliveira and Maria dos Anjos, "Mary of the Angels."

In this slow, methodical way, I was eventually able to go back three generations into my Francisco's ancestry. Among the interesting findings were the following. First, Sebastiana's father Bartholomeu had married three times:

- (1) Maria Vallim, m. sometime before 1725,
- (2) Maria dos Anjos, m. in 1725, and
- (3) Maria dos Anjos, m. in 1749.

It took a very careful reading of Bartholomeu's death record by the archivist (not me) to figure out that Bartholomeu had had two different wives with exactly the same given names. A second observation was told to me during a visit that I made to the Portuguese mainland about eight

years later. I was chatting (in Portuguese) with a man who was very knowledgeable about Portuguese history. I had mentioned that among my Portuguese ancestral surnames was the double-surname "Pereira da Oliveira," meaning "keeper of the pear and olive trees." The man looked at me and informed me that the names Pereira and Oliveira were widely recognized as surnames of Jewish origin. After I got back to the States, I went out and bought a menorah.



Mr. Teixeira, the archivist, showing me the oldest record book in the District Archives, dating from the 1580s. It was bound in leather, and the original pages were separated with leaves of acid-free paper.

Having "lived" in the archives for the better part of two weeks, I was anxious to go out and see some of the places that I had been reading about. On my first trip to the parish of Flamengos (named after a Flemish explorer who had "discovered" the islands back in the 1400s), I visited the Igreja da Nossa Senhora da Luz (Church of Our Lady of the Light), the parish church in Flamengos where all of those records had been recorded, although the physical structure dated from about 1900. (Unfortunately, due to a severe earthquake in 1998, even that structure was destroyed, and replaced by a brand-new modern structure, dedicated in 2016.)



The church sexton, named José (pronounced "zhoh-ZEH" in Portuguese), showed me the church and the small cemetery in back. He pointed to two gravestones and mentioned that these two men were brothers, even though they had a different last name. I noted that most of the graves were recent, dating back only about ten years. He explained that after the ashes were buried for about ten years, they were either offered back to the families, or placed into a burial vault on the premises. Then, after another period of time, if the family doesn't want the ashes, they are dumped into the stream that flows by the church. "Hey, there's just not enough space for everyone."

I was curious to see if there were any descendants of Francisco's brother Manoel Francisco Ramos still living in the area so I thought it might be a good idea to speak with the parish priest in person. In response to my question, José told me that the priest lives with his sister on the other side of a small valley between the church and the center of the village. So I walked down through the valley, greeting goats here and there along the way, and came up close

to the priest's home. His sister opened the door and I explained that I was looking for any living relatives of the Gaspar/Ramos family. She mumbled to herself, "Ramos...Ramos...I think Maria da Luz was a Ramos."

She grabbed her shawl and told me to follow her down the street. As we approached the last house on the right, she called out, "Maria da Luz, Maria da Luz!" Maria da Luz stuck her head out of the front door and I explained that I was looking for descendants of Manoel Francisco Ramos. She said "I have an uncle named Manoel Francisco Ramos." I proceeded to show her how I was



connected to the Ramos family back in 1797. Maria's husband, Mário Aníbal da Costa, was standing at the outside doorway to the basement through all this, listening to the conversation. He suddenly darted through the door, reemerged, and came upstairs a few minutes later holding some old papers of his wife's family going back to her grandfather, António Francisco Ramos. I looked again at the names I had extracted at the archive of Francisco's brother's descendants, and I had gotten as far down as António Francisco Ramos! Maria and I looked at each other and she called me "Primo!" (cousin) and I called her "Prima!" I had found my family in the Azores!

Maria and her family invited me to dinner and we learned about each other's families. Maria has two children, Lília and Mário, she then in high school, and he in primary school. Lília told me she was a member of a "tuna," which turned out to be a community singing group. Mário was proud to show me all the tomatoes he was growing in his garden and all the toys that he was playing with in the house.



If anyone questions the value of learning a foreign language, I'm here to tell them that without that skill, traveling in a foreign land can be pretty limited. It opened so many doors during this trip: making my way around the island, doing research in the historical archives, and eventually meeting family members. This was the perfect way for me to celebrate my two life-long passions: language and genealogy.

Update on Rules for Vital Records Access

by Helen Shaw, May 2018

In 2011, Maine law was revised to allow access to vital records 75 years after a birth, 50 years after a fetal death, 25 years after a death, and 50 years after a marriage or registration of a domestic partnership. [Title 22 M.R.S. Sec. 2706 (7)]

Since 2011, Stakeholders have worked with the Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics (DRVS) to revise the rules governing the law. Stakeholders include several town clerks (including Kathy Montejo who used to be on the MGS Board), Jane Macomber, Pam Eagleson, and me from Maine, and Jan Meisels Allen and Jan Alpert from RPAC. According to Title 22 M.R.S. Sec. 2706 (8), which covers Genealogical Research, "Rules adopted by the department

pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375, sub-chapter 2-A. That said, the revised rules are a major re-write of two chapters, 4 (access by the public) and 8 (access by universities, other research entities, and state agencies). The combining of these two chapters with widely variant purposes has led to a confused and conflicted document which at times subverts the purpose of Title 22 M.R.S. 2706, especially subsections 7 and 8.

Numerous comments were submitted by Stakeholders over the years and many of our comments were integrated into the revised rules, but they still, in my opinion, represent a block of the intent of the law regarding those vital records falling outside the restricted time periods. Genealogists may apply for a Maine CDC Vital Records Researcher Card which will “entitle the bearer to view or purchase non-certified copies of birth, death, and marriage records registered in Maine from any municipality or from the Maine CDC vital records office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics. The card presently costs \$50 and is good for one year. What is not general knowledge is that those who have a Researcher Card are supposed to receive a special link and individual password which allows access, from home, to the master index to Maine vital records. Recently, it was necessary to ask DRVS for the link and password.

Rule-making was removed from DRVS in early 2016, but has finally been brought forward. In an e-mail to stakeholders on April 25, comments on the latest version of the rules were requested and a public hearing (“if needed”) is scheduled for 15 May at 9:00 at the DRVS conference room, 220 Capitol Street, Augusta. I have a call in to the rule making group to see if this meeting will actually be held.

NOTE: The term “access” has not been defined in the rules and has widely different meanings to genealogists, town clerks, and DHHS officials. A request to include a definition in the rules is part of my comments.

Hancock Historians

We are doing a pretty good job of collecting copies of our missing *Hancock Historians*. We are now only missing copies of the following editions. If you happen to have any of them, we'd love to borrow them to make copies and put them on our website: hancockgenealogy.me. 1997 - May, July, September; 1998 - January; 1999 - January & November; 2004 - March & July

Note from Richard Spinney

In the March 2018 edition of the *Hancock Historian*, Marlene Groves encouraged members to transcribe some town records. Several years ago, Arthur Gibbs Sylvester transcribed the Etna Vital Records and I edited his work. We discovered several of our ancestors there, one ancestor was for a time the town clerk (misspelling his own name at one point), and we found that Daniel can be written to look like David and vice versa.

Following the publication of that work, Linda Strauss contacted me from California and asked if I would be willing to edit her transcription of the Dixmont Vital Records. Again, we discovered relatives within those records. As it turned out, Linda and I were distantly related as were Arthur Gibbs Sylvester and I. Linda and I became better acquainted in the process and eventually I learned she was at the time a curator of the Gene Autry Museum. (If you're asking, "Who is Gene Autry?", then you're not old enough to have watched black-and-white TV.)

Following that project, Arthur contacted me again and asked if I would be willing to edit his work of the Hampden Vital Records. Again, I agreed. We found some famous names: Dorothea Dix, the daughter of the founder of Dixmont and who campaigned for care for the mentally ill; and we found Hannibal Hamlin who had a law office in Hampden and who was Abraham

Lincoln's first Vice President. (OK, now I am name-dropping.) As Marlene said, transcribing these works can be a lot of work, but it is also fun and educational.

In April, Joe Anderson will present a Writing Workshop about how to write about your family - whether a full-length book or an article to be published in a periodical. I have had several articles published in *The Maine Genealogist*. Not only is it fun, it is rewarding. My first article was about Elijah Sylvester. He was my maternal grandmother's maternal grandfather. He was born in Etna, moved briefly to Veazie (at the time it was a part of Bangor), and then, leaving behind his wife and six children - the youngest being one year old - he moved to Sacramento. I visited his grave two summers ago.

What got me going on him was a blurb on the internet, "Elijah Sylvester abandoned his family with gold fever and was never heard from again." My grandmother had a letter which was written by him and sent to her mother. Within it were a number of references to Maine families and it was readily apparent that he did communicate with family members well into the 1890s. I contacted the fellow who made the internet post and told him his information was in error. His reply, "Well, I don't care. He's not a member of my family anyway. If you want to, go ahead and fix it." Well, that made me mad. I didn't know how to fix it on the internet, but I did know how to write. I contacted Joe Anderson, Editor of *The Maine Genealogist* and asked for his advice. He said, "Just write it like you're talking to somebody. Don't worry about format. Cite your sources by putting them in square brackets so I can see them." I did as he told me and the article was published under the title, *What Is the Truth of Elijah Sylvester?*

The second article I wrote was about the ancestry of Elijah's wife, Grace Ann Mitchell. That was a mystery worthy of Sherlock Holmes or Miss Marple. The family tree went back to the Sprague family and the article stopped there. Shortly after the article was published, I received a note from Lois Ware Thurston, a Certified Genealogist and who had a lot of publications to her credit. Her note read: "Dear Richard. I think you will find this interesting. -Lois." She had included several pages from *The Sprague Families in America* by Warren Vincent Sprague. After reading the pages, I realized Grace Ann Mitchell was descended from at least six *Mayflower* passengers!

Grace Ann Mitchell also had a brother who moved to Mount Desert Island and also lived for a time in Ellsworth. One of his descendants was a police officer on MDI. So, any Mitchell's out there who are descended from him - this brother - are also descended from the same *Mayflower* passengers. His grave site is in the Hull's Cove Cemetery along with his three wives . . . all named Mary!

From the President: Ralph Harris

MGS BOD Meeting March 24, 2018 at the Maine State Library

The Event Committee met prior to the Board Meeting. The items discussed were as follows. MGS currently has 824 members with 47 new members this year. Carol Rorhbaugh did not accept the offer from MGS to purchase the copyright of *Maine Families in 1790* but did offer a one-time reprint of each and offered MGS to purchase the remaining books on inventory from Picton Press. As most of you have probably noticed, Picton Press is not publishing books for MGS.

Publications are in low inventory. There is only one copy left of the Lisbon and Orland vital records, and only 3-5 left of the Smithfield, S. Thomaston, Castine, Brunswick, and Old Town vital records.

The Events Committee is looking for ways to incorporate MGS into the 200th Anniversary of Maine and the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower. Also, MGS might support a 2019 bus trip to Boston with stops at NEHGS and the Boston Archives.

There was discussion of a budget or coverage for travel expenses for the President to visit chapters and to cover the policy on volunteers that work on Workshops and Conference speakers as a way of rewarding people for the work they do. The new treasurer, Terry Gerald, will draft a policy to be voted on.

Blog ideas: The MGS website will be posting blogs from members related to genealogy, history, etc. If you would like to write one, you may contact Ralph for more information. The next meeting was on May 12 which I was not able to attend due to a conflict with the date of the May HCGS meeting.

Some of the items on the agenda for that meeting were: officers items, MGS book pricing guidelines, upcoming potential changes to Maine VR legislation, and Chapter Reports.

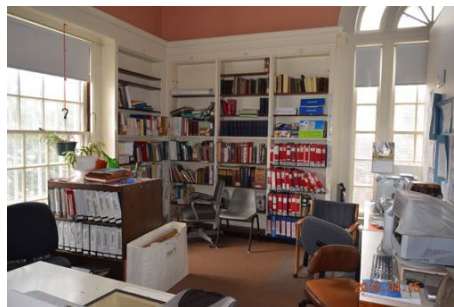
Taconnett Falls Genealogy Library

A Genealogical Research Hidden Gem and Paradise of Maine

TFGS was organized in 1981 as a chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society. Through the years they have moved among several buildings in the Waterville area, and now have a home at the old Winslow Library. Their library has grown over the years to hundreds of volumes of research books and special collections. One of the special collections is over 87,000 Maine obituaries. All research material has been purchased by TFGS or donated by private genealogy researchers. There are four rooms: Canada and Europe, New England and other states, the Maine Room, and the Lobby. The following pictures only show half of the room of research materials. There is currently no internet connection at the Library.

The Taconnett Falls Genealogy Library is located at 10 Lithgow Street in Winslow. The Library's summer hours are Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1-4. Please contact one of the following to make sure the library is open. You may email: Taconnettfalls11@yahoo.com or you may call Fred at 872-9471 or Kay at 465-7458.

The library is open to the public, and all research books and collections are for in-house use only. The Library is staffed by volunteer members of TFGL.



Hancock County Genealogical Society

2018 Membership Application

Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____
Families/Areas being researched: _____

Please list any queries that you have:

Dues for 2018: \$10.00 per individual or family: \$ _____
Additional tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____
Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please print out this form and mail it with your payment to:

Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Charlene Clemons
96 Mud Creek Rd.
Hancock, ME 04604



Please check one of the following:

- I give permission for my contact info to be shared with Society members.
 Please do not share my contact info.

Monthly meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 A.M. except in December. Meetings are held at the Ellsworth Public Library & other locations in Hancock County. Changes in the meeting location are posted in advance in the newsletter, on the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/521976737919662/>

and on the website:

<http://www.hancockgenealogy.me>

Please remember to notify Charlene of any email or address changes:

hcgsmembership@yahoo.com

The Hancock County Genealogical Society

County-wide Conference on Digitization and Preservation Issues

Date: Saturday, June 16, 2018, 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Place: General Bryant E. Moore Community Center, 125 State Street, Ellsworth, ME 04605

This county-wide conference will focus on the digitization and preservation of the records held in our various repositories.

There will be two keynote speakers for this conference. The morning speaker will be **Adam C. Fisher**, of the Maine State Library. Our afternoon speaker will be **B. J. Jamieson** of the Maine Genealogical Society. BJ will be speaking about the need for transcription work in conjunction with digitization so that our records can be searchable.

The agenda for the conference is as follows:

9:00 - 9:30 - Registration, coffee, donuts
9:30 - 10:30 - Morning Keynote address - Adam C. Fisher, Maine State Library "Digitization and Discovery - Today's Golden Age for Genealogy"
10:45 - 11:45 - Two breakout sessions: Session 1: BJ Jamieson - "Making Collections Visitor-Friendly" Session 2: Bill Plaskon & Donald Woodward - "The Jonesport Historical Society Archives and Cemeteries Database"
11:45 - 1:15 - Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 - Two breakout sessions: Session 3: Adam Fisher - "Using a scanner to share your town's history" Session 4: Ann Durgin - "Climbing the Ladder: Bringing Order to Historical Society Holdings"
2:30 - 3:30 - Afternoon Keynote address - B. J. Jamieson, MGS Board member "More Than Just Scanning"

The registration form for the conference is attached below. Please pass this registration form on to all historical societies, libraries, museums, and other organizations that are working to preserve the history of Hancock County.

HCGS Conference on Digitization and Preservation Issues - Registration Form **Deadline for submission: June 1, 2018**

Name: _____

Affiliation(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Conference registration: \$15 (includes lunch)

Free-will donation to HCGS: _____

Total enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to: HCGS and mail to:
Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Charlene Clemons
96 Mud Creek Rd.
Hancock, ME 04604

Hancock County Genealogical Society
c/o Wayne Smith, Newsletter Editor
15 Jellison Ridge Rd.
Surry, ME 04684-3340