

*The*  
***Hancock Historian***

Newsletter of the  
**Hancock County Genealogical Society**

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### **HCGS Minutes: 11 August 2018**

The August meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society met Saturday, August 11, 2018 in the Genealogy area of the Ellsworth Public Library.

President Ralph Harris called the meeting to order at 10:00am with seven members present. Minutes were read and accepted. Membership stands at 47 members. Our Facebook Group now has 120 members.

Max reported income of \$60.00 dues, \$30.47 refund and buy back on soda for the conference, and \$ .02 interest. Expense of \$135.00 annual web site payment. Balance at the end of July of \$2761.55. Motion was made, seconded and the report was accepted as read.

No old business.

New Business:

September newsletter was discussed with encouragement for members to submit articles about their research to Wayne for inclusion.

It was decided to invite tri-county genealogical societies to meet on October 6<sup>th</sup> to discuss the possibility of another conference next year. Ralph will handle talking to the groups involved.

The MGS Annual meeting in September was discussed. Ralph offered to donate a book to MGS in the name of HCGS to be used as a door prize at the meeting. The offer was accepted.

There was discussion of the Ellsworth American Digitization in light of the sale of the Ellsworth American. Charlene reported that Adam Fisher from the State Library is working on finding out the terms of the sale and figuring out the best way to proceed. It is good to know we are still on the list.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Fox Clemons  
Secretary.

### **HCGS Minutes: 8 September 2018**

The September meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was called to order by Wayne Smith at 10:10am. Nine members were in attendance. The minutes of the August 11 meeting were read and accepted. Membership stands at 47 members.

Max reported income of \$ .02 for the month of August bringing our balance to \$2,761.57. The report was accepted.

Patsy reported that the Waltham Town Records have been digitized by Adam Fisher with the exception of the last four books. These records will be part of the Maine Digital Archive.

A round-table of what everyone is currently working on with a five-minute limit for each person followed.

Bob Whitaker talked briefly about TribalPages.com, a website he uses and likes very much for his family tree.

Charlene talked about the State of Maine Researcher's card and how useful it has been in obtaining vital records for events in the past 100 years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Fox Clemons  
Secretary

## **In Memory of Lois Brown Crabtree Johnson**

Our group has lost a valued member, a life member who was given the Hancock County Genealogical Society Award for Genealogical Excellence. Moreover, we have lost a friend. Someone who was always willing to share information she had in her files with anyone who asked. Someone who valued accuracy in her work, but was always willing to accept corrections to any material she had. Someone who had not only immense knowledge of genealogical history but also the history of the town of Hancock where she was brought up and where she finished her allotted time on Earth.

Lois Johnson, who passed away on September 9, 2018, was devoted to family and friends alike. She was an active member of the community of Hancock, working actively for any cause or group she was a part of. She was the driving force behind the growth of the Hancock Historical Society Museum, now named the Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum. She would tell you she didn't do it alone, but without Lois the museum would not be what it is today. She knew the history of the families, the businesses and the houses of Hancock. Countless hours of her time were spent in court houses researching probate and deed records, in town halls looking for vital records and in cemeteries recording the information on the grave stones. She even recorded mistakes on gravestones so future researchers would not be led in the wrong direction.

Lois was justifiably proud of her contributions to the Maine Genealogical Society, Maine Families in 1790 project, submitting several families from Hancock County. Her regret was not being able to complete the Moore family for the books. She left her research for someone else to finish. Last summer, Lois donated her notebooks, and files to the museum that bears her name so that we and future genealogists will have the information she had collected to further our research.

Lois loved her home and family and always her cats. She had several cats over the years, many of whom came to her as strays, and at one time even had one that would bring a family of raccoons home for supper, in Lois's kitchen. Her smile and laugh were infectious. Knowing her was a privilege and a pleasure. It was an honor to be able to work with her and learn from her. She is and will be missed.



# Maine links to the 1650 Battle of Dunbar

by Diane Nibeck-Smith

Dunbar (3 September 1650) is traditionally considered a major battle of the Third English Civil War, as the competing claims of the new Commonwealth of England and of Charles II to the throne of England were at stake.

The Scottish soldiers, led by General David Leslie, lost this battle and were captured by the English forces lead by Oliver Cromwell. Cromwell's troops were well-organized, well-disciplined veterans. General Leslie's troops had been depleted by 12 years of fighting and many were new recruits fresh from the fields or workshops. At this time the Scottish-English border was different than the present-day border. The English have since claimed land that was once Scottish. It is said that muskets, bullets, swords, human bones, and cloth could still be found at the village of Spott near the battle site as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

After their capture, the Scottish soldiers were marched from Scotland to England. Many died during this march as they were given no food and were sick. Thirty were shot for refusing to continue without food. The first stop for these soldiers was Alnwick Castle which, interestingly enough, was used in many Harry Potter films. The second stop was the walled gardens of Morpeth Castle where the starving soldiers pulled up and ate raw cabbages, leaves, and roots. Many got sick and died from this act. About 900 soldiers lost their lives during the march leaving 3000 Scottish soldiers that completed the trip to Durham. The largest available building in the city was the Cathedral which had been closed for worship from the Commonwealth.

1,700 died while imprisoned in the Cathedral. Until 2013, their burial site was unknown. In 2013, archaeologists unearthed two mass burial sites in Durham. After testing they were determined to be the Scottish soldiers that died there 300 years before. The current exhibition explains how archaeologists from Durham University used analysis of the remains alongside study of historical documents from the period to establish details about the soldiers' lives including where they were born, what their health and diets were like, and why they died. <https://www.historyscotland.com/articles/events-exhibitions/bodies-of-evidence-new-exhibition-tells-the-story-of-17th-century>

The surviving Scots presented the English with a problem. Holding such a large number of prisoners could be costly, however letting them go could prove to be very dangerous. Some were sent to work in coal mines. 150 of them were moved to London to be sent to New England as indentured servants on the ship Unity. On November 11th, the Council issued sailing orders to the Unity. These 150 Scots were sent as indentured servants and arrived at Lynn, Massachusetts. By the time the Scots arrived in Boston, they were in poor health. Payment for medical care and medicine as well as food was needed. 61 of the men made it to the iron works in Saugus, and many of them were sent to Berwick, Maine after the demise of the iron works.

Many of us in Hancock County are descendants of the prisoners of this war. One of the prisoners was John Taylor who arrived in Saugus by December of 1650. His daughter Sarah Taylor married an Elisha Clark, son of John Clark of Wenham, Massachusetts. Another daughter, Deliverance Taylor, married William Goodwin, and all the Butlers from Butlers Point are also descendants. Daughter Mary Taylor married Stephen Hardison, so all you Hardison descendants are also descendants of these soldiers. There are others. Check out these websites: <https://www.geni.com/projects/Scots-Prisoners-and-their-Relocation-to-the-Colonies-1650-1654/3465>

<http://scottishprisonersofwar.com/james-taylor-32-on-the-scots-at-lynn-1653-iron-works-inventory/>

I was able to visit the Durham cathedral this summer and the exhibit in the University library about these prisoners: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/events/family/?eventno=37429>  
The cathedral is massive! It is frequently voted Britain's favorite building. We were not allowed to take pictures but there is a website for those interested in seeing it:  
<https://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/>  
<https://www.durhamworldheritagesite.com/architecture/cathedral/intro/clock>



Picture on the right I took in June of 2018. I had no idea what I was taking a picture of at the time and I was being watched and scolded for taking a picture. I now know that of all things, I would want a picture of this clock.

The bodies of these now unearthed soldiers were then laid to rest with a service representing both England and Scotland. Durham Cathedral designed the service, which included psalms from the 1650 Scottish Psalter and a bible reading from the 1611 King James version. Professor Chris Gerrard, of Durham University's Department of Archaeology, who led the research project, said: "From research into the remains, we now know a great deal about these individuals. We understand better the medical conditions and health of a community from Scotland in the middle of the 17th century. But now was the right moment for reburial in a simple, dignified event which gives the individuals the burial they never had more than 350 years ago." <https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/remains-scottish-soldiers-reburied-17th-14675605>



Inside the cathedral, there are reddened scorch marks where the prisoners burned the cathedral woodwork to keep themselves warm. The Prior Castell's Clock, which featured [Scottish thistle](#), was spared. The thistle is the Scottish national flower and has been an important symbol of Scottish heraldry for over 500 years. It also represents one of the highest honors the country can give an individual. There is also a memorial to the men in the Chapel of the Nine Altars.

**Editor's note:** As I was editing this article for inclusion in the *Hancock Historian*, I checked through the various links provided by the author and discovered, to my surprise, that I myself am descended from the soldier John Taylor through his daughter Deliverance who married William Goodwin. That sent me off on an Internet search for more information on the Battle of Dunbar and the descendants of the surviving soldiers. I found a brief Youtube video that is highly relevant to this article. It can be found at the following URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKrxNIK07A0>

AND you can still see the **Who Do You Think You Are** episode from earlier this year featuring the ancestry of actor Jon Cryer. His ancestor James Adams was also one of the Scottish prisoners. He was sold as an indentured servant to the same Saugus Iron Works as John Taylor.

Check out: <https://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/who-do-you-think-you-are/>

OR: <https://trakt.tv/shows/who-do-you-think-you-are-us/seasons/10/episodes/1>

## **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](mailto:cvfd4208@msn.com).

### **Here's a few more thoughts from President Ralph:**

1. Speakers for next year: Have you got any names - phone numbers - topics? I know it's a little early, but thought I'd get a jump on it for the next president.

2. For the October meeting: Get your facts together. Let's have a "So You Think You Know Hancock County." It will deal with current (up to 2010) and old history of the county. HINT: Most of the information will come from the internet. I will prepare about 20 to 25 questions. I know I've learned a few things about Hancock County doing the research.

3. A challenge for the membership for next year: We need about six volunteers to do a 15- to 30-minute history of the town of your choice (its past, its present, what records are available, its founders, etc.). If the members agree, give me a list of the towns they will be doing and I will also do one.

4. A Tri-County (or whatever) Conference for 2019: I emailed all the surrounding Chapters of MGS for the October meeting. One person responded (Pam Beverage is in), and the Penobscot County Genealogical Society is bringing it up at their meeting in September. Others have not yet responded.

5. I have accepted nomination for the MGS Board of Directors for 2019.

Also, I just got back from the trip to Liberty, Ellis Island, Gettysburg and Niagara Falls. I'm including a few pictures of Gettysburg and the Maine 20th Regiment.

-- Ralph Harris, President 2018

Maine 20th Regiment Stone at Gettysburg



Ellis Island from  
Statue of Liberty

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 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/>

### Extracts from Kittery Town Records, 1732:

John Clark's Funeral Charge			
	£	s.	d.
6 pr. Gloves	2	2	0
Coffin	1	5	0
Drink		10	6
Ye Grave & bell		12	0
Allowed four Pounds nine shillings & 6 in full of the within account.			
attest Tobias Leighton, Town Clerk			

### THE RING FAMILY IN MAINE

Mary Ring with three children, viz: Susan Andres and Elizabeth, came from England to Plymouth, Mass, in 1629. She died in 1632.

Andrew married Deborah, the daughter of Stephen Hopkins, the Pilgrim in 1646. Andrew was about thirteen years old when he came. After the death of his mother, he was placed in charge of Samuel Fuller. In 1640, he owned land in what was afterward called Ring's Lane, in Plymouth, after that he was one of the first settlers in Middleboro. He died in 1692, aged seventy-five years.

Andrew had two sons, Eleazer and William. Eleazer married Mary Shaw January 11, 1687; children, Andrew, Phebe, Samuel, Deborah, Mary, Jonathan, Susanna, and Elkanah.

Of these, Andrew went to Yarmouth, Maine. Samuel remained at Kingston. Jonathan, just before the Revolution with two daughters and three sons, went to Worthington, Mass. Elkanah was never married but died at Kingston. Jonathan's children were Eleazer, Joseph, Sarah, Jonathan and Mollie. Jonathan married Sarah Mitchell, July 21, 1747. Andrew married Zeruah Standish, granddaughter of Capt. Miles Standish. Samuel married Sarah King. His descendants still own the old homestead at Kingston.

Eleazer married Damaris Johnson; children, Eleazer, Elkanah, Joslyn, Lydia, Jessie, Angeline, Abigail, Eunice, Emily, John, Harriet and Ethan C.

M.N. Rich, Portland, Maine

**EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM CAPT. CLAPP, IN THE BRIG WILLIAM OF  
PORTLAND, ME,  
DATED DOMINICO, FEB 8, 1774**

I was boarded by two English frigates, to leagues east of this island. After a long examination, Capt. Parker of the frigate Blanch, declared we had a right to proceed to any English or neutral island, and wrote a certificate to this purpose on the back of my Register, ordering me on pain of confiscation, not to enter any French port. By his desire I took on board a gentleman and six American sailors, all as passengers, with letters, to be brought to this port.

The next morning, steering for this island, I was fired upon by the armed brig Regulator, John Crage, master who with threats and hard words, ordered my boat on board him, with my papers, which I sent.

He then sent an armed force on board and brought me into this port, unbent my sails, and libeled the brig for trial. It is my opinion, although by your orders bound to this port, that the vessel and cargo will infallibly be condemned. Of fifty American vessels which are now here but few will be cleared.

All the English ports are shut against the American flag.

*Eastern Herald*

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