

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

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December 2020

**Hancock County Genealogical Society
Minutes
10 October 2020**

Richard Spinney was the featured speaker of the day elaborating on his MGS article of several years ago "The Mitchell Mystification." Twelve members and guests join the Zoom meeting including a few who had Mitchell connections in their own trees.

After Richard's program, President Ralph Harris called a brief business meeting to order. Minutes of the September 12th meeting were read and approved, but later amended due to a typo in the checking account balance which should have read a balance of \$3,268.70 as of August 30.

Treasurer, Jean Boynton reported one deposit of \$10.00 membership and \$.03 interest for September. As of October 8th, 2020 the balance is \$3278.79. A year-end report will be done in November.

Ralph asked if we felt we should invest in a subscription to Zoom to allow for longer meetings. Currently we are limited to 40 minutes and although we can schedule a second meeting, members don't always get back in for the last part. It was decided to ask MGS to purchase a Zoom subscription and share it with the chapters. Ralph will write a letter to Peter Smith, President of MGS. Richard Spinney also said he would write to the MGS Board.

November will be the annual meeting with the election of officers for the coming year. Ralph also reminded us that membership dues are due in January.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted

Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

**Hancock County Genealogical Society
Minutes
14 November 2020**

The annual HCGS meeting was held via Zoom at 10:00 am Saturday, November 14, 2020 with eight members and guests present. President Ralph Harris called the meeting to order from his car heading north somewhere in Georgia.

The current slate of officers was re-elected for 2021. President, Ralph Harris, Treasurer, Jean Boynton, Secretary and Membership, Charlene Fox Clemons and Newsletter Editor, Wayne Smith.

Minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Jean Boynton, the treasurer submitted an accounting for the year which was accepted.

Wayne Smith reported the final issue of the Hancock Historian for 2020 will be published in early December and called for members to send articles for him to include.

Wayne also updated us on the Ellsworth American death index project he is working on.

Ralph reported that MGS has purchased three Zoom licenses, one for MGS, one for committees and one for chapter use. These licenses allow phone in participation and longer meetings without having to close and sign in again, both of which our free license did not allow. In January we will be using this license. We thank Peter Smith, President of MGS and the board for voting to purchase the Zoom licenses. By the way, HCGS seems to be the only chapter that has continued to hold meetings through the pandemic.

Discussion of possible programs for future meetings ensued. Holly Hendricks will present a program on transcribing and annotating the diary of Allan Gaspar Ray during his years farming in Bucksport from 1912-1917 in January. Raina, an Island Institute intern working with Sullivan/Sorrento Historical Society will

work on a program with Jeanne Edwards for later in the year. A lady who had worked on Brewer/Orrington Congregational Church records was mentioned as a possible speaker. Holly suggested someone to talk on how to prepare to have our research taken care of after our deaths. Another suggestion was for a genetic genealogy program. We are also planning a program featuring Jesse Casas, MGS Board member. Jesse will detail his search for his father's birth family.

It was mentioned that Pembroke Historical Society has been doing bi-monthly Zoom presentations and of course, B.J. Jameson's regular Zoom programs from the Maine State Library.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am. The next meeting will be on January 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons, Secretary

Upcoming Presentations

January Speaker: Holly Hendricks

Allan Ray's Diary

Holly Hendricks has been transcribing, researching, and annotating a richly detailed diary written by her great great grandfather, Allan Gaspar Ray. Born in Surry in 1855 to Hutchinson Ingalls Ray and Sebastiana Gaspar, Allan met Addie Bunker while singing in a church choir, married her, and raised five spirited daughters in Brewer (Emma, Alice, Charlotte, Grace Hazel, and Gladys). Allan worked in dry goods stores in Bangor and Brewer, served in leadership roles in the local Methodist Church, and was often called upon to sing at special events throughout the region. While working in the city, he dreamed of farming, and when the three older girls were settled with their own families, he bought a farm on River Road in Bucksport, moving there at age 57 with his wife and two youngest daughters in 1912.

The diary details daily life on the farm: growing and preserving food, logging and hauling wood to the Penobscot River, activities at the Methodist Church and Grange, activities with

many neighbors, daughter Hazel's marriage, and young Gladys's high school years in Bucksport and Brewer as well as visits from grandchildren and other relations. The train from Brewer to Bucksport was a central part of their daily lives. In 1918, Allan and Addie sold the farm and returned to live in Brewer after a long trip west to visit their daughter Emma and her family.

Holly will share stories from the diary and describe how she researched references to people, places, and technology while discussing the social and family history found therein.

Her presentation will be held on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2021.

February Speaker: Jesse Casas

"Identifying Birth Parents Using Clues & DNA"

Jesse Casas, Maine Genealogical Society board member, will be doing a program for us at our February 13, 2021 meeting on his search for his father's biological family. Jesse describes his presentation as a case study on a successful search for an adoptee's birth family, using Internet resources, family lore and documents, paper genealogy, and DNA genetic genealogy. Jesse shares how he identified his father's biological parents, and the twists, turns, and surprises he encountered along the way."

The meeting will be held on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2021.

President's Corner

Welcome to a winter wonderland in Maine, and we have only just begun. Hoping you all have had the greatest 2020 you could have with everything going on. And to a brighter 2021.

HCGS has had a challenging year with meetings. As to the state ban on public meetings and the library was closed. In May we started having Zoom meetings using a free account which was limited to 40 minutes. We overcame the 40-minute obstacle by logging off one session and logging back on to another session. But in 2020, the Maine Genealogical Society bought three Zoom accounts, one for the Chapters of the MGS to share. The MGS Zoom account will allow HCGS to hold Zoom meetings until Nov 2021.

We have had some interesting Zoom meetings and speakers, and we are working on speakers for 2021 on Zoom. And through Zoom, we have been able to welcome the attendance of other members of HCGS from New Jersey, California, and Australia.

The 2020 HCGS officers were re-elected for 2021:

President	Ralph Harris
Membership/Secretary	Charlene Clemons
Treasurer	Jean Boynton
Newsletter editor	Wayne Smith.

Membership dues for 2021 are due by January 1, 2021. All paid memberships for 2021 will be invited to attend Zoom meetings. Watch for an emailed invitation from Wayne Smith a few days before the meeting.

The great news is that most libraries are currently open by appointment but with limited time schedules. The Maine State Library will be opening around January of 2021 with limited research books available. Call or email the MSL for open times and ask for the books you will

be needing for your research. The MSL will be relocating to a new home on State Street in Augusta as they are in the process of updating the HVAC system and other projects.

Also, I have been posting on our Facebook page Zoom webinars about genealogy and history. These are free to attend; you just have to sign up. If you would like to attend Zoom webinars from the Maine State Library, google "Genealogy Maine State Library" (or go to: <https://www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml>) and fill out the yellow box for webinar emails from BJ Jamieson for her weekly webinars.

- Ralph Harris

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENT

THE ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL F. THIBODEAU AND REBECCA JANDREAU

By Dana Paul Murch

The product of over three years of research by Maine author Dana Paul Murch, this new book details the genealogy and family of the author's maternal grandparents, St. Francis natives Daniel Frédéric Thibodeau and Rebecca Jandreau.

I remember Mémère always bustling in the kitchen and cooking on a wood cook stove (she made the best dumplings in the world)...I remember Pèpère as a little man who spoke only French and was not well (he died when I was seven years old).

Written in the vein of Leo Cyr's classic 1985 work *Madawaskan Heritage*, the book identifies and discusses the lives and times of all of the ancestors of Daniel F. Thibodeau and Rebecca Jandreau in Acadia, Québec, and the Upper St. John Valley in both Maine and New Brunswick. In addition to major sections on the Thibodeau and Jandreau families, the book includes sketches of one hundred sixty related families, from Albert to Vallière. Most significant among these sketches are those of the Dubé, Ouellette, Pelletier, Michaud, Nadeau, Paradis, and Miville dit Deschênes families, followed by the Ayotte, Cloutier, Gagnon, Jalbert, and Saucier families.

At almost 1,600 pages, *The Ancestors and Descendants of Daniel F. Thibodeau and Rebecca Jandreau* is a major addition to the genealogy of the Thibodeau and Jandreau families, and is a definitive compilation of the best information currently available on 290 known or presumed ancestral immigrants to Acadia and Québec and their offspring. The hardcover book includes copies of many vital records, synopses of U.S. and Canadian census records, family photos, and photos of gravestones, family memorials, and churches. The book also includes a selected history of Maine and New France (including Acadia) from 1604 to 1850, as well as a chronology of the arrival of all immigrant ancestors.

Publication date: January, 2020. Printing is limited to 150 copies. Price per copy is \$35. Available from the author, Dana Paul Murch, 7 Cedar Street, Belfast, ME 04915. Contact danapmurch@gmail.com for more information. ISBN: 978-0-9982497-2-8 LCCN: 2019911557

Hancock County Genealogical Society 2021 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 2021: \$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. Until the Covid-19 pandemic is over, all meetings are being held via Zoom. Meetings are open to all those who have paid their dues for the current year. Invitations to the Zoom sessions will be sent out a few days before each meeting.

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

hcgsmembership@yahoo.com

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