

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

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HCGS Minutes

14 March 2020

The Hancock County Genealogical Society met in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library on Saturday March 14, 2020 with five members present.

Before the business meeting, Ron Fortier spoke and showed slides on his adventures in French Canadian genealogy research. The program was enjoyed by all.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved

The treasurer reported expenses of \$25.00 and \$24.00 bot for our webpage host, and income of \$.02 interest and a net balance at the end of February of \$3,234.75.

There was a brief discussion of Maine State Bicentennial plans and the plans for opening the Hancock Historical Society, Lois C. Johnson museum.

Wayne talked about the upcoming newsletter which is now being published quarterly due to a lack of articles submitted by members. As always he asked for members to submit any stories, queries, photos that might be of interest to the group.

Ron Fortier, acting in his capacity as Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees talked about the plans the Board has been

working on to expand usable space for the Children's department and the Genealogy Local History department. He emphasized that the plans were contingent on the Board being able to raise the money for the project. No taxpayer dollars would be used for funding.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Clemons, Secretary

HCGS Minutes

9 May 2020

A virtual meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held via Zoom on Saturday, May 9, 2020 with 7 members attending. We were pleased to see a member from New Jersey and one from California join in.

Minutes of the March 2020 meeting were read and approved with one spelling correction. There was no treasurer's report. No meeting was held in April due to the COVID-19 Virus shutdown.

Membership is at 31.

Wayne reported the next newsletter will be sent in June and called for articles to be added.

Ralph is continuing to work on the proofreading of the index to deaths in the

Ellsworth American that Wayne has been working on. Wayne explained what they were working on for the benefit of those from out of the area who were attending a meeting for the first time.

Ralph also mentioned the webinars B.J. Jamieson from the Maine State Library is putting on during the shutdown. There are 18 scheduled for May and are free for anyone to attend using Zoom.

A discussion was held concerning a group called TechSoup that provided low cost technology, like Zoom subscriptions, to non-profit organizations. Ralph was going to look into it more. Right now we are using the free Zoom program that allows us to meet for 40 minutes only.

Respectfully submitted
Charlene Clemons, Secretary

Membership

It is that time of year again. Dues for 2020 were due in January. Those who have already paid their dues for 2020 and lifetime members should have already received their cards in the mail. If you believe that you have already paid and have not received your card, please contact me either by email (foxtail10000@yahoo.com) or by post at the address below.

Dues may be sent to:

HCGS/Charlene Fox Clemons
96 Mud Creek Road
Hancock, ME 04640

The Benefits of Being Cooped Up

by Richard Spinney

Being cooped up has its benefits. You don't have to worry about neighbors dropping in for coffee or tea; random people knocking on your door asking your Party affiliation or asking for donations for something. You can concentrate on the important things: genealogy!

Between episodes of *Wells Fargo* on television, I went through some of my genealogy stuff and came upon a November 2017 copy of *The Maine Genealogist*. Lois Ware Thurston, C.G. had died the previous December and I read her tribute on the Editor's Page. I was reminded of a kindness she paid me about a decade ago. My article "The Mitchell Mystification" had appeared in *The Maine Genealogist*. Grace Ann Mitchell was my maternal grandmother's maternal grandmother. The article discussed the search for Grace's parents and ultimately the Mitchell ancestry. I had only discussed the males in the family and their spouses. (Grace's father's name was Dummer Mitchell and there's a Dummer College in Massachusetts, but I digress.)

About a month after the article had been published, I received a manila envelope from Lois Thurston. I thought perhaps it contained an extra copy of my article. I opened it and discovered a single 6" x 9" page with a hand-written note: "Dear Richard. I thought you would be interested in this. Lois." There was a copy of selected pages from *The Sprague Families in America*. I had no idea why I would be interested in it. The first page started with the progenitor "1. Francis Sprague came in the "good ship Anne" which sailed from London, England, and arrived at Plymouth, July, 1623." This is followed by a list of the children on down through the generations as is typical of any family genealogy. I read all the various branches and suddenly there was Grace's grandmother's name also named Grace along with her siblings!

Following the line back toward the beginning, I found "10. Jethro Sprague (William, John, Francis) of Duxbury, Mass...m. Patience Bartlett. Patience was the great-great-great-granddaughter of Richard Warren, William Brewster, and William Mullins; also the great-great-granddaughter of John Alden, Love Brewster and Priscilla Mullins, Mayflower Pilgrims." Now there was a find!

I continued reading the Sprague genealogy and came across some familiar names. One was Sylvester, my maternal grandparents surname, and Grace Wadsworth, as in William Wadsworth Longfellow. Interestingly, two of my ancestors Richard Silvester [sic] and Francis Sprague both arrived in "the good ship Anne." Descending from John Alden, I am also related - distantly - to William Wadsworth Longfellow and Paul Revere.

There are a few lessons here. The Sprague Genealogy is on line and can be searched for names. The Brewster Genealogy is on line and can be searched for names. There are many others. So, if you have some spare time...which I bet you do...it is time to start searching on line for some of those old genealogies and see what pops up. I owe Lois Ware Thurston a debt of gratitude for her taking the time to copy those pages and writing that simple note. I am happy that I also took the time to send her a thank-you note. Little things can mean a lot and Lois's kindness is a prime example.

Footnote in the Brewster Genealogy:

* Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, America's poet, born at Portland, Me., February 27, 1807, died at Cambridge, Mass., March 24, 1882, was a descendant of Benjamin⁴ Bartlett, as follows:

Priscilla⁵ Bartlett,
Susanna⁶ Sampson,
Peleg⁷ Wadsworth,
Zilpah⁸ Wadsworth,
Henry W.⁹ Longfellow

His other Mayflower ancestors were Richard Warren, William Mullins, his wife Alice and daughter Priscilla, John Alden, and Henry Samson.

Why We Keep Researching or The Importance of One Click of the Mouse

- by Charlene Fox Clemons

For the past couple years I have been searching for information on one Marion Louise Haydock, specifically the parents of same. And while I was pretty sure I knew who they were, there was not a lot of supporting evidence. And being basically cheap, I only subscribe to the US version of Ancestry since there is where most of my research is. Marion Louise was born in London, England. Using the library's World Ancestry subscription gave some clues but without a tree up, the connections weren't always there. Then I realized that Ancestry had kindly given me a free upgrade until the end of May so I decided to give myself the gift of a day of research, retracing many of the steps I had already tried.

Marion Louise Haydock was born in England 14 March 1842, so I knew or surmised that her parents were married prior to 1842. On 16 Jun 1862 in St. Botolph, Aldgate, England she married Frances Marion Connors, a mariner from Bar Harbor, Maine. Frances was born 30

August 1837 in Eden (Bar Harbor), Maine, the son of John Connors and Julia J. Lynam. On the marriage record in England Marion's father was listed as George Haydock. Marion and Frances, also known as Frank, Connors settled in Eden and raised their family of five daughters and three sons. The family was all well thought of in the town, many of them as well as later generations professionals in the growing community.

According to the 1900 US Federal Census for Bar Harbor, about 1870, Marion's mother came to the US and lived with Marion and Frank. Mary Ann Haydock is listed as widowed, mother-in-law, 83 years old, arrived in this country 1870, a resident for 30 years. So now we knew Marion's mother was Mary Ann Haydock, but what was her maiden name? In 1901, Marion died suddenly in Bar Harbor. Her death certificate revealed Mary Ann's maiden name as Brady. At this point I was pretty much at a dead end although searches on Ancestry turned up some information; I was not able to connect it to Mary Ann and George directly. George was a soldier. Mary Ann was in the Work House. George probably died in 1872. More questions than answers.

Armed with my free upgrade, I hit Ancestry about 6 am and what do my surprise did I find? A 9 divorce petition filed 5 December 1859 for George Haydock and Mary Ann Brady Haydock, twenty-four pages long and better reading than any novel ever! In those pages, I found their marriage date and place (03 Jan 1838, Dundalk Parish, Louth, Ireland, Romish Church of Saint Patrick), the number of children (seven rather than the five I knew about), the regiment George was a part of along with his rank (Sergeant in the 1st Regiment Dragoon Guards) as well as an idea of all the places he had been stationed and where they lived. Interestingly it did not say if the divorce was granted or not. I assume not since both sided fired allegations of adultery and cruelty at each other.

The result is that I can now say she was of the Irish Brady family (we have a DNA match from Ireland but have not proven where the common ancestor is.) I now know why she was in the Work House (hubby was not supporting her.) And I know why she came to the US two years before he died. I also know that she survived all seven of her children. Quite a life.

So, keep looking. New records come up all the time and sometimes they are a gold mine!



Women's Suffrage

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

The 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution was ratified on August 18, 1920, granting women a measure of equality they had never before enjoyed in America – the right to vote alongside men in elections. At 9 pm on August 20, 1920, then Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby issued the official proclamation that the 19th Amendment had been ratified by legislatures in 36 states and had become “valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution of the United States.” 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of this history-making amendment.

As we look back on the fight for women's right to vote we tend to take a national perspective. The names of women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony became synonymous with the suffrage movement on a national level. Kicked off with a meeting of more than 300 people in Seneca Falls, New York in July 1848, women went on to march, lobby, and even go to jail for their beliefs. By the last third of the 19th century they were pressuring Congress to vote on the amendment giving them the right to vote.

In August 1873 thousands of men and women met in Augusta to form the Maine Woman Suffrage Association with Julia Ward Howe, well-known American poet and author of “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” as one of the speakers. The same year the Maine legislature acted on petitions requesting a state suffrage amendment. That motion failed to pass but over the next decades those advocating for the right to vote joined forces with those organizing for labor rights and temperance and continued the fight. On November 5, 1919, Maine ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Closer to home in Hancock County history was to be made less than a month later with the September election. The Board of Registration in Ellsworth held special sessions for the purpose of registering women in order for them to be allowed to vote. In Bar Harbor, the Democrats wanted the honor of having the first female candidate to run for office in Maine. Although it was too late to get her name on the September ballot, they asked Margaret Dyer of Bar Harbor to run for Register of Probate against Republican Bob King as a write-in candidate. The vote was heavily in favor of Mr. King, but Mrs. Dyer had made history in Hancock County and Maine. Mrs. Dyer continued to be an active Democratic voter well into her 80s.

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