

The Hancock Historian

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Welcome to summer in Hancock County! You may have read about our most recent project where we are working to locate old journals, diaries or ledgers. I am pleased to report that I have already received a couple of calls about some. We will be putting out more information in the near future. The HCGS celebrates its 25 birthday in September. Several ideas for a celebration have been discussed. If you have any thoughts on this and are not able to make the meetings please contact me to let me know. As always we are interested in hearing your ideas for speakers or topics. If there is something you would like to hear someone talk about please let me know.

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FROM THE LIBRARY

Happy July! Our fellow genealogists "from away" are here and using the collection to research their ancestors. One of those ladies, Dottie Heinrichs from Green Bay, Wisconsin, left her Meader/Copp family research for the collection. It promises to be a busy summer in our little corner.

Although I was not at the June meeting, I understand the "Conversation" with Charle Churchill and Mary Sylvester went very well. You are the folks who use the collection the most and your input is very important as we plan for the future of the Ellsworth Public Library. Part of the planning process includes surveys. Several have already been done in the library, perhaps you have spoken with Mary as you visited the library. The next step is a survey for more folks, not just library users. This survey is included with this newsletter.

If you get the newsletter by email we would like to ask you to take a short online survey. To take the survey, please click on this link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SBXPLTR> If you receive the newsletter by regular mail, you will find a paper survey and a return envelope enclosed.

Your responses will help the Library serve you better and in either case your answers will be completely anonymous. Thanks to everyone for your help with our planning process.

We were recently given an account book belonging to Sylvester Hopkins. It is not only an account of what he paid for various items and services, but what others paid him. It is a real snapshot of life in the mid 1800's. We are in the process of scanning the book to make a good copy which will be available for folks to use. The original will be kept in an archival case and available if someone wants to see it. It is gifts like this that make the collection so special.

See you at the library!
Charlene

[I also received a related note from Charle Churchill in reply to an email and I thought it appropriate to include it here. -Ed]

The meeting with Mary and HCGS went really well. There were 14 members there and everyone was very willing to give suggestions and ask questions. The planning process we are working on is something that most public libraries our size and larger should go through every 5 to 10 years so that many people in their community have the opportunity to express what they feel the library's future direction and focus should be.

EPL has never done this before but we have found so many people eager to participate and that is gratifying to everyone! When we are done in the fall there will be a written plan with goals, objectives, and action steps for us to complete. The plan will also help us determine what financial, staff, and facility resources we must have to achieve those goals.

Mary will be here on several more days doing survey work in the library. I can try to let you know when she is around if you are able to stop in. I know she will not be here at all this coming week. Have a great 4th! [This paragraph was included because Mary's last name is Sylvester. My mother's parents both had Sylvester ancestors. An ulterior motive. -Ed.]

Charle

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A DONATION TO HCGS FROM CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL MICHAUD

AN HP scanner was given to the Hancock County Genealogical Society by the office of 2nd District Congressman Michael Michaud. It was because the his offices were updating their equipment. The only requirement according to the government was that the recipient had to be a (501.3c) or non-profit organization. I immediately thought of our group when he said he had a scanner. Even though we are not ready to use it at this point in time, it will be ready when we want it. Donna Hoffmann, Member HCGS

QUERIES

Daughters of Liberty, Sunrise Counsel, Ellsworth, Maine

Does anyone have any information on this organization? It was popular in Maine in the late 1800s into the 1920s. There were chapters in Ellsworth and Bangor but more than likely other towns had chapters too. Looking for the records and members' lists, etc. Could yield alot of good information. Possibly a DAR type of organization.

Bob Whitaker robtwhit1@yahoo.com



These two photos were provided by our Australian member, Patrick. The woman on the left is unknown, but she is said to have been photographed in Ellsworth sometime in 1860 or 1870. Do you know her?

The gentleman on the right is Chester A. Maddocks, EHS Class of '02' – 1902. If you are related or know of him, we'd like to know more.

MISCELLANEOUS

Open House Aug 21st for Acadian/Quebec/New Brunswick Research

I again this year am hosting an open house at my home at 44 Park Street in Caribou. Individual space is set aside to read and copy information for everybody attending. There will be several individuals available to assist you in your research. The hours are 10 am to 8 pm with a pot luck supper at 5 pm on Sunday August 21, 2011.

My Acadian library includes over 250 books etc directly related to Acadian/Quebec/New Brunswick families that settled along the upper St. John River. I also have accumulated over 1200 books related to Maine and New England families. These items are vital records, genealogies etc.

Edwin "Jay" Bullard

A KERNEL OF TRUTH

Your editor is reading John Philip Colletta's book *Only a Few BONES*. On page 323 he wrote, ". . . if there had been nothing extraordinary about Joe's death and Barbara's voyage home, no story would have gotten started Family lore always contains a kernel of truth. Or it would not be."

Do you know of a family lore? Maybe within that you will find a kernel of truth and, with further investigation, you will be able to discover the entire true story. Take my ancestor Godfrey Trimm who "built a mill across the road there" in Dixmont. It was not my ancestor at all, but a grandson of Godfrey Trimm, who was my ancestor who had a son Godfrey. And what about my ancestor William Toothaker who "marched to Quebec with Benedict Arnold?" Maybe there's a kernel of truth there too. Who knows?