

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the

Hancock County Genealogical Society

Volume 5, No. 3

July 1999

Genealogy Fair - Aug. 21 at U. U. Church

President's Corner

I have been remiss in not thanking Dr. Tom Roderick for his talk about the matrilineal line and genetics. I was sorry that I had to miss it, but I had to attend the Board of Directors meeting for the Maine Genealogical Society. Many members have told me they found the topic and the speaker very interesting. Perhaps we can convince Dr. Roderick to do an encore.

Coincidence plays a part in genealogy as anybody who has been doing it for any length of time will attest. At last month's meeting, Mark Honey again shared his in depth knowledge of the local area during his talk about using deeds. Deeds are often an ignored resource that can provide a number of clues.

The coincidence is that I was corresponding with a gentleman from Illinois looking for the ancestors of a Hammond woman who was born in Ellsworth. Not having much to go on, I sent him the text of a deed, Book 254, Page 47, Hancock County Registry of Deeds, as follows: "Moses H. Hammond, Sarah M. his wife, Arthur H. Grant of Surry; Alonzo Young and Melvina B. his wife, Walter J. Clark and Margaret his wife, of Ellsworth; Annie, daughter of Louisa Grant ... in consideration of the care and compassion bestowed on (Mother) Margaret Hammonnd to be continued during her natural life by Charles Hammond of Surry, sold to Charles land on the Stage Road, East Surry, being the estate of Capt. Moses Hammond." The deed was signed March 1, 1891.

I explained to the gentleman that my theory was that Moses H. Hammond, Melvina B. Young, Margaret Clark, Louisa Grant and Charles Hammond were all siblings. But, I emphasized the word "theory." And I told him that this may have absolutely nothing to do with our search.

Later he told me that he had received the death certificate of the Hammond woman of whom he had inquired and her parents were Moses H. Hammond and Sarah M. Smith. The name Smith reminded me that our newsletter editor, Wayne Smith, had spent hours copying the Albert Hill papers and they are here in the Ellsworth Public Library. All I had to do was to turn to "Hammond" in the notebooks and my theory was confirmed! (And, yes, I mailed copies of the pages to the fellow from Illinois.)

So, as Mark Honey told us last month: Remember those deeds!

Those of you who attend July's meeting will not see your president there. He will be attending yet another Board of Directors meeting. With the approval of the members attending the June meeting, the Hancock County Genealogical Society will offer to host the October 2000 Maine Genealogical Society Annual Meeting and Conference. The preparations, beginning as early as next spring, will require a lot of work and the help of a lot of people. We will need volunteers - - the more the better as it will lighten the load for all of us -- and make the meeting more of a success.

Please remember the Genealogy Fair in August! And pass the word that everybody is invited to bring their questions, their own genealogies, resources, etc. Hope to see a gang there!

C Richard Spinney

QUERY

DONALD ROSS LORD, son of DONALD & CHARLOTTE (McFARLAND) LORD, b. 11 Oct 1827, Surry; left Surry 1850 (?), m. 1854 (?) Santa Clara, CA (?), d. 19 March 1903 (?) Seattle (?). Children: 1. HARRY 2. FRANK 3. CHARLES 4. AMANDA 5. EVELYN 6. WILLIAM ROSE (father of TERRY M. LORD, grandfather of DOUG W. LORD) 7. CHARLOTTE. Thanks for any info. Doug Lord 1182 W. 7th Ave., Apt. 19, Vancouver, BC, VGH 184. E-mail: dlord@be.sympatics.ca

HANCOCK

Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings and Programs for 1999

- July 17: Final plans for the Fair; also, Agnes Carr: Using probate records in your research.
 August 21: GENEALOGY FAIR, Unitarian Universalist Church, Ellsworth, 9 AM - 2 PM.
 September 18: Richard Spinney: Using the 1850 Census.
 October 16: Lois Johnson: Letters of Calvin Graves written from jail.
 November 20: Workshop -- search and share information.
 December: No Meeting -- Happy Holidays!!

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of our fellow member G. Joseph Fortier who passed away June 9, 1999 and his wife Charlotte Young Fortier who passed away May 2, 1999. They were wonderful people and will be missed by all who knew them.

COUNTY

From the Library

The biggest news from the library this month is the demise of our Canon Microform Reader Printer and the purchase of a new Minolta Microform Reader Printer. It arrived June 30 and seems to be getting good reviews. It operates a little differently (backwards of most readers) but once we get used to that it seems to be a good machine.

We were saddened by the death of one of our frequent genealogy users at the library, Joe Fortier. Joe could often be seen sitting in "the corner" perusing various books. He really enjoyed his visits to the library. Somehow it seems fitting that his children asked that memorial contributions in his memory be made to the library for the purchase of genealogy material. We are very grateful to them for their thoughtfulness and are endeavoring to spend the money well. Stay tuned to see what new and wonderful items we find.

Enjoy this glorious summer weather and remember the library is air conditioned, so on really hot days, it is a great place to spend time.

Visit:

<http://www.Maine-DownEast.com>

for links to the Down East area.

SUCCESSFUL LINKS: GRANDPA AND THE CEMETERY

by Lori Steadman
lssteadman@voidnet.com

Twenty years ago, when I started to research my family, only one grandfather was still alive. He tried to be helpful and often was. Sometimes his memories proved to be a bit confusing.

Once, I remember asking him, "Grandpa, where was grandma's family buried?" Quickly he replied, "The Catholic cemetery in St. Louis.

I remember going to all of the funerals." He then started to give me street directions for the Catholic cemetery. Excited with this new information, I got the mailing address and wrote a letter to the cemetery, asking for the burial records of my grandmother's family. They replied that my grandmother's family was not buried there. Off to grandpa's I went, telling him how disappointed I was that this was the wrong cemetery. He adamantly replied, "I know that they are buried there. I remember going to the funerals. They must have made a mistake." Believing my grandfather, I wrote another letter to the cemetery and received a similar reply. I was at a dead end, or was I?

Several days later, an idea popped into my head. I called the operator for St. Louis (back when the phone companies used real people.) I asked her if she could check and see if there was a cemetery next door to the Catholic cemetery. She checked and, sure enough, there was a cemetery right across the street from the Catholic cemetery. It was called Bellefontaine Cemetery and the operator gave me their name and mailing address. I called them and was told that, yes, my grandmother's family was buried in their cemetery. They said that they had burial records and death records for all of these people and they would send me a plot plan with all of their names so I could decide which records I wanted. For the next two months, I was in "hog heaven." By looking at the plot plan and how each person was positioned, I was able to find three more generations of ancestors and all of their burial and death records. These records gave me

birth and death dates and places. I now knew where in Germany my family came from. This information helped me to trace this line back to the early 1600s.

So, sometimes grandpa was correct in the information he gave me. Sometimes I had to do a little researching of my own to put things together. I was lucky to have one of my grandparents alive when I started doing genealogy. Most of us don't start researching until our grandparents are no longer with us. That is why I always teach a family history unit to my students each year. I want them to talk to their grandparents and their parents before it's too late.

GENEALOGICAL

Free Download of PAF 4.0

The LDS Church is offering a free download of Personal Ancestry File v. 4.0 at its website: www.familysearch.org It is a complete program, not a sample, and has some interesting changes from the previous version.

Society

Hancock County Genealogy Society

Minutes May 15, 1999

The May meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held Saturday, May 15 at the Ellsworth Public Library with 28 present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report was also read and accepted. Joann Levin reported on the cemetery project and the Tombstone Project. Erna Wentworth let us know that the Genealogy Fair can be held in Orland in the year 2000. Richard Spinney proposed that our group host the Fall 2000 Maine Genealogical Society Meeting here in Ellsworth.

After a discussion of possible locations and programs, it was voted that he should investigate the idea further. A request was made that the group fund the rebinding of some books in the Whitmore Collection. This costs about \$10.00 per book. It was voted to spend \$100.00 to rebind books as needed. May newsletters were passed out to those present. The formal meeting adjourned at 3:25 with a search and swap continuing until 4:45 PM.

Minutes June 19, 1999

The June meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was held Saturday, June 19, 1999 at the Ellsworth Public Library with 30 present. The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer's report shows a balance of \$943.30. Discussion of the Genealogy Fair in August was tabled until July with the reminder to be thinking about volunteering to help with it. Further discussion on the Fall 2000 (October 7) Maine Genealogical Society Meeting was held with Richard reporting that he had spoken to Mike Wright at the High School about renting the space for the meeting. Joann Levin reported on the work going on on the cemetery project and a deadline of July 5 was set for submission to the July Newsletter. Mark Honey spoke about using deeds as a method of finding out about our ancestors. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary**



The Return of "Family Ties"

"Family Ties," a genealogy column which used to appear in the *Bangor Daily News*, returned to the newspaper on a weekly basis on Friday, May 14, 1999. Roxanne Moore Saucier, who originated "Family Ties" back in the 1980's will again be editing the column.

In the past "Family Ties" was a great boost for those researching in Maine. Roxanne said that she has been trying for a long time to convince the 'powers that be' at the newspaper to restart the column, but it looks like the recent spread in *Time Magazine* helped convince the publishers that such a column is something that the public wants. Now we all have to do our part: start sending your queries and other items of genealogical interest to: Family Ties, Bangor Daily News, PO Box 1329, Bangor, ME 04401.



CEMETERY TRANSCRIPTION PROJECT REPORT - July, 1999

In the past few months our dedicated recorders have been seen rambling the countryside following up graveyards "tips", sweltering in the summer sun, clipboards in hand, and, in a few cases, battling the bugs and underbrush in the woods.

Mark Honey has transcribed two Surry cemeteries: the Bay View and the Haskell Family, both on Newbury Neck. He has begun the inventory of Surry Village Cemetery, and hopes to finish this fall. Wayne Smith began the inventory of North Bend Road Cemetery, but since he started commuting to work in Taiwan, it became more difficult. Both Mark and Wayne will be glad to hear that Max Brenninkmeyer has offered to help with Surry.

Richard Spinney reported sighting graves in a woods on Taunton Bay, so one day we went back to investigate. Unsuccessful at first, we enlisted the help of a friend of Richard's who lived nearby, and he set us on the path. We spent time photographing and transcribing: Richard did all the hard work, cleaning off the stones and getting right down in the dirt to read those broken stones that were almost buried in some cases. After we reported this triumph at our June meeting, Lois Johnson said "But I did that already!" Having no idea beforehand what family was buried there, we couldn't check the index at the library. Oh well, it

was fun, anyway, and working with someone else, I always learn something new to me. Richard taught me how to pinpoint locations by reading the telephone poll numbers. Mark taught me more about symbols, and area history.

Although we recorded Mt. Calvary Cemetery (St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ellsworth) some time ago, release of this transcription was delayed, and in the long run, that proved fortunate. In the interim, our recordings of some dates on stones in the oldest sections were questioned by a descendant of a family buried there. That, in addition to learning that St. Joseph's just had the stones cleaned, prompted us to re-check. I have never seen a "before and after" like this. What a beautiful cleaning job! Well, we must re-inventory Sec. 1, and will proofread Secs. 2 and 3 as well.

Happy

Dousing for Graves

by "Sandra"

Take two metal wires and bend them into an "L" shape. You can use wire coat hangers if you want. We use steel rods and coat hangers both with equal success. Hold the short ends of the rods very loosely in front of you at about waist level or a little above with the longer part pointing straight out in front of you. They should be parallel to each other. Your hands are only to hold them level and should not restrict their movement. The key is to walk very slowly towards a suspected gravesite until you feel the rods start to move. Then proceed even slower until they either cross or turn out. When they have reached either the in or out position you are directly over the grave site. When the rods turn in and cross each other you have found a male. If they turn out you have found a female. Now, we tried a grave of a known gay

relative and one rod turned in and one did not move. You can choose to ignore this if you want; and I am leaving that up to you. To tell the height of the person move in from one side until you have located the site then move from the ends until the rods move. It is extremely accurate on height. I suggest you practice on known gravesite until you learn what you are experiencing means. You will not only amaze yourself; but we are having a blast taking "nonbelievers" out and letting them do it too!!

When you very first start work in an area where the graves are clearly marked. Have someone go with you and conceal the names on the stones so you won't be swayed by the knowledge of who is supposed to be there. Then do several and check your accuracy and style of holding the rods. Besides it always helps to have a witness to help you keep track of your findings (and to impress with your prowess).....If you take items to mark the outlines of the person you are dousing then you will find a pretty accurate description of their size and height. Mark where the rods start to make their move and where there is no more movement. Work from top and bottom and both sides. My Mom-in-law had me do her Aunt and Uncle. She offered no information about them. When I told her that they were there and that he was just over 6 feet and the Aunt was under 5 feet tall she was more than amazed and verified that they were indeed those measurements.

Ancestor

Looking for an Out-of-Print book?

Harvest Booksearch 260 New York Drive, Ft. Washington, PA 19034 1-800-563-1222 <http://harvestbooks.com/> may be a place to look. Their bookmark - the old fashioned kind - says, "We locate out-of-print books. Fast. Free. Guaranteed."

THE CENSUS TAKER

It was the first day of census, and all through the land;
 The pollster was ready ... a black book in hand.
 He mounted his horse for a long dusty ride;
 His book and some quills were tucked close by his side.
 A long winding ride down a road barely there;
 Toward the smell of fresh bread wafting, up through the
 air.
 The woman was tired, with lines on her face;
 And wisps of brown hair she tucked back into place.
 She gave him some water ... as they sat at the table;
 And she answered his questions ... the best she was able.
 He asked of her children... Yes, she had quite a few;
 The oldest was twenty, the youngest not two.
 She held up a toddler with cheeks round and red;
 his sister, she whispered, was napping in bed.
 She noted each person who lived there with pride;
 And she felt the faint stirrings of the wee one inside.
 He noted the sex, the color, the age...
 The marks from the quill soon filled up the page.
 At the number of children, she nodded her head;
 And saw her lips quiver for the three that were dead.
 The places of birth she "never forgot";
 Was it Kansas? or Utah? or Oregon ... or not?
 They came from Scotland, of that she was clear;
 But she wasn't quite sure just how long they'd been here.

They spoke of employment, of schooling and such;
 They could read some .. and write some .. though really
 not much.
 When the questions were answered, his job there was
 done;
 So he mounted his horse and he rode toward the sun.
 We can almost imagine his voice loud and clear;
 "May God bless you all for another ten years."
 Now picture a time warp ... its' now you and me;
 As we search for the people on our family tree.
 We squint at the census and scroll down so slow;
 As we search for that entry from long, long ago.
 Could they only imagine on that long ago day;
 That the entries they made would effect us this way?
 If they knew, would they wonder at the yearning we
 feel;
 And the searching that makes them so increasingly real.
 We can hear if we listen the words they impart;
 Through their blood in our veins and their voice in our
 heart.

-- Author Unknown

Hunting

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