

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 24, No. 4
July 2018

County-wide Conference on Digitization and Preservation Issues Received High Marks

Session	Number of Responses	Overall Rating
Registration/Coffee/Donuts	28	4.57
Morning Keynote - Adam Fisher: "Digitization and Discovery - Today's Golden Age for Genealogy"	28	4.54
Morning Breakout A - BJ Jamieson: "Making Collections Visitor-Friendly"	16	4.69
Morning Breakout B - Bill Plaskon & Donald Woodward: "The Jonesport Historical Society Archives and Cemeteries Database"	14	4.79
Lunch	26	4.73
Afternoon Breakout A - Adam Fisher: "Getting Started with a Digital Project"	16	4.38
Afternoon Breakout B - Ann Durgin: "Climbing the Ladder: Bringing Order to Historical Society Holdings"	14	4.00
Afternoon Keynote - BJ Jamieson: "More Than Just Scanning"	26	4.77

Here are some of the comments that attendees made:

What was your favorite part of this Conference?

Breakout sessions
Learning about digitizing
Bill Plaskon & Donald Woodward - The Jonesport Hist. Soc. presentation & Database
Information, presenter, connections, sharing
BJ's "A Session" from the morning
Climbing Ladder
Adam Fisher - Learning about Maine State Library & Digitization project
Talking history, archives, etc.
Practical ideas re: managing/organizing/improving
Getting people together - Loved speakers & meeting fellow workers - Networking with others -

Meeting lots of committed folks
"More than just scanning"
Friendliness of all! Common goal!
What could have been done better?
Have the two breakout in afternoon as well
Warmer rooms
Keynote speaker needed a Mic! - Hard to hear - Need a microphone in the theater
Healthier food options - fruit/whole grains
Hard to imagine how it could have been better
Getting more people

Would you attend another conference at this venue? Yes, absolutely

What is your overall reaction to this type of conference?

This was a very good conference & nice venue

Great! This technology is needed
Excellent - Wonderful - Great - Fantastic - Amazing
job - Very informative - Awesome - Very
worthwhile - Good - Outstanding - Helpful -
Very useful - Learned a lot
It was a good way to put names to faces
I was surprised at the huge attendance, and the
interest they had.
This was my first genealogy conference. It was
informative, friendly, very helpful & inspiring.
Gained much usable information
Like the local group. Very beneficial to making
connections, getting support.

Feel free to make any additional comments

Thanks to Wayne Smith for putting this together.
Add something about archival products?
Another favorite part of today - networking!!
Wish I could attend all speakers.
Too cool in classroom!
Even though it was a beautiful day outside, I was so
happy to be inside.
The afternoon session w/ Adam was really interesting
- However, some of the technology wasn't

working, and it was difficult to see what he was
doing on his small laptop.
BJ Jamieson excellent presenter
Local historical societies - Future
training/fundraising/grant writing/sources of
funds
Great presenters and information.
How about a collaboration conference/workshop with
Penobscot Co Gen Soc, Hancock & Washington
Co. At this location? It's centrally located &
lovely. I think it would help promote more
collaboration with local societies: historical as
well as genealogical.
One of the best conference I have attended in a
library career of 60 years. Very good lunch.
Put participants' towns &/or organization on their
name tags
Especially liked learning about the Jonesport
Cemetery Database. Digitizing is important, but
intimidating. You either have to be able to spend
a really lot of time (be retired) or be paid to do it.
Nice to get any support to learn, to get help, to
build confidence.
I need a few more computer basics hands-on

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes - 14 July 2018

The July meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was called to order by President Ralph Harris at 10:00 am with 6 members and two guests attending.

Minutes of the June 9th meeting were read and approved. Max gave the treasurer's report, showing a profit of \$289.00 from the June 16th Digitization and Preservation Conference. The report was approved.

Membership stands at 47 members. The Facebook group has 109 members.

At this point there are no speakers scheduled for the rest of the year. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact Ralph or Charlene.

Ralph talked about ways Maine Genealogical Society could help the individual chapters and will make suggestions at their September meeting. On September 22nd Maine Genealogical Society will hold their annual meeting at Jeff's Catering in Brewer.

We went around the table introducing ourselves to get acquainted with our guests and talked about our research and brick walls.

Ralph reminded us that we need to have members step up and take over the President's and Secretary's jobs beginning in November as both Ralph and Charlene will be stepping down from their offices. Discussion ensued one getting more people active in the group and more ways to get our name out in the community.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 am with everyone chatting for some time after the adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

Using Y-DNA and Autosomal DNA to Establish a Family Connection

by Wayne H. Smith, July 2018

The following is a written version of a presentation that I made at our Smith family reunion in Norway, Maine on July 14, 2018. To say the least, the news came as a huge surprise to the family members present.

Our Smith family began on October 22, 1910 in Surry, Maine when Francis Turner Smith of Winterport married Annie Maria Gaspar of Surry [see photo.] Eleven children and 34 grandchildren were born to the couple over the years.



Looking at our direct Smith line, we see that Francis's parents were James Monroe Smith (1844-1910) of Winterport and Florence Lillian Carlisle (1864-1929) of Surry. They were married in Winterport on November 8, 1884 and their son Francis was born there on June 12, 1886. According to the 1900 census, Monroe (as he was called) was born on March 24, 1844, and he appears in the 1850 census of Newburgh, Maine living with his parents, 30-year old Augustus W. Smith and 28-year old Clarissa Prentiss, and two brothers, Hugh, age 3, and George, age 1 month. Also living with the family was a 67-year old woman named Hannah Barker, who I have reason to believe was possibly an aunt to Augustus. By 1860, the family had moved to Winterport and the family had just welcomed their only daughter, Hannah, born in 1859. A fourth son, Caveline Chesley Smith, had been born in 1853, but for some reason did not appear on the 1860 census. Hannah Barker, age 76, was still living with them.

The 1870 census of Winterport lists all five children: James M., Hugh M., George A., Caverlin C., and Hannah E., as well as 87-year old Hannah Barker, although due to the careless use of a ditto mark, her last name appears as Smith.









182	197	Smith A M	50	M	F	Farmers	Geo	295	do
		" Clarisa	48	F	W	Keeping House			do
		" Hannah	25	W	W	Work on Farm			do
		" Hugh	22	M	W	Laborer			do
		" George A	20	W	W	do			do
		" Caverlin C	17	M	W	at Home			do
		" Hannah E	11	F	W	do			do
		" Hannah	87	F	W	No Occupation			do

Augustus and Clarissa last appear in the Winterport census of 1880, living with sons Munroe and George and a "son" Henry E. Smith (who was actually their grandson, the son of Caveline).

Over the past 50 years, I tried again and again to break down the brick wall separating me from Augustus's parents, but I was totally unsuccessful, so I finally turned to DNA. In 2005, I tested with the National Genographic Project, and in the years since, I have tested with four other companies: AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23andme, and MyHeritage. I was particularly interested in testing with FamilyTreeDNA because only they offer the Y-DNA test, which tests the direct male line, precisely the line that I was having the most trouble with. I also joined the Northeastern Smith Project at FamilyTreeDNA since I was eager to find out which of all those other Smiths out there would match me. Well, the results came back, and I didn't match anyone. I was told that if I wanted to establish a new "branch" of Smiths within the project, I would have to test at least one other non-immediate cousin. Well, I only had one cousin that fit that description, my neighbor JLS. So JLS provided me with a saliva sample which was submitted to FamilyTreeDNA and I waited for the results to come back. When they did, I was shocked to find that JLS and I didn't match at all. So that meant that either I wasn't really a Smith, or he wasn't really a Smith.

At FamilyTreeDNA, the Y-DNA test is conducted at five different levels of precision, depending on the number of genetic markers tested: 12, 25, 37, 67, or 111. There is even a "Big-Y" test which is primarily useful for deep ancestry spanning hundreds or even thousands of years. At the 12-marker level, it is easy to find lots of matches with men that share a small amount of Y-DNA with you. However, many of those matches miss the mark when the test is repeated using 25 markers, or 37, or 67, or 111. Over several years I had collected any number of insignificant matches at the 12, 25, and 37-marker levels, nothing that would have any particular genealogical value. Then in November of 2016, I suddenly received notice of a new match at 37 markers. It was with a man named James P. Shaw, and he matched me with a genetic distance of 0, which meant that, unlike many of my other matches who might have matched me at, say, 33 or 35 of the 37 markers, this Mr. Shaw matched me at all 37!

Y-DNA - Matches

FILTER MATCHES					
Show Matches For:	The Entire Database	Markers:	37	Distance:	All
Last Name Starts With:		(Optional) New Since:		Matches Per Page: 25	
				Run Report	
37 MARKERS - 15 - MATCHES					
Genetic Distance ↑	Name	Earliest Known Ancestor	Y-DNA Haplogroup	Terminal SNP	Match Date
0	James P Shaw  Y-DNA111 FF	Judson Ferdinand Shaw I b. 1854	R-M269		11/30/2016
3	Mr. John Gorham Clift  Y-DNA67		R-L21	L21	5/3/2016
3	Mr. Juan Fernando Navarro  Y-DNA37 FF	Pablo Isaac Navarro	R-M269		5/3/2016
3	Mr. Richard Anthony Hollis  Y-DNA37		R-M269		5/3/2016
4	Jeff G Conrad (weller)  Y-DNA37 FF	Daniel Dugan, b.1750 and d. 1836	R-M269		2/6/2017
4	James Maderia  Y-DNA37 FF	John Jacob Maderia b.1837 and d.1906	R-M269		12/22/2016
4	Gerald Stuart Field  Y-DNA37	edmund healey 1845 -1905	R-P25	P25	5/3/2016
4	Mr. David Maher  Y-DNA111 FF Big Y-500	Philip Maher	R-FGC61810	FGC61810	5/3/2016

Mr. Shaw had listed his earliest known ancestor as a Judson Ferdinand Shaw I, born in 1854. I sent an email to Mr. Shaw asking for more information about his Shaw family. His wife replied saying that they now lived in California, but that her husband's family had originally come from Maine.

Maine?!?

Now I was eager to find out as much as I could about this Shaw family from Maine. On Ancestry.com, I found that his earliest ancestor, Judson Ferdinand Shaw I, had been born in a place called Etna, Maine.

Where in the heck is Etna, Maine?

I looked it up, and lo and behold it was right next to Newburgh where my Smith family was living in 1850. Could it be that there was a connection between his Shaws and my Smiths?

I had already done the Y-DNA test at the 111-marker level, but James Shaw had only tested to the 37-marker level. I wrote and asked if he might be willing to upgrade his test to the 111-marker level. It took a while, but the results finally arrived. At the 67-marker level, we had a genetic distance of 1, meaning that we matched at 66 out of 67 markers, and at the 111-marker level, we matched at 109 out of 111 markers. **THIS IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT MATCH!**

So, I matched DNA with a man from California whose paternal ancestry had come from Etna, Maine. I had to know more. On April 27, 2018, I drove up to the town of Etna and asked at the town office if there were still any Shaws living in the town. The answer was "Yes" and the town clerk began giving me the names and addresses of taxpayers in Etna with the surname Shaw. (This is considered public information.) As I was in discussion with the town clerk, a woman came in to get a fishing license. She overheard our conversation, then turned to me and said:

"My mother was a Shaw."



She then informed me that her cousin's son was the family genealogist and had done a lot of research into the Shaw family history. She had me follow her to her house and wait outside for a few minutes while she retrieved some books and papers about the family. She also gave me the name and contact information for her cousin's son, whose name was Troy Sands. I contacted Troy, and we made arrangements to get together at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 5th.

In the meantime, Troy and I emailed lots of information about our respective family research to each other. Interestingly enough, each of us had shown up as a match on each other's "Family Finder" test, available through FamilyTreeDNA.com, as early as 2014.

Family Finder - Matches Most Common Surnames: **45 Smith**

Chromosome Browser In Common With Not In Common With [Reset Filter](#) 1-5 of 5

All (5) Paternal (0) Maternal (0) Both (0)

Name	Match Date	Relationship Range	Shared Centimorgans	Longest Block	X-Match	Linked Relationship
 Mr. Troy A. Sands	03/16/2014	3rd Cousin - 5th Cousin	46	16		

So on May 5th, Troy and I got together at his home in Kenduskeag, and he told me all he could about the history of the Shaws of Etna. The last name had originally been Holdershaw, and the family had come from Cape Cod to Frankfort, Maine in the late 1700s.

So the big question was: “What happened that caused Holdershaw/Shaw blood to end up in my “Smith” veins?”

The plot thickens.....

Trying to find out details about events that happened way back in the 1800s is not easy. What follows is not fact, but a plausible suggestion based on old-fashioned genealogical research, plus a good dose of DNA findings, as well as some good old sleuthing. The facts so far show:

- (1) JLS, a descendant of Monroe’s brother Hugh, does not share Y-DNA with me.
- (2) I do indeed share Y-DNA with a family named Shaw that lived in Etna, Maine.
- (3) Significantly, James Monroe Smith was born on March 24, 1844, FULLY THREE MONTHS before his mother married Augustus W. Smith.

One would think...

...that if Augustus Smith were the father of Monroe, he would have married Clarissa as soon as possible to “cover up” the act. But he didn’t. Perhaps he was not the father. Augustus and Clarissa went on to have four more children together: Hugh, George, Caveline, and Hannah. But they don’t appear to carry the same Y-DNA as Monroe did, so they were probably half-siblings.

So, what happened? Here's a possible scenario: 'Twas the summer of 1843. Young Clarissa Prentiss was just 21, unmarried, and living at her parents' home in Troy, Maine. One day, a mysterious Mr. Shaw shows up and encounters the young Clarissa. They have a close encounter and she finds herself pregnant. She carries the baby to term and gives birth to a boy. She later finds a man to give the child a name, and he raises the boy as his own.

So, who was this mysterious Mr. Shaw?

We may never know, but among the possibilities:

1. John Shaw (b. 1804 in Frankfort, d. 1874 in Etna); m. 1825 Mary “Polly” Barden (b. 1809 in Stetson, d. 1884 in Etna). They had six children born between 1826-1839, then had one more son sixteen years later in 1855. John would have been 39 in 1843.
2. His son Henry C. Shaw (b. 1826 in Etna, d. 1891 in Etna). He would have been 17 in 1843.
3. His brothers: Benjamin (b. 1792 in Orrington), 51 in 1843; William (b. 1795 in Orrington), 48 in 1843; Joseph (b. 1815 in Orrington), 28 in 1843.
4. His uncle: William Holder Shaw (b. 1774 in Massachusetts), 69 in 1843.
5. His cousin: Abial Shaw (b. 1804 in Hampden), 39 in 1843, or:
6. One of the other Shaws in neighboring towns.

So, how can I narrow this down? I will need to do a large number of autosomal tests on either male or female members of the Shaw and Smith families and see how closely they match each other. The closeness of a relationship is expressed in a genetic measurement called centimorgans (cM). Recall that Troy and I shared a total of 46 centimorgans. The number of cM's shows how closely two people are related. Parents and children usually share about 3500 cM's. Grandparents and grandchildren usually share about 1760 cM's. First cousins usually share about 875 cM's with each other. Third cousins usually share about 75 cM's with each other. Troy and I shared 46 cM's with each other, making us just slightly more distant than third cousins. By comparing the number of cM's among a lot of people, it's possible to come close to figuring out exactly where the relationships are the strongest and maybe narrow down the number of possible candidates for the father of Monroe Smith. This will take time, and a lot more testing.

So are we still Smiths?

Of course we are! But we're not directly related to all those other Smiths out there. We do have a genetic connection to families named Shaw and Holdershaw, but we're the proud descendants of *FRANCIS TURNER SMITH!*

[Photo: the only picture of the author with his grandfather: Francis Turner Smith, taken in Ellsworth in the summer of 1949.]



Notes from Dana Paul Murch's Presentation on Writing a Book

9 June 2018

TOM:

T=Time – make a set time to write that works for you. Early morning, after dinner, whatever fits your schedule. Writing is just like a job, you have to have a schedule and stick to it.

O=Organization – *Be methodical*; plan what you want to talk about in the book and who you are aiming for as a target audience.

Stay focused; pick one topic to work on at a time and do not be distracted by other parts of the book.

Keep track of what you know and don't know; Keep lists of questions you have and answers for each chapter/topic. And where you found the answers.

Practice good time management skills; plan trips to libraries, historical societies, town offices to get the most value out of each trip. Stick to your writing schedule.

Information is of no value if you can't find it; be organized, file folder for each topic/person/family. Don't be afraid to file the same information in multiple places – better to be able to find it in three places than not at all. Sometimes it saves time and avoids frustration.

M=Money – be prepared for the costs of vital records, books, writing supplies, etc..

WRITING

Ask yourself, “Who am I writing this book for?” If the answer is “Me” then give yourself permission to tell the stories you want told, as you want them told. If the answer is “To help others find their family” figure out what you think they need to know about the process and tell the story taking that into consideration.

PUBLISHING

Publisher vs. Printer:

Publisher = they decide the size of the book, edit the book to fit the format. If photos are included they may constitute a problem and be left out.

Printer = you format the book, burn it to a CD, send it to them and they print it. You will need to decide how many copies you want to print. Who do you want to have the book? How many do you think you will sell?

ISBN number, \$100 for one number or 10 for \$250.00. (International Standard Book Number)

LCCN number free but must have an ISBN to get one. (Library of Congress Catalog Number)

Dana went with a printer – King Printing in Lowell, Mass. He formatted the manuscript to be a 6” by 9” paged book by changing the font from 12 pt. To 10 pt., burned it to a CD Rom and sent it to them.

COST: For his 816-page book in hardcover, the cost was \$23.00 per book. Minimum order of 100 books required. The cost goes down with more books ordered – for 200 books the cost is \$18.00 per book.

When he published the supplement, he went with a soft cover done by Penmor Lithographers, 8 Lexington St., Lewiston, Me and paid \$17.00 per copy. He did not say if there was a minimum order number there or how many he had printed.

**VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE ALL MEMBERS
OF THE HANCOCK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

by Ralph Harris, HCGS President

As a member of HCGS for approximately ten years, I have watched the membership attendance slowly decline. As your president for 2018, I would like as many members as possible to attend the October business meeting at the Ellsworth Public Library on **Saturday, Oct. 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.**

Currently, HCGS has 47 dues-paying members, and about seven active members of the Society attending regular business meetings, and we have had several speakers this year before the meetings. Attendance has been very good from non-members interested in our speakers this year. So why am I asking you all to attend the October meeting? As president, I agree to a one-year term due to the fact that I will only be in Maine until the end of October 2018. Also, our Secretary/Membership Chair, after several years of service, has informed us that she will be finishing her term as Secretary at the end of the year. Our Treasurer, who has also served for several years, will be relocating to Maryland soon to be with his family.

By state law, the Hancock County Genealogical Society, needs a president, a secretary for 2018, and a treasurer for 2019. With this said, we need members of the Society to step up and help fill these positions in the election to be held in November of 2018 for the 2019 officers. If you are interested in being an officer of HCGS, please give us your name and phone number and what position you would like to fill. Nominations will be open at the October meeting for the November election and nominations can be accepted from the floor before the vote on the officers. If the positions cannot be filled by the membership, then we will need to discuss the future of the HCGS at the October business meeting, sad to say.

How can the members of HCGS improve the contents of the meeting and speakers? Please be at the meeting in October to voice your opinions. If you cannot attend the October meeting, please email me at cvfd4208@msn.com.

Ralph Harris, President 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The next **Ellsworth Historical Society** meeting will be on Monday, August 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Ellsworth City Hall. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Brittany Goetting, visiting scholar at the MDI Historical Society and a University of Maine doctoral student. She will be speaking on how to use 18th and 19th century religious sources like church records, ministers journals, etc. for research, genealogy, and individual projects and interests. All are welcome to this special talk. Please bring a friend and share in history! For more information, contact Terri Cormier at 667-8235 or Linda Grindle at 667-5716, or email us at ellsworthhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Maine Genealogical Society Annual Meeting, September 22

The Maine Genealogical Society will be holding its Annual Meeting and Conference on Saturday, September 22, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, Maine. The Keynote Speaker will be F. Warren Bittner, addressing the topic: "Ten Genealogical Lessons I Learned the Hard Way." There will also be breakout sessions: Ellen Dyer speaking on "Stop Here my Friend: Gravestone Art and Inscriptions in Midcoast Maine," Nancy Mason speaking on "Autosomal DNA Testing, Working with Your Results," and Carol McCoy speaking on "Finding Your Ancestors in Town Records – Hog Reeves, Fish Cullers, Tithingmen, and More." The registration fee is \$55.00 for members and \$70.00 for non-members. You can register by mail or online with PayPal or by credit card at <https://maineroots.org/>

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