

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 25, No. 5
September 2019
(Well, alright, it's October already!)

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes
10 August 2019

The August 10, 2019 meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was convened at the Chamberlain House, home of the Ellsworth Historical Society. President Ralph Harris called the meeting to order at 10:14 am. Five members were in attendance.

Minutes of the July meeting were read and approved.

Membership remains the same.

Max Brenninkmeyer reported interest of \$.03 with no other transactions for the month. The 31 July 2019 balance was \$3,213.85. The report was accepted. Max turned over the records from his term as treasurer. He suggested having a second officer who could sign checks. Emery DeBeck nominated Charlene Clemons to fill that role. The vote was unanimous to give her that authority. She will write a letter, which Ralph Harris will sign to take to Camden National Bank. Max also suggested that the bills for hosting our website be sent to Wayne Smith and he can forward them to Jean Boynton in her role as treasurer to pay them. The last item was the filing of the yearly fee for State Corporation. That job will be handled by the secretary.

Under old business, the publishing of the Ellsworth American Index currently being worked on and proof-read was discussed. A "print on demand" publication with us ordering 25 copies for sale was suggested. This would alleviate the problem of storing a larger number of books that might or might not sell.

Charlene talked about a possible author visit in October; details to be confirmed in September.

There will be no meeting in September due to the conflict with the Maine Genealogical Meeting in Portland. The next meeting will be Saturday, October 12th at the Ellsworth Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am, after which, Max Brenninkmeyer gave a program on the Bellatty family of Ellsworth.

At the end of Max's talk we bid a fond farewell to Max and Ruth Brenninkmeyer who are leaving the area in October.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes

12 October 2019

The October 2019 meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held on Saturday the 12th in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library.

The meeting began with an interesting talk by author Carol Gardner. Ms. Gardner spoke about her ancestor, Thomas Doughty, one of the Scottish prisoners captured after the Battle of Dunbar, transported to America, and sold as indentured servants. Thomas Doughty's story is the basis for her book, "The Involuntary Americans" copies of which were available for sale after the talk and slide show.

After Ms. Gardner's program, President Ralph Harris called a brief business meeting to order. Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved. There was no Treasurer's report, due to the transition from Max to Jean as treasurer.

The only old business was a quick update on the index of Ellsworth American deaths Wayne and Ralph are working on. Still working on it. A brief discussion of the September Maine Genealogical Society meeting in Portland followed.

Under new business, Charlene asked the group to consider making a donation to the Hancock Historical Society Building fund in memory of HCGS Life Member, Lois Johnson, for whom the museum is named. A donation of \$500.00 was approved.

The November meeting will be the annual meeting and election of officers. Membership cards for 2020 are in and dues will be accepted at any time.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary.

The Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum

Lifetime HCGS member Lois Johnson was known for her amazing collection of information on families in the Hancock, Sullivan, Lamoine, Franklin area and other towns as well. The Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum, where she was curator for close to thirty years and that was named in her honor upon her retirement, was the place she chose to leave her collection. The books have all been "repackaged" in new binders and labeled and are now ready for researchers to use. The museum, located upstairs in the Hancock Town Hall, is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:00 am until 12:00 pm until the end of September. We hope you will have a chance to visit and use the materials. While she called them "works in progress," she wanted to make sure they were available to anyone looking for their family history. What a great legacy she has left us.



The Lois C. Johnson Historical Museum in Hancock, ME



Your newsletter editor checking out a Hancock Historical Society calendar.

From the Library

Summer at the library has seen many visitors, some making a return trip for further research, others on their first research trip to the area and still others finding our collection by pure serendipity. However they came to be there, most of them walked away with at least a bit more information than they had when they arrived. A great many were looking for local cemeteries and we were able to help thanks to the work Sundae Robbins did inventorying all the Ellsworth cemeteries and the work so many other people have done on cemeteries in surrounding towns. This is just another way we see how much the kind donations of so many people have made our collection possible.

Speaking of donations, I have recently been cataloging several donated books. These books are older titles, many from the Massachusetts Town Records before 1850 series. There are some family genealogies, as well as some English atlases showing 19th century counties and towns. Because we are so short of room, the books are together on the top of the stacks.

Over the next few months, I am going to be moving some books around and cataloging them with new numbers to make finding records easier. This is in answer to comments on the difficulty in finding records from a certain area. Other librarians in the state are also looking at simplifying the cataloging in the area. So please be patient as I work on this over the winter. If you need help finding anything, I am there Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in my office at the head of the stairs. Drop by any of those days even just to say Hi.

See you at the library,
- Charlene

From the President

I hope you all had a great summer, got outside, and completed a lot of research activities. Fall is well on its way and the leaves are changing, so get back to doing genealogy again during the cold months ahead. We had a few great speakers this year and hope to have a few more next year. If you have a subject or a recommendation, please contact me with more information and I'll see if we can schedule it for 2020.

I wish our former treasurer, Max Brenninkmeyer, and his wife happiness on their next adventure as they move back south to be with their family. And I want to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the HCGS.

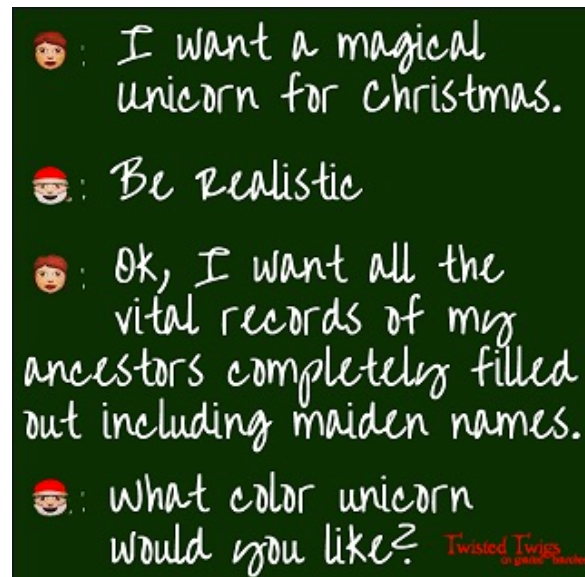
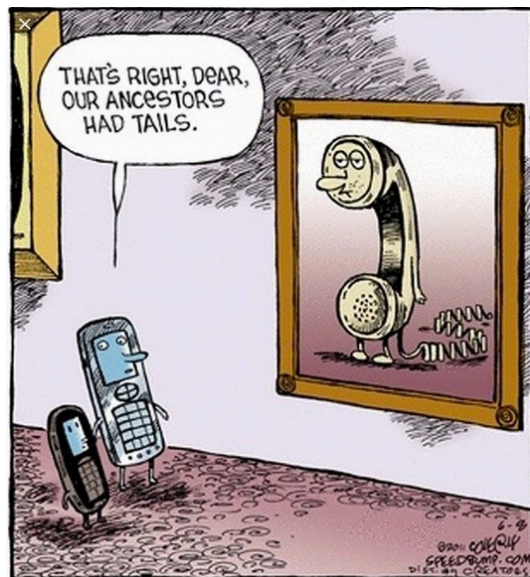
And I extend a big thank you to all of the officers and members of HCGS for their support in 2019.

Don't forget that the November meeting on November 9 will include the election of officers for 2020 and your dues will be due by January. Don't forget to pay your 2020 dues to keep the *Hancock Historian* newsletter coming to you.

I have helped three out-of-state genealogists do research into their problem areas in Hancock County. One was a three-month journey to find the documentation she needed for a Mayflower Society application. Her application was accepted and forwarded to Plymouth. I would like to thank Charlene Clemons, Emery DeBeck, and Mary P. from Florida for their help in locating the hard-to-find documents needed. Our research areas included Steuben, Gouldsboro, Franklin, Cherryfield, Sullivan, Harrington, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia.

I will be leaving for Florida shortly. I'll see you in May. If you would like to contact me, my email address is: cvfd4208@outlook.com

- Ralph Harris



Dear readers -

If you'd like to read something more substantial than genealogy jokes, please submit your research articles to me at:

wayne@mrlanguage.com.

Your newsletter editor,

- Wayne Smith

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