

# Hancock Historian

Newsletter of the Hancock County Genealogical Society

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August 2014

It seems like just yesterday I was writing about the Spring and the upcoming summer and all that we could get done. Time certainly does fly! Now Fall is just around the corner! Well anytime is a good time for genealogy research.

We have just 2 more meetings left in 2014. This year has brought opportunity and change. There is NO meeting in September. We want people to feel free to attend the MGS conference and know they won't be missing a meeting. The October meeting will be at a cemetery in Surry. I will be sending more info before the meeting. Finally November is going to be a wrap up of the year. We will be reviewing the survey and see what else we need to be working on in 2015.

Patti Leland, President

Hancock County Genealogical Society  
Minutes  
14 June 2014

The June meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was called to order by Vice-President Wayne Smith at 10:03 am in the meeting room of the Orland Historical Society, Orland, Maine. 15 members and guests were present.

Minutes of the May meeting were read and accepted. Treasurer Max Brenninkmeyer reported an income of \$ .04 with no expenditures for the month of May bringing our total on 30 May 2014 to \$4,547.55. Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

August 1<sup>st</sup> is the next publication date for the newsletter. Submissions are invited.

A discussion of the September Surry

Village Cemetery Work Session meeting was held. Since the date conflicts with the Maine Genealogical Society meeting in Brewer it was voted to cancel our September meeting / work session entirely to allow members to attend MGS if they wish. The Surry Village Cemetery Work Session will be held on the second Saturday in October (October 11<sup>th</sup>). The July 12, August 9 (Moore Family workshop) and the November 8 meetings will be held at the Ellsworth Library.

Members and guests introduced themselves and talked about their family lines.

The meeting adjourned to the Orland Historical Society Museum where everyone got a chance to explore their wonderful collection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Fox Clemons  
Secretary

Hancock County Genealogical Society  
Minutes  
12 July 2014

The July meeting of the Hancock County Genealogical Society was called to order by vice-president Wayne Smith at 10:12am in the Riverview Room of the Ellsworth Public Library with 6 members present.

Minutes of the June meeting were read and accepted.

The treasurer's report showed \$50.00 in dues and interest of \$ .04 with no expenditures. A bill has still not been received from the library for the indexing software. The balance as of 30 June 2014

was \$4,597.59. Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Membership reported five new members in June.

Max talked about the history of his house and various families who had owned the property were discussed.

Discussion was held on how to handle the Moore family workshop in August. It was decided to allot a specific period of time for each family. Publicity will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Suggested plans for the November meeting (8 November 2014) included a report on the Moore family, report on the Surry Cemetery inventory and ideas for 2015.

There was talk about planning ahead to make sure private collections of genealogical materials are properly taken care of after one's demise. Donations to local libraries and historical societies with the interest and ability to handle the material properly was suggested.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Charlene Fox Clemons  
Secretary.

*The MGS 2014 Annual Family  
History Conference with  
featured speaker*

*Thomas Jones, PhD, CG, CGL*

**Saturday, September 13, 2014**

Jeff's Catering  
15 Littlefield Way  
Brewer, Maine

*Conference.maineroots.org*

Query:

I am looking for information on William Hamblen and his wife, Rosa Robinson. They both died in Tremont, William in 1927 and Rosa in 1917. I know William's parents were Levi and Lucretia Hamblen – but who was Levi's parents? Rosa's death certificate says her parents were Nathan and Sally Robinson but I can't find anything on or beyond them. Also looking for info William Norwood and Ada Kelley both from the Southwest Harbor/Tremont area. William died in 1933 and Ada in 1939. I believe that Ada was adopted – I am looking for her biological parents. The same with William – I have read that he was adopted. I am wondering if that is true and if so who was his biological parents? You can reach me at 207-266-6186 or pleland57@yahoo.com. Thanks in advance, Patti Leland.

Maine Genealogical Society (MGS) "Gold Sheets"

By: Ann M. Durgin

The internet is an amazing resource for modern genealogists. It's easy to believe that anything worth knowing can be found on Google, Maine.gov or Ancestry.com - just a mouse-click away. It is equally easy to overlook resources which have not been digitized and which require considerably more effort, time and gasoline to access. When I first heard someone mention the MGS Gold Sheets, I didn't know what they were – but I assumed that everyone else did. My family connections in Maine are very limited, but I was curious and decided to learn more. I have since discovered that they are not as widely known as I thought. In the early days of the Maine Genealogical Society, each member was asked to complete a pedigree chart of his/her own

family and submit it to the Society. Many members did so, and some included a pedigree chart for their spouse's family as well. This pedigree information was entered on gold-colored paper – hence the name “Gold Sheets”.

Once collected, the Gold Sheets were arranged in sequence based on the MGS membership number of the person who submitted the chart. They were then placed in 3-ring binders –more than a dozen of them. The numbers on the spine of each binder show which membership numbers are included in that volume. For example, Volume 1 might include pedigree charts from Members Numbered 1-45; Volume 2 might include Numbers 46-103.

Ruth Gray and Virginia Merrill, two dedicated MGS librarians, built an every-name index which occupies two additional volumes. This index has since been scanned by Cheryl Willis Patten, a member of both the Sandy River and Taconnet Genealogical Societies. An entry in the index looks like this: Doe, Jane 83 07 02. 83 is the membership number. Jane Doe is found in the pedigree chart of MGS Member #83; 07 is the chart number; 02 is the number of the person on the chart. Jane Doe is found on chart 7 belonging to Member #83 and is person 2 on that chart.

An (S) after the membership number indicates the spouse of the member and will be filed immediately after the number. That is, 83S will follow 83. Not all members submitted charts, therefore not all membership numbers are represented in the notebooks. Some of the charts are brief, while others run more than 100 pages. Because the pedigree information was compiled by individuals with varying degrees of expertise, it is best used as a guide to further research of your own. Many of the charts have the source documentation recorded on the back of each page, which makes them especially valuable.

The original Gold Sheets (including the index volumes) are held in the research room of the Farmington (Maine) Public Library. A photo-copied version is available at the Maine State Library in Augusta, however only the front side of the page was copied. Any information or documentation provided on the back of the sheet will be missing. Also, the photo-copied version is on white paper – not gold. A search for “Gold Sheets” on URSUS (URSUS is a shared library system that brings together the seven University of Maine System libraries and combines them with the collections of the Bangor Public Library, the Maine State Library and the Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library) indicates that only the 2-Volume Index of Gold Sheets of Maine Genealogical Society is available at the Maine State Library. The seven volumes containing the actual pedigree charts are available at the Maine State Library, but are listed as “Membership Family Charts MGS”. The library call number for the entire set is 929.M2249, followed by the volume number. The holdings at the Farmington Public Library are not included in URSUS, but the research room is small and the volumes are easily located.

There has been some discussion at meetings of the MGS Board of Directors regarding making the Gold Sheets index available on the MGS website ([www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)) as a special benefit for MGS members only. Index information would then allow the member to contact the Farmington Library and request photocopies of the necessary pages – both front and back - without having to make the trip “up north” .

( Information for this article came from: MGS Board Meeting Minutes 19 Oct. 2013; descriptive information provided by Cheryl Willis Patten and my own visits to both the Farmington Public Library and the Maine State Library.)

This is not on Hancock County but still interesting

### ***Descendants of colonial era hero come to South Portland to find lost grave***

By Shelby Carignan, The Forecaster  
Posted July 23, 2014, at 6:53 p.m.  
Last modified July 24, 2014, at 5:47 a.m.

SOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — Long before there was Bug Light Park, or even the city of South Portland, there was a prominent colonial man who dominated local history: Col. Ezekiel Cushing. What is now Bug Light Park once hosted Cushing's prosperous West Indian trade center and home. The scenic spot was known as Cushings Point until the mid-1900s. Cushing lived in luxury, purchased and operated off several islands in Portland Harbor, most notably Long Island, and commanded a regiment in the area militia. He was one of the most respected local men in the 18th century and an important character in South Portland history. He died in 1765, at the age of 67. While his name and significance have been mostly forgotten, his descendants recently came calling upon the city for an answer to an unsolved mystery: Where in the city is Cushing buried? Anil Melwani, 36, an eighth-generation descendant of Cushing who lives in New York, gathers with more than 100 other members of the Cushing clan every year in July on Long Island. This year, the 249th since Cushing's death, Melwani hoped to find out whether Cushing is in fact buried at

Mount Pleasant Cemetery on Cottage Road, where historical evidence suggests he would be buried but where there is no headstone identifying his grave.

Cushing was an influential figure in the First Congregational Church, and historians have long found it curious that his headstone does not accompany that of his first wife, Hannah Doane, and one of his son's, Nicholas, at the cemetery across the street from the church. John Coleman, superintendent of the cemetery, believes the large fir tree in between their headstones was planted at least 150 years ago. "People are very interested to know if he's there," Melwani said. And if he's not there, where is he? Melwani spoke with Glen Vaillancourt of [Dig Smart](#), a Scarborough excavation company, who volunteered to use his ground-penetrating radar and expertise to scan the area where Cushing might be buried. Although the scan could not determine anything with complete accuracy, it could tell the family the likelihood of human remains being in the unmarked spot. "I've heard speculation for years and years," Kathy DiPhilippo, executive director and curator of the South Portland Historical Society, said Saturday at the cemetery. "It's exciting to think we'll maybe have some kind of an answer." She joined nearly 50 Cushing descendants gathered around the graves of their ancestors. They waited for the verdict from Vaillancourt, who pushed his device over the

unmarked grave and scrutinized frequency waves that indicate interruptions in the soil. “[Ezekiel's] one of us, or we’re one of him,” Steve Cushing, of Wakefield, Massachusetts, said while he waited. The results: there’s a 75 percent to 80 percent chance Cushing is buried two graves over from his first wife and son. Or at least “something” is buried there, about four feet down, a depth Vaillancourt said is consistent with older graves. Though it is impossible for a non-invasive test to be definitive, Melwani and the family members were satisfied with the results. “After years of wondering, 75 percent to 80 percent is great,” he said. Susan Longanecker, a sixth-generation Cushing decedent, agreed. She was the only relative at the cemetery who still lives in South Portland; she runs the Cushing Homestead bed and breakfast on Long Island. “When I was growing up, I heard stories, and it was always a mystery where he was,” Longanecker said. “It’s happy news.” Melwani said the family has discussed returning to the cemetery next summer to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Cushing’s death with a new headstone, or possibly searching for more evidence with a core sample of the grave. But a few days after the scan, he said it might be OK to leave the mystery as solved — with an asterisk. “I’m personally satisfied that he’s there at this point,” Melwani said.

Thank you to the Orland Historical Society for allowing us to hold our meeting in your facility. And a huge thank you for giving is the opportunity to see your collection!

The June meeting was held at the Orland Historical Society. Here are a few photos taken by Diane Hopkins, and posted on our Facebook page, from the visit:





From The Maine Historical Magazine, Volume 3 – page 127 1888

**PETITION FROM PLANTATION NO. 7, ON UNION RIVER,  
NOW ELLSWORTH, FOR INCORPORATION, 1798.**

From Massachusetts Archives.

“To the Honourable Senate and House of Representatives of the  
Common Wealth of Massachusetts.

We the subscribers, inhabitants of the Plantation No. 7, on the East  
and West sides of Union River, in the County of Hancock, Humbly  
Shew, that we labour under grate disadvantages by being obliged to pay  
our Taxes with the town of Trenton, as some part of us has to Travel  
Twelve Miles to attend our annual Meeting—therefore we Humbly Pray  
your Honours to Incorporate us into a Town by the Name of Sumner,  
or to set us off by our selves, so that we may have the Prevelidges of  
Taxing ourselves, for the support of Publick Worship, Schools, the lay-  
ing out and making Necessary Roads in Said Plantation, which other  
Towns very reasonably Injoy—and as In duty bound will ever pray.

George Brimmer,	Theodore Jones,	Robert Milliken,
James Hopkins,	George Haslam,	Allen Milliken,
George Lord,	Meletiah Jordan,	Caleb Maddock,
William Jellison,	Edward Moor,	Nathanl. Smith,
William Fletcher,	Nath. Jellison,	William Smith,
George Haslam, Jr.,	John Jellison,	Samuel Maddocks,
Jaims Milliken,	Joseph Moore,	Thomas Greek, (?)
Thomas Hapsworth,	Joshua Moore,	Eli Wormwood,
Saml. Debuk,	Joseph Moore, Jr.,	John Wintwerth,
John Tinker,	Gera. Townsend,	William Fletcher,
Joseph Card,	Nathaniel Smith, Jr.,	Josiah Garland,
Peter Page,	Daniel Treworgy,	Josiah Garland, Jr.

The petition above given was presented, and referred to the  
General Court, Feb. 6, 1798. It slumbered for two years, when  
the Act incorporating the town of Ellsworth was passed, Feb.  
26, 1800. The prayer of the petition, that the new town should  
be named Sumner, was not complied with.