



Remote Research Highlighted At RIGS October 22 Meeting

Contents

RIGS Membership Online	2	The next RIGS meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22, at the Warwick Public Library. Tom Kemp, the director of the Godfrey Library, will discuss the library's collections and accessing its online databases. The library houses about 17,000 books divided into three main categories: family genealogy, local history, and biography. Most of the information is pre-1900.
Halloween Tale	3	
Tips & Tidbits	4	
Calendar in Brief	6	

Also, Sandra McLean Clunies of the National Capital Area Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists will discuss researching Washington DC repositories from home. (*See box for details.*)

RIGS MEMBERS' HALF-DAY MEETING & PROGRAM

Saturday, October 22, 12:30pm-3:30pm

LOCATION:

Warwick Public Library

600 Sandy Lane
Warwick, RI
Parking is free in the library lot

AGENDA:

12:30pm

Gathering & brief business meeting.

1:00pm

Speaker: Tom Kemp, Godfrey Library.

Mr. Kemp, Director of the Godfrey Library in Middletown, Connecticut, will update us on all the new and exciting changes and additions to the Godfrey collection and tell us about how we can access many databases through the Godfrey website.

2:00pm

Speaker: Sandra McLean Clunies CG, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

Ms. Clunies is President of the National Capital Area Chapter of the APG and a member of the APG Board of Directors. A professional genealogist and national speaker, she will be teaching us how to conduct research in Washington DC—right from our own home!

November 17 (Thurs)

RESEARCH TRIP TO BOSTON

A choice of three research facilities will be offered:

- New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS),
- Massachusetts State Archives, and
- Boston Public Library.

Cost \$20. Advance reservations are required. Reserve your seat now and bring along a friend or two. Non-members are very welcome. For reservations, make your check payable to **RIGS** and mail it to:

Helen Smith
530 West Reach Drive
Jamestown, RI 02835.

Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, email address, and pick up point (Warwick Mall at 7:15am or East Providence Park-and-Ride on Rte. 44 at 7:30am). Also indicate which research facility you plan to work at. As always, the bus will run between facilities at lunch time in case you wish to split your day. If you have questions, email Helen at hhsctc@aol.com or call 401-423-0442.

August 30 -

September 2, 2006


FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE

Boston, MA

The FGS 2006 Conference will be held in Boston. (For New Englanders, that's closer to home than Salt Lake City, this year's venue!) Cosponsored with the NEHGS, the theme will be "Birthplace of American Genealogy." RIGS will have a booth and a speaker: our own Cherry Bamberg!

April 26-29, 2007

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Hartford, CT
NERGC 2007 will be in Hartford at the new Connecticut Convention Center and Hartford Marriott Downtown, just off I-91, overlooking the Connecticut River. 

Renew RIGS Membership ... Online!

RIGS memberships and renewals can be processed through the new RIGS website at <http://rignsoc.org>.

Click on the Membership Info button and on the next page select the Join Online option. Choose single membership (\$25) or dual membership (\$37.50), enter the requested information and click Submit Application button. You will be requested to verify that the membership information

you entered is correct.

At this point you have the option of sending in a check to the membership coordinator or paying your membership fees online via PayPal. PayPal is simply a secure online system that we have elected to use to process our electronic payments. If you already have a PayPal account simply log into PayPal to authorize payment. Otherwise use a credit card to pay via Pay-

Pal. Print out the payment page for your records. You will receive an email from service@paypal.com providing you with a confirmation of your transaction.

Pat Long (new RIGS membership chair) and/or **Bill Caswell** (retiring RIGS membership chair) will ensure that your name is added or updated as a current RIGS member. ▲

- Adrienne Kernaghan

CORRECTIONS

The September newsletter contained an article on RIGS movers and shakers. The article was written by Adrienne Kernaghan and the final paragraph was an Editor's note.

NGS Names New Director

In June 2005, The Board of Directors of the National Genealogical Society (NGS) (Arlington, VA) appointed Diane O'Connor to the position of Executive Director. She brings to her new position more than 20 years of experience in the non-profit and higher education areas, including skills in public relations, marketing, fundraising and constituent relations.

O'Connor will be responsible for providing leadership, strategic planning and

fiscal oversight to enhance member services, educational outreach and marketing for the Society. In addition, she will manage the Society's Arlington headquarters office, oversee staff and provide support to the NGS Board of Directors.

Prior to joining NGS, she was Assistant Director of Development for the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York. She also served as Executive Director of

Alumni Affairs at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

O'Connor holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Point Park University in Pittsburgh and a Certificate of Non-Profit Management from Duke University. She is an avid amateur genealogist, primarily researching Eury, Summers, McGinley, Slater, Denny and Easley lines through Western Pennsylvania. ▲



Newport Historical Society, Touro Street, Newport.

Genealogical Lecture at Peace Dale

On Sunday, November 6, at 2:00pm, the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society (Kingston, RI) will sponsor a genealogy lecture at the Peace Dale Library.

Bertram Lippincourt III, professional genealogist, Reference Librarian and

Acting Curator of Manuscripts at the Newport Historical Society, will speak on "The Historical and Genealogical Resources of the Newport Historical Society"

Founded in 1854, the Newport Historical Society is considered to have one of the finest local historical

society collections in New England. Its manuscripts, portraits, silver, furniture, decorative arts, and genealogical collection are nationally recognized.

The Peace Dale Library is located at 1057 Kingstown Road in South Kingstown. ▲

Finding Your Ancestors: A Halloween Genealogical Tale

Several years ago I had a perplexing problem in identifying the maiden name of one of my ancestors. From all written records, the wife of Fones Potter (1759-1833) of Coventry was Martha Hopkins, daughter of Samuel Hopkins. Transcriptions of her East Greenwich headstone (RIHC EG065-2), however, offered a different maiden name. Probably based on an earlier abstract, an entry in Bruce MacGunnigle's *East Greenwich, Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Inscriptions* reads:

Martha (Spencer) Potter wife Fones dau. Samuel & Lucretia d. 8 Dec 1845 AE 86y 3m 28d.

I repeatedly searched records of the period for a Martha, daughter of Samuel & Lucretia Spencer but could find no evidence of one. Could the tombstone transcription be incorrect? One previous researcher had asked the same question. In his 1980 Rhode Island Vital Records, New Series (7:283), Alden G. Beaman listed the following marriage record, based on a James N. Arnold gravestone transcription:

POTTER ... Fones AND Martha SPENCER, of Samuel & Lucretia, b 11 Aug 1759, d 8 Dec 1845, bur EG. (AEG 37)

Beaman queried in brackets, "Is Spencer a misreading for Hopkins?" That was precisely my question. I decided a visit to the gravestone could clear up the confusion.

One cold and drizzly, fog-laden day in October 1996, I went to find the Shippeetowne Road gravesite, RIHC EG-065. With only two stones in this cemetery, dense brush and woods everywhere, and poor visibility from the rain and fog, I knew Martha's stone would be difficult to find. After twenty minutes of searching, I went back to the road and met one of the nearby property owners. I told him I was looking for the gravestones, and he thought he knew where to find them. He said they had been toppled. [He also said that years earlier a neighbor had used one of the stones to pave his patio until persuaded to return the stone to its rightful place!]

Wet and cold, we trudged up a hill, pushing through brush and briars and straining to see through the thickening rain. We searched the area and seemed to be traveling in circles. Finally, I spotted a rectangular white patch on



the ground. Could this be a toppled-down limestone marker? I bent down and tried to dig my hands underneath the stone to lift it to see if there was an inscription on the other side. My hand sunk into dirt without feeling any stone; then my hand latched on something solid that I pulled up from the dirt.

"Oh my God! It's a bone!," I screamed, quickly dropping the artifact. The neighbor looked shocked at first, then started laughing.

"Oh, there was a deer carcass here," the neighbor explained, "and I spread some lime over it a couple weeks ago."

I eventually located the gravestone, but I could not read the inscribed maiden name. I later asked cemetery expert John Sterling to examine the gravestone. In a May 1997 letter, he informed me that the gravestone abstract should indeed read:

Martha (Hopkins) Potter wife Fones and dau. Samuel and Lucretia d 8 Dec 1845 AE 86y 3m 28d.

The accurate abstract appears in the RI Cemetery Project database.

Note: Don't ever try to lift a toppled gravestone. To avoid further damage, seek the help of a local cemetery expert!

- Neil Dunay



Tips & Tidbits

NARA RAISES PRICE FOR MICROFILMS

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) advises us that, in their first rate increase in almost ten years, the price of black and white microfilm is \$65 per roll, The price for color microfilm is \$85. Foreign orders are \$3.00 more, the price increase is effective October 1, 2005. (Microfiche prices are unchanged.)

ROUNDUP FROM RECENT PUBLICATIONS

A helpful article on DNA appears in the News and Notes (Aug., Sept. and Oct. 2005, Volume 3, No. 1), a **publication of the Southern California Genealogical Society.**

And the **NGS News-Magazine** (3rd quarter issue) deals with the relatively easy Confederate soldier records in the National Archives to the more difficult subject of "Tracing African Americans During the Civil War."

The Godfrey Update

(Middletown, CT) of Summer 2005 contains a bit on memorial cards by Director Thomas Kemp, as well as instructions on "Steps to Clear Your Cache and Cookies" (Microsoft Internet Explorer). Also an article on their African American Early Newspaper Online Collection.

The November issue of **History Magazine** contains articles on both Alcatraz and "The History of Dowries." (Did you know that a woman was given a dowry at her marriage as her share of her father's estate?)

MEMBER QUERY: WILLIAM GREEN OF NEW LONDON COUNTY, CONN.

A member, David Kendall Martin, FASG, writes that he is trying to identify the family and wife of WILLIAM GREEN of Stonington and Griswold, New London County, CT. William Green married by 1699 and died as "old man Green" 3 February 1767. Several chil-

dren born in Stonington and Griswold include Abigail, b. 1716. Abigail married on 2 Aug 1739 in Griswold, Benjamin Sheldon, born Attleboro, MA, 28 Feb 1714/15, son of Ephraim and Jane (Peard) Sheldon of Scituate, RI. Does anyone recognize this family? Martind@westelcom.com.

[Ed. Note: This is included here because his mail was not received before our meeting of September 17, when we held a workshop on the Greene family.]

REPOSITORY OF NOTE

We visited recently the New Bedford Library (MA) and Mr. Paul Cyr. Mr. Cyr is a very soft-spoken librarian but he knows his collection. Don't be afraid to ask him for direction. Included in this collection are an amazing number of compiled genealogies. But don't stop there. There is a curious juxtaposition of new and old books, from The Source and Elizabeth Shown Mills' Professional Genealogy to those compiled genealogies.

Note that the Genealogy Department & Archives has limited hours: 1:00pm -5:00pm on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, 6:00pm -9:00pm on Tuesday evenings, and 9:00am-5:00pm on Saturday. Access to the archives collection is by appointment only, so call ahead at (508)961-3104 or email pcyr@sailsinc.org. The library is located at 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford ▲



Visit the New Bedford Free Public Library at 613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS of the RHODE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ID	Title	Price	Quantity	Total
DIR2004	2004 RIGS Membership Directory <i>Shipped (no need to add additional shipping on this item)</i>	For Members Only: \$ 8.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TIL	The Diary of Capt. Samuel Tillinghast of Warwick, Rhode Island, 1757-1766 Cherry Fletcher Bamberg (hardcover, 528 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 29.00 Special to Members: \$ 25.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
GOR	Elder John Gorton & the Six Principle Baptist Church of East Greenwich, RI Cherry Fletcher Bamberg (hardcover, 630 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 36.00 Special to Members: \$ 29.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ELM	Elm Grove Cemetery of North Kingstown, Rhode Island Althea H. McAleer (hardcover, 392 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 35.00 Special to Members: \$ 27.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
NBG	North Burial Ground Providence, Rhode Island Old Section 1700-1848 John E. Sterling (hadcover, 480 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 39.00 Special to Members: \$ 31.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
SOK	South Kingstown, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries John E. Sterling & James L. Wheaton IV (hardcover, 653 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 39.00 Special to Members: \$ 35.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
STD	Daniel Stedman's Diary, 1826-1859 Henry Clay Oatley, Jr. (softcover, 424 pp)	NonMember Price: \$ 37.00 Special to Members: \$ 32.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
HUL	Huling Genealogy: Descendants of James & Margaret Huling Esther Woodworth Barnes (hardcover, 692 pp)	Special Offer: \$ 30.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CD26	Twenty-Six Years of Rhode Island Roots, 1975-2000 (CD)	NonMember Price: \$ 39.95 Special to Members: \$ 31.00	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Order subtotal:

Rhode Island addresses add 7% state sales tax:

Shipping: \$3.50 for first item, \$1.00 each additional:

TOTAL ENCLOSED

Name _____

Address _____

City, ST zip _____

**Please mail order form and check payable to RIGS
to RIGS Books, PO Box 433, Greenville RI 02828**

✂

RIGS Events Calendar in Brief

**JOIN US ON
THESE DATES!**

**REFER A FRIEND
TO RIGS!**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
Oct. 22 (Sat)	9am-1:15pm	RIGS Regular Meeting & Program Program includes Godfrey Library (Middletown, CT) & researching DC records from home Warwick Public Library, Warwick, RI
Nov. 17 (Thur)	7:15am-7:30pm	RIGS Bus Tour Research Trip to Boston: - New England Historic Genealogical Society - Massachusetts State Archives - Boston Public Library

For full program details on these events, see p.1.



**RHODE ISLAND
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
PO BOX 433
GREENVILLE, RI 02828



The RIGS Reporter

Box 433
Greenville, RI 02828

*Published five times a year
with program*

President

Robert Allen Greene
401 789 1677 (H) or
401 884 7530 (O)

Editor

Patricia Wyatt
401 789 1666
PWYattRIGS@aol.com

Membership

Pat Long
401-295-5098
airella@cox.net