

The
Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the
Hancock County Genealogical Society

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July 2000

Meeting July 15; Genealogy Fair Aug. 19

President's Corner

I am reminded of the old joke about the Coach who turned to the uninspired football player sitting on the bench and asked, "Is it that you are ignorant or just apathetic?" The football player shrugged and answered, "I don't know and I don't care."

Many people just starting out on their search for ancestors concentrate only on their direct lines and do not know or care about their "cousins." Ignoring your cousins - the siblings of your ancestor - can help create the brick wall that we hear so much about. Here is a case in point

David Simpson, an early settler of Dixmont, born in 1785 in Dover, NH, is an ancestor of mine. He had a number of children including Mary Simpson who married William Toothaker. This is my direct line. An attempt to find David Simpson's parents by searching the various records in Maine and New Hampshire results in "a brick wall."

Aaron Simpson, one of David's sons, is a distant cousin. His obituary in the Bangor paper said that Judge Aaron Simpson's grandfather Simpson "marched through the wilds of Maine to Quebec" with Benedict Arnold. No name but, hey, this is interesting stuff! And, it comes from a cousin's obituary.

David Simpson also had a sister, Mary, who married Richard P. Clarkson and moved to Indiana in 1820. They had a son Coker Fifield

Clarkson who would become locally famous in Indiana and Iowa as a newspaperman. Now, we're talking really distant cousins here. His obituary, posted on the Iowa GENWEB site says Coker Fifield Clarkson was the son of Richard Perkinhon Clarkson and Mary Simpson Clarkson. "The father of Mary Simpson was a lieutenant in the Continental army and went with Arnold" So, now we have a rank and a little more information to go on.

Leland L. Sage wrote an article, Clarksons of Indiana and Iowa, which appeared in the Indiana Magazine of History. He says, "Richard Perkinhon Clarkson [was] born October 2, 1785, at Stratham near Exeter, New Hampshire He worked for some time as a laborer and then pursued his tailors trade at Portsmouth, Brentwood, and Haverhill, New Hampshire, then to Frankfort and Dixmont, Maine. In 1803, he married Mary Simpson of Brentwood, the daughter of William Simpson and Mary Defenthon, both of Irish stock."

And I still feel the chills going up my spine.

My thanks to "Lou in Indiana" for her time and for providing the vital parts to the puzzle.

Sincerely,
- Richard Spinney

Upcoming Events

Scheduled Meetings and Programs for 2000

Sat., July 15th - John Fernald, History of Mt. Desert Island Dairies & their personalized milk bottles.

Sat., Aug. 19th - Genealogy Fair, Orland.

To be held from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Orland Town Hall, School House Road, Orland. Coming from Ellsworth, turn left at H.O.M.E. co-op and go straight until you reach town hall and school. Parking available on the school side of the town hall. Plan on attending for all or part of this day and help Orland celebrate! Helpers will be need for food and set-ups. Final preparations will be discussed at July meeting.

Sat., Sept. 16th - Search and Share Workshop. Final plans/preparations for MSG State Meeting in Ellsworth.

Sat., Oct. 7th -Maine Genealogical Society Conference & Meeting, Ellsworth High School, Ellsworth, hosted by Hancock County Chapter. This should also be advertised in our newsletter as much as possible for those members needing to make vacation plans, etc.

Sat., Oct. 21st - Ralph Stanley, Boat builder, Mt. Desert Island. Meeting subject undetermined at press time!

Sat., Nov. 18th - Meeting plans still in planning stage

December - No meeting - HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Hancock County Genealogical Society Minutes March 18, 2000

The Hancock County Genealogical Society met Saturday, March 18, 2000, at the Ellsworth Public Library with 25 present.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted. The Treasurer reported a beginning balance of

\$931.26, with a deposit of \$25.00 and expenses for the newsletter of \$28.46 leaving a balance of \$927.80. The report was accepted.

Agnes Carr announced the programs for meetings for the remainder of 2000. Wayne Smith set May 1st for the next newsletter. A request was made for any genealogy articles to be included in the newsletter. Discussions followed on the October 7, 2000 MGS meeting, the possibility of transcribing the Ellsworth vital records, with no volunteers to approach City Manager Timothy King, the project Richard Spinney and Alice Beal are working on to copy the early Trenton records which are located at the Lamoine Town office, the existence of early Sullivan town records which we might be able to obtain a copy of from the Sullivan Historical Society, and recent publications of interest to local genealogists.

The program scheduled for this meeting was canceled due to the illness of the presenter. There was a show and tell among the people present of their items.

Elections were held. Richard Spinney was re-elected as President, Agnes Carr was elected Vice-President, Joyce Barr was elected Secretary, and Wayne Patton won re-election as Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene Fox Clemons
Secretary

Congratulations to all our newly elected officers. This will be a big year and I am sure you will do wonderful things for our group. On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for allowing me to be your secretary for the last three years. It has been a wonderful experience for me, to have a small part in the growth of the Hancock County Genealogical Society, but now it is time for me to do other things. I am sure Joyce will be an excellent secretary and I wish her the best in her new position.

- Charlene

Gray Family Reunion

The Gray family is holding a reunion at the Sedgwick Elementary School, Rte. 15, Sedgwick, on Sunday, August 13, 2000 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Look for road markers. Anyone from the group who would be interested in being there to record oral histories about the Gray family and early Sedgwick is welcome. Bring something for the pot luck lunch. Contact person: brownisue@acadia.net; tel.: 326-4721.

Volunteer to do Look-Ups

from: Ann H Levy" annlevy@adelphia.net

I would be happy to look up anything for anyone in your society at the Family History Center just down the road from me. Occasionally, I volunteer there as a fill-in. At this facility, they have:

All the US Census records on microfilm up through (I believe) 1860; all the US Census records for Hancock County, Maine through 1920; all the records that the Family History Center has available for Mt. Desert VR's, Bar Harbor [Eden] VR's; and certain other Maine town records. Also, in my collection are the following: NEHGS Register on CD; PERSI on CD; The Register of Mt. Desert for 1909; Early Pleasant River Families of Washington Co, Maine; History of Islesborough, Maine; and Marriage Records of Hancock Co., Maine Prior to 1892.

I would be happy to do look-ups for anyone who cannot get to a library conveniently.

I will share/exchange research with anyone who links to my Bracy, Bracey, Herrick, Pendleton, and Dodge lines.

Websites:

Cemetery Records Online:

<http://www.interment.net/>

Though a bit cluttered with sponsor ads, this free site is a useful tool for genealogy researchers, offering more than 292,000 records from over 1,800 cemeteries worldwide. Focusing primarily on the US, but including graveyards in Canada, Ireland, the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, India, and Japan, among others, the site lists gravestone inscriptions that have been collected by the site authors or contributors. Visitors can browse the records by country or search by surname. A What's New section lists the latest additions, while the site's Cemetery Column publishes articles, book reviews, and other pieces related to cemeteries and genealogy. The site also links to a host of related resources, such as a cemetery directory and search engine, ancestry databases, and sites focused on obituary records and famous burials.

Maine Town Clerks:

<http://www.state.me.us/sos/cec/elec/clerk.htm>

This site is useful for finding Maine Town Clerks and their addresses.

World War I Civilian Draft Registration

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/ww1/draft/>

This database contains 1,215,381 records reflecting 141,114 surnames of all registrants born 1872-1900 from about 15% of U.S. counties.

Texas Death Records

<http://userdb.rootsweb.com/tx/death/search.cgi>

This database contains 3,963,456 records reflecting 163,544 surnames of those who died in Texas during the period 1964-1998.

The Thirteen Commandments for Names

- 1) Thou shalt name your male children:- James, John, Jarrett, Robert, Joseph, Abel, Richard, Thomas or William.
- 2) Thou shalt name your female children: - Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Maria, Sarah, Ida, Virginia or Mae.
- 3) Thou shalt leave NO trace of your female children.
- 4) Thou shalt, after naming your children from the above lists, never refer to them by those names again; instead, thou shalt call them by strange nicknames as: Ike, Eli, Polly, Dolly, Sukey.
- 5) Thou shalt not use any middle names on ANY legal documents or census reports; and whenever possible, use only initials on legal documents.
- 6) Thou shalt learn to sign all documents illegibly so that your surname can be spelled, or misspelled in various ways: Tipper, Topper, Hopper, Tucker, Tapper.
- 7) Thou shalt, after no more than 3 generation, make sure that all family records are lost, misplaced, burned in a Court House fire, lost at sea or buried so that NO future trace of them can be found.
- 8) Thou shalt propagate misleading legends, rumors and vague innuendo regarding your place of origin.
 - a) You may have come from: England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales ... or even, ... Cornwall.
 - b) You may have American Indian Ancestry of the ___ tribe.
 - c) You MAY have descended from one of three brothers that came over from _____.
- 9) Thou shalt leave no cemetery records, headstones or headstones with legible names; nor will any of the dates thereon match those in public records.
- 10) Thou shalt leave no family bible with records of birth, marriage or death.
- 11) Thou shalt ALWAYS flip thy name around. If born James Albert, thou must make the rest of thy records in the name of Albert, AJ, JA, AL, Bert, Bart, or Fred.
- 12) Thou must also flip thy parents names around when making reference to them, although "Unknown" is an acceptable alternative.
- 13) Thou shalt name all generations of children with the identical first names, as will all of the brothers so that all cousins are named the same.

- Author unknown

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