

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

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HANCOCK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MINUTES

9 JANUARY 2021

The January 2021 meeting of HCGS was held via Zoom at 10:00am with nine members present. Minutes of the November 14, 2020 meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer reported a December 31, 2020 ending balance of \$3,523.84. This included 19 renewals for \$190.00 and \$55.00 in donations during the month of December added to the November 30, 2020 balance of \$3,278.84 with no expenditures for the month.

There was no old business to discuss and nobody offered any new business. The business meeting adjourned at 10:15am.

Holly Hendricks was the speaker for the day, telling the story of Allan Ray's diary. The meeting ended at 11:50am.

Respectfully submitted,
- Charlene Fox Clemons

From the Library

The library remains open to the public, ten guests at a time and with a 30-minute time limit for visits. Although this makes doing genealogy research difficult, there have been a few intrepid souls who have ventured in to take 30 minutes on the computer or to look up and copy information from one of the books. I have been kept busy for the past several months doing look-ups in the *Ellsworth American* or a cemetery index-in general answering a variety of questions from folks who can't make it into the library. It is always interesting to see what interests the people I talk with.

So, if you have a question, and are not able to get to the library, feel free to email me cclemons@ellsworthlibrary.net or call the library (207)-667-6363 and I will be happy to see what I can find for you. I am at the library Monday, Tuesday and Thursday until 4:00 pm, but you can always leave a message for me at other times.

Happy ancestor hunting!
- Charlene

February Speaker: Jesse Casas

"Identifying Birth Parents Using Clues & DNA"

Jesse Casas, Maine Genealogical Society board member, did a program for us on Zoom at our February 13, 2021 meeting on his search for his father's biological family. Jesse described 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 shared how he identified his father's biological parents, and the twists, turns, and surprises he encountered along the way."

President's Corner

To all of our supporting members - We're hoping for another interesting year of Zoom meetings. Come and join us on Zoom at our regular meeting times, the second Saturday of each month at 10 am. A big thanks for our officers who have agreed to continue in office in 2021. If you need information on how to log on on Zoom, contact me at cvfd4208@outlook.com or our great newsletter editor Wayne Smith (wayne@mrlanguage.com).

In November of 2020, the Maine Genealogical Society purchased a Zoom account for all 12 chapters of the Society to be used for their meetings.

In the world of genealogy, we are now between two big conferences, both on Zoom. RootsTech was a free conference this year only and was held from February 25-27 online. The other conference is the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium (NERGC) which will be on Zoom in April. This is a paid conference. More information here: <https://nergc.org/2021-conference-2/>.

Also, B. J. Jamieson, genealogy specialist at the Maine State Library, is offering free sessions via Zoom on a variety of research topics. You can sign up for the newsletter in the Genealogy Section of the Maine State Library.

Also, from a member of HCGS, the Southern California Genealogical Society will be holding two conferences in early June called "The Genes in Your Family" and "The Stars in Your Family." For more information go to: <https://genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com/>. There are also several Zoom presentations on genealogy throughout Maine and the US. Just search for them, and also check out the ad on the next page.

- Ralph Harris



2021 jamboree Webinar

extension series

www.scsgenealogy.com

2021 Webinar Calendar

1st Saturday webinars:

10:00 AM Pacific
11:00 AM Mountain
12:00 PM Central
1:00 PM Eastern

3rd Wednesday webinars:

6:00 PM Pacific
7:00 PM Mountain
8:00 PM Central
9:00 PM Eastern

FREE!

<http://www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/jes-index.html>



Devon Noel Lee - Writing about The Stars in Your Family with Ease
Saturday, January 9, 10:00 AM Pacific



Shannon Combs-Bennett, MS - The Basics of Genetic Testing and Genealogy
Wednesday, January 20, 6:00 PM Pacific



Beth A. Stahr, MLS CG® - Unscrambling the New Orleans Passenger Lists
Saturday, February 6, 10:00 AM Pacific



Melissa Barker - 10 Things a Genealogist Should Do Before Leaving a Library or Archives
Wednesday, February 17, 6:00 PM Pacific



Michael Brophy, MBA - Alcoholics and Teetotalers: Finding Yours in America's Temperance Movement
Saturday, March 6, 10:00 AM Pacific



Ellen Kowitz - Find African American, French, Jewish & Spanish Revolutionary War Patriots
Wednesday, March 17, 6:00 PM Pacific



Sara Cochran - Suddenly Scotland: An Introduction to Scottish Research
Saturday, April 3, 10:00 AM Pacific



Melissa Barker - Moonshine and Stills: Finding Archived Records for Your Moonshiner Ancestor
Wednesday, April 21, 6:00 PM Pacific



Sarah Callis - WikiTree: The Free Family Tree
Saturday, May 1, 10:00 AM Pacific



Andrew Lee - Using GEDmatch Basic Tools
Wednesday, May 19, 6:00 PM Pacific



Jennifer Warner - Researching Pennsylvania Ancestors
Wednesday, June 16, 6:00 PM Pacific

webinar@scsgenealogy.com

Nicka Sewell Smith - The Most Southern Place on Earth
Wednesday July 21, 6:00 PM Pacific



Diana Elder, AG® - Jurisdictions Explained: Finding New Avenues of Research for Your Family
Saturday, August 7, 10:00 AM Pacific



Steven Morrison, MPA - Profile of a Quaker - Finding a Friend in Colonial America
Wednesday, August 18, 6:00 PM Pacific



Jane Neff Rollins, MSPH - Spin a Story Step-by-Step with Sanborn Maps
Saturday, September 4, 10:00 AM Pacific



Janice Lovelace, PhD - The Emotional Rollercoaster of DNA Testing
Wednesday, September 15, 6:00 PM Pacific



Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, AG®, FOGS - Community Research Using the National Register of Historic Places
Saturday, October 2, 10:00 AM Pacific



Annette Burke Lyttle, MA - Find the Stories of Your French and Indian War Ancestor
Wednesday, October 20, 6:00 PM Pacific



Billie R. McNamara - It Takes a Village to Unearth the "Real" History
Saturday, November 6, 10:00 AM Pacific



Steven Morrison, MPA - Western Overland Trails - Following the Seven Ts
Wednesday, November 17, 6:00 PM Pacific



Mary K. Risseuw - Genealogy of a Neighborhood, Urban and Rural
Saturday, December 4, 10:00 AM Pacific



Thomas MacEntee - Getting Ready for the 1950 US Census
Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 PM Pacific



www.scsgenealogy.com

Nellie vs. Ellen - One Person or Two?

I've been helping two women, one from Sweden and the other in Massachusetts, who are cousins. They wanted to know what happened to Nellie May Woodbury of Lincoln and George B. Derby of Stillwater, Maine. It all started with a Facebook post looking for George Bradford Derby of Stillwater. She had had no luck with George. When her cousin came on the scene, I stopped researching George because I couldn't get any leads on him other than what I found in the *History of the State of Maine 1909* which said "George B. Derby was a resident of Stillwater, where he is buried. He was a farmer and lumberman. He was drowned in the Penobscot River in 1831 together with others in this party who were in the same boat." Well, there are several George B.'s in the family. So I cleared my little brain of George and went to work on Nellie.

After a couple of weeks, with several emails back and forth reaching out to others for information, Nellie started giving clues to research. This is what we know about Nellie: Her birth certificate was dated May 18, 1848 in Lincoln, and it showed her to be the daughter of Tyler C. Woodbury. She died at AMHI in Augusta in 1882. Another birth certificate added a middle name: Nellie May Woodbury, b. 5-18-1848, father: Tyler C. Woodbury. Nellie was not in the censuses of 1850 and 1860. So where was Nellie from 1848 to 1870, who are her real father and mother, and where was she living? According to Ancestry, Tyler M. Woodbury and his wife were the parents of Nellie in the 1850 and 1860 census, but Nellie is not listed, but Ancestry always connected Nellie as their child.

So we searched in several places, including NEHGS, Ancestry, and Family Search. I asked Elizabeth at the Bangor Library for help to search in many books as I am in Florida. Elizabeth came through giving us a hint here and there. After about 75 emails and a week of very late nights, our hints stopped coming, so I started a spreadsheet with all the facts of the missing Nellie that we had found. There was still a gap in the records of the 1850 and 1860 censuses.

With all the facts only in a spreadsheet:

1. Tyler C. is living with his parents (Tyler M. and Sophronia Woodbury) as a single young man in the 1850 census of Lincoln. He is approx. 20 years old without his daughter Nellie.
2. Nellie gets married before the 1870 Census which lists Edwin A. Reed and Nellie M. and one child.
3. Nellie is in the 1880 Census of Springfield, Maine, and also in the 1880 Census as a patient at AMHI in Augusta.
4. Nellie passed away at the age of 32 at AMHI, and no death certificate has been found yet.

So back to the 1850 and 1860 censuses. The 1850 census lists Tyler M. and Sophronia and seven children living at the same residence. If Nellie is the child of Tyler C., she seemingly has an Aunt Elen in 1850 (called Ellen in the 1860 census) as there is one child, Elen/Ellen, about the same age as Nellie. Looking at the facts from the censuses:

1. 1850 Census: Elen, female, birth about 1848, age 2
2. 1860 Census: Ellen, female, birth about 1848, age 12.

Was this Elen/Ellen the same person as the Ellen May Woodbury who, according to a Lincoln death certificate, was born in 1846 but who died at the age of 6 months 11 days? Obviously not. This cannot be the Elen/Ellen in the 1850 and the 1860 censuses.

Looking at Elen/Ellen's birth records, if she was born in 1846, she would be the right age on the census of 1850 and 1860 but the birth year is wrong.

Our conclusion was: Elen/Ellen in the census of 1850 and 1860 was not the same Ellen who died in 1846. So the Elen/Ellen in the census must be Nellie as the birth year and age fit Nellie to a T: her birth year and age match the 1850 and 1860 censuses. So that would mean that Nellie's name was recorded incorrectly as Ellen.

The conclusion of the records: "Elen" is Nellie, and Tyler C. and his daughter were living with his parents until Nellie's marriage in 1870.

Back to George Bradford Derby, we are still waiting for documents to come in from other sources requested. If you have any suggestions on where to look for George, you can send them to cvfd4208@outlook.com.

- Ralph Harris

Queries:

From Larry Raddatz (lradd73@gmail.com) on February 2, 2021

"I am looking for the parents of my 4X great-grandpa, William Shaw, who was born between 1765 & 1770 in Gouldsboro and died in 1830. He was married to Dolly Moore (1774-1830). Dolly's parents were Joel and Rebecca (Weeks). Any information on the Shaw family in Maine would be great. Thanks."

Marguerite Coughlin: From Basketball Star to Nurse

by Charlene Fox Clemons



Don't you just love the basketball uniform? Imagine today's players being asked to wear it.

This postcard was found in Bar Harbor and sent to me since it belonged in Ellsworth. Being naturally curious (a polite way of saying nosy) I endeavored to find out about the lovely Miss Coughlin.

Margaret who later went by the name of Marguerite, was born in Ellsworth 24 July 1893, the oldest child of Michael J. Coughlin, Jr. and his wife Mary Ann Sullivan. She was joined on 3 February 1896 by sister Madeline S. and on 1 February 1898 by brother Francis J. Coughlin.

Michael Coughlin, Jr. was born in July of 1857 in Canada, although some records report his place of birth as Bangor, Maine. The 1900 census lists his arrival in the United States as 1877, although the same census lists his father's arrival as 1855, so they may have gone back and forth between Maine and New Brunswick. Michael was the son of Michael, Sr. and Johanna Brady Coughlin.

Mary Ann Sullivan, who was Michael's second wife – first wife unknown, was born in New Brunswick, Canada, the daughter of Timothy Sullivan and Honora Dineen, July 1869.

Marguerite's sister Madeline died of acute meningitis in Tremont, Maine on 18 October 1901. Her brother Francis J. Coughlin fought in World War I, seeing action in Chemin des Dames, Bois Brule, Jury Woods, 2nd Battle of Marne, St Mihiel, and the Battle of Meuse. He was overseas: Oct. 9/17 to Mar. 12/19. Honorable Discharge on demobilization: Mar. 26, 1919. On 23 October 1920, he married Miss Alice L. Hennessey, daughter of Joseph Patrick and Mary A. (Legassey) Hennessey of Bangor. Francis worked for the railroad in Bangor. He and Alice had two sons, Francis Joseph, Jr. (1922-1998) and James Edward (1926-2016). By 1940 Francis and Alice had divorced. Francis died in 1964 in Togus Veteran's Hospital. Alice died 25 Jun 1987 in Bangor, Maine. Her second husband was John Keefe.

After high school, Marguerite went on to four years of college and spent more than fifty years working as a nurse in Bangor, Maine. She died in a nursing home there, following a prolonged illness, on 22 January 1978. She was never married.

More information on the ancestors of this family may be found in the "Hancock County Genealogical Society Papers" at the Ellsworth Public Library.

SEARCHING FOR NESSIE

(but not in Scotland)

- Emery DeBeck

For a while during the pandemic shutdown I found myself helping with the research for an upcoming six generation Bragdon genealogy. In particular, I concentrated on Hancock County Bragdons and their descendants.

About 1833 Sullivan born Rufus Kingsley Bragdon, with his parents and siblings, left Maine to settle on Neville Island, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. Among Rufus's children was a Chilnessy Bragdon, born ca 1845. She was unknown after the 1870 census when she was listed with her parents as Nessie, aged 26. We hoped to learn her fate. Among other siblings, Nessie had younger brothers, John Cooper Bragdon and Charles M. Bragdon.

The only thing an Ancestry search for Chilnessie/Nessie Bragdon turned up was the Pennsylvania death certificate of a Harold K. Knox. He died in 1935 aged about 59 years. His parents were listed as Edgar Allen Knox (b. Pittsburgh) and Nessie A. Bragdon (b. Neville Island). It looked like Nessie might have been found.

A search for Edgar Allen Knox produced nothing. But, an entry for an Ethan Allen Knox caught my eye. Perhaps Mr. Knox had been named for the Revolutionary War hero, not the noted author. A search for Ethan turned up his 1898 Allegheny County, Penn. will (probated in 1899). He left his estate to his son H. K. Knox and to his wife, Ellen A. Knox. These were the hoped for son, but not the anticipated wife.

Then I noticed that the will included a provision "to pay to Charles M. Bragdon my outstanding promissory note for \$450." The executors were C. M. Bragdon and Ellen A. Knox,

and the witnesses were T. P. Trimbel and Jno. C. Bragdon. Clearly Ethan had close ties to Rufus K. Bragdon's family.

Next I found from the Allegheny County marriage records that Ethan was issued a license to marry Ellen A. Holler on March 17, 1897. That meant that son Harold K. had to have been by a prior marriage. I could find no record of that earlier marriage.

A search for Nessie Knox turned up a gravestone in Highland Cemetery, Pittsburgh on FindaGrave.com: Nessie J. Knox 1844—1897. Whoever recorded the stone added that Nessie was a daughter of David S. and Rebecca (Page) Knox, but by then I knew better. She was the daughter of Ethan Allen and Nessie (Bragdon) Knox

Finally, the genealogist with whom I was working discovered that the middle name of son Harold K. Knox was Kingsley, repeating that of Nessie's father.

Our Next Meeting:

March 13, 2021

at 10 AM (EST) on Zoom

MEGENSOCCHAPTERS megensocchapters@gmail.com is
inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94849833745?pwd=eWdxWUo3QzZscUNQaG1zTXVldEQ3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 948 4983 3745

Passcode: 177511

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,94849833745#,,,,*177511# US (New York)

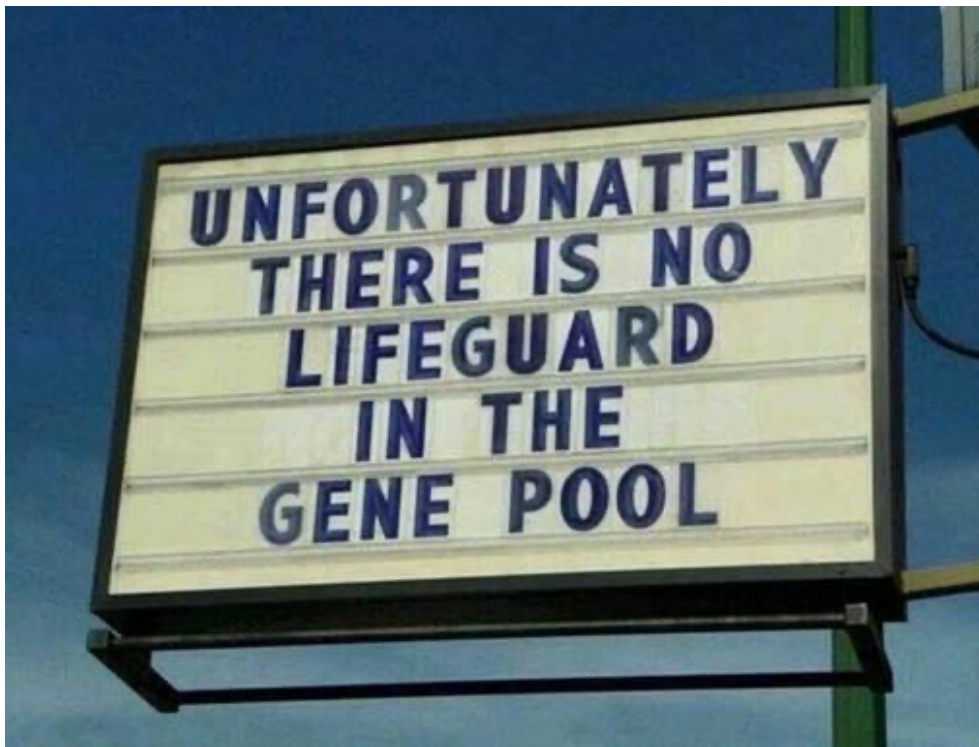
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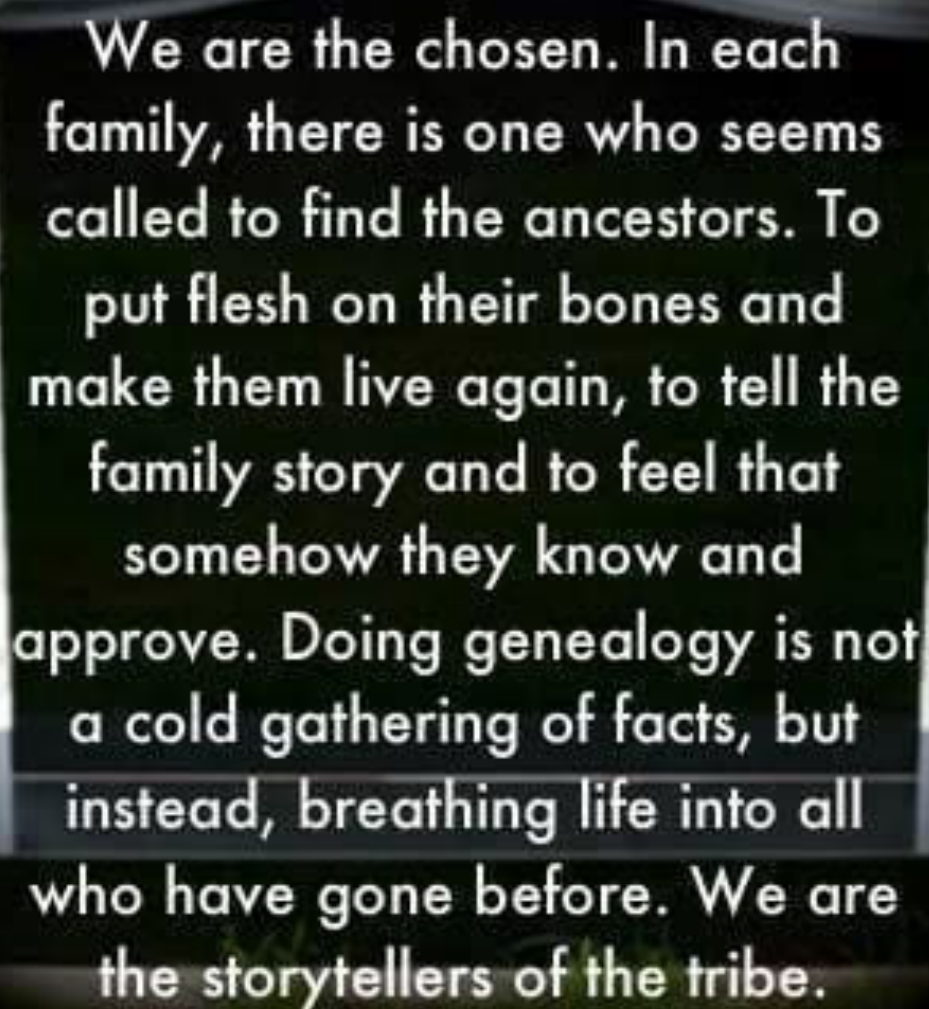
"You need to save more for your future.
You wouldn't believe what it costs to
rent a decent cloud these days!"



Adapted for Genealogy Trot

I am your 6th great-grandfather.
You connected me to the wrong spouse
and now she has moved in with us.



A black and white photograph of an open book with text overlaid on it. The book is open, and the pages are visible. The text is centered on the pages. The background is dark, and the book is illuminated from above, creating a soft glow around the edges of the pages.

We are the chosen. In each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe.

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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